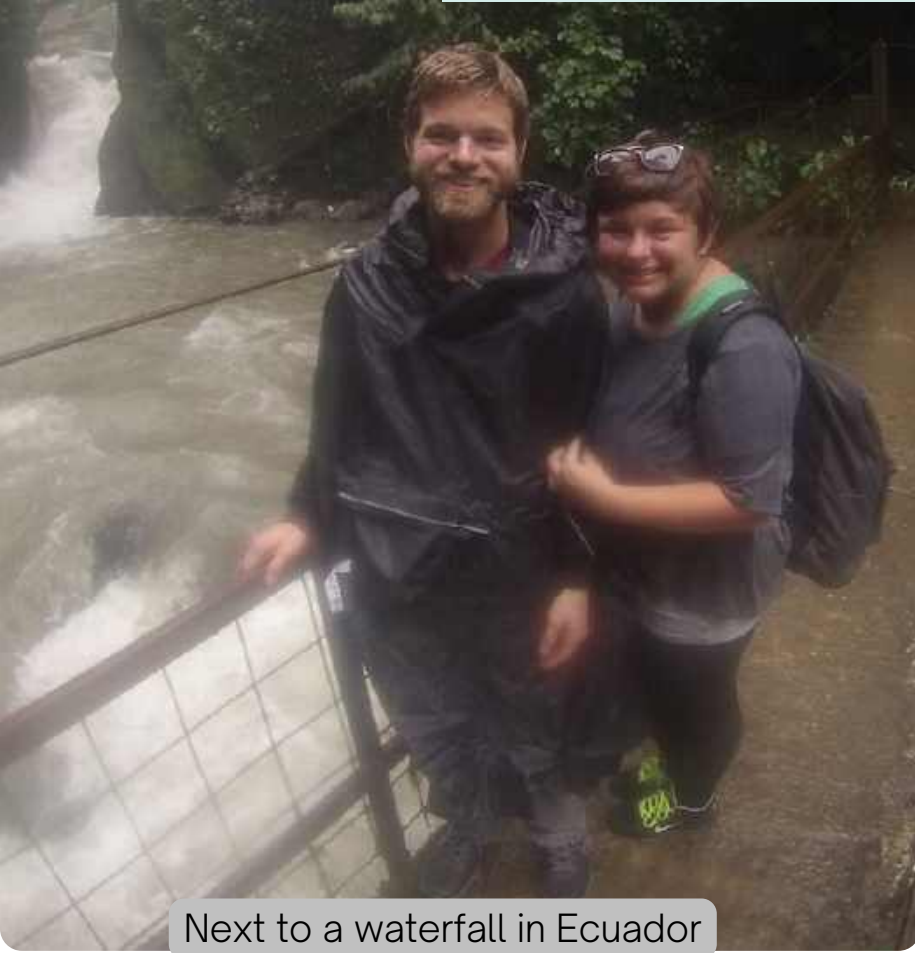




John & Dani

The Story of Us



Next to a waterfall in Ecuador

We met in 2010. We went to the same college and had tons of mutual friends, but we did not know each other. Our paths eventually crossed when a mutual friend invited John to help paint Dani's apartment, and the rest is history!

We said "I do" surrounded by our supportive friends and family in 2015. Getting married was easy and staying married is even easier as we have constant open communication and, most importantly, we have a lot of fun!

Over the past 15 years, we have spent time really getting to know one another and learning how to be the best versions of ourselves. We are excited and ready to share our love with a baby and finally be parents!



Meet Dani



I grew up in St. Louis in a big family and have always loved being around kids. This is what drew me to working with children with special needs and why I ultimately became a behavior analyst and a professor. Watching my students grow and feel loved is one of my greatest joys. I work remotely and make my own schedule which I am happy will allow me to spend lots of time with our future child.

In my free time, I love to be outside, grow veggies in my garden, spend time in the yard and pool, read thriller novels, play ukulele, and watch scary movies. One of my favorite things to do is host backyard movie nights. I also love to cook and bake! I have a big Italian family and cooking for holidays has always been super important. I can't wait to share this with my future child!

What John loves about Dani:

Dani is one of the most supportive and loving people I have ever met. She is also incredibly driven, and I am continually inspired by everything she accomplishes. Her patience, empathy, and her ability to bring out the best in others is truly unique.

I've been so lucky to be married to her and can't wait to grow our family together. I know she will be an absolutely amazing mother.





Meet John

I grew up in rural Wisconsin, but my family moved to Missouri when I was in high school.

Growing up, some of my best memories involved going to baseball games as a family, which is something I'm excited to do with our child. I also like taking our dog Scrabble for walks, playing music (drums and keyboards), reading sci-fi books, and learning Italian. I can't wait to teach our child what I know and support them in all of their own interests.

I've always been interested in psychology and helping others which is why I chose to be a counselor. I love helping students pursue jobs that they are passionate about and work mainly as a remote career counselor for a university. I also work part time as a mental health counselor, which is incredibly meaningful for me. I'm grateful for the chance to support people as they navigate some of the more challenging moments in their lives.



What Dani loves about John:

John is incredibly loyal. No matter what comes at us in life, he is calm, dependable, and always present.

Watching John play with our nieces and nephews, I know he'll be a great dad. He's not one to sit on the sidelines; he will be all in and present for every moment. I can't wait to watch him be a dad.

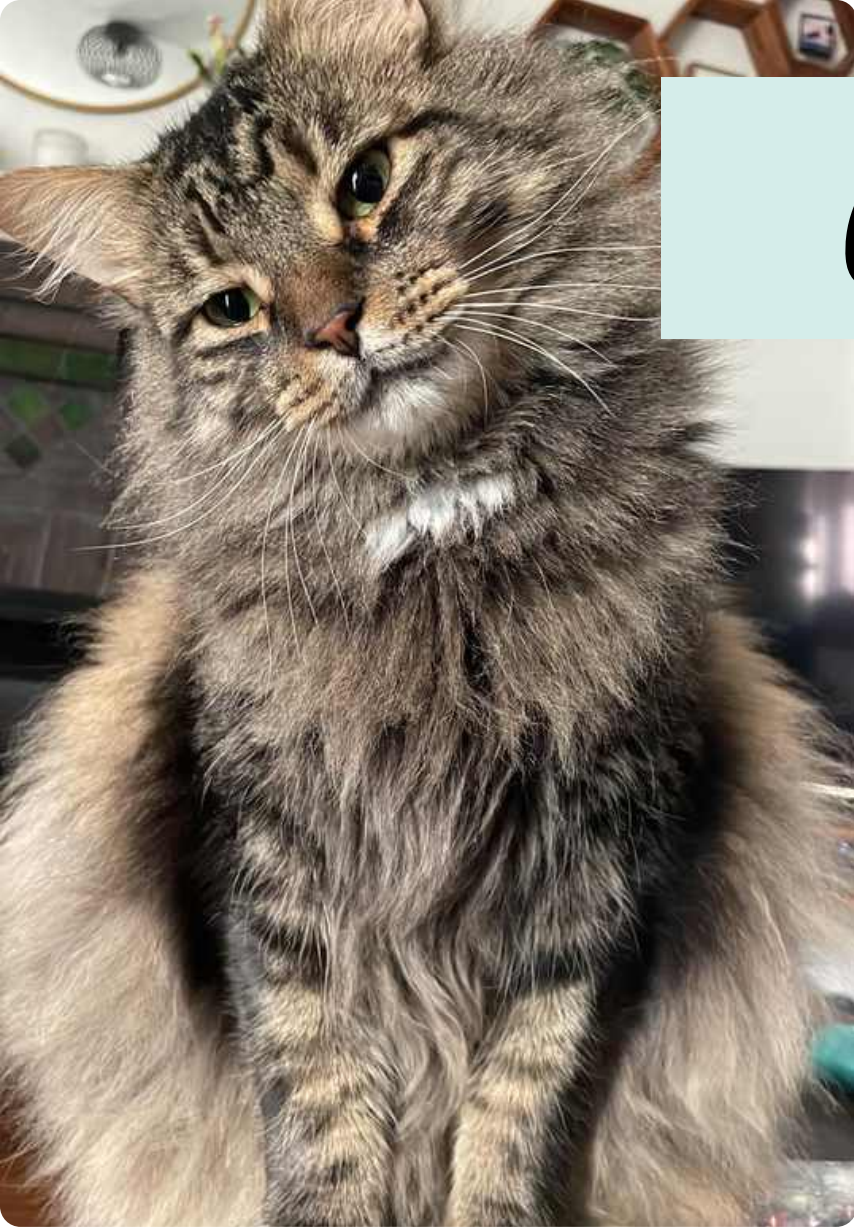
Our Adventures

Together, we have traveled to over 30 countries and 5 continents. We have gone on safaris in South Africa and Nepal and visited historic sites in India, Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia.

Being able to see the world is something we really value and are excited to share with our child in the future. We plan to take our child to see as many different countries as possible, starting at a young age so that they are able to experience the world and other cultures.

We hope to be able to take our child to every continent to explore as much of the world as we can!





Our Pets

We have three cats and one dog. Our oldest cat, Tuktuk, (bottom left) loves to play fetch. Ruby (bottom right) and Mumps (the big guy to your left) are more about snuggling than playing ball. Our dog, Scrabble, is 13 years old but still acts like a puppy. She loves going on walks and loves kids. Our nieces and nephews love to cuddle on her.



Dani's family



Great Grandma's 90th with all the cousins



Dani & John with her mom, step-father, and two brothers

My immediate family consists of my mom and my three brothers. My dad passed away in 2017. My mom remarried a very nice man named Jeff who has become a part our family.

I am very lucky to have both of my grandmas still with me. I also have a big extended family that I am close with and that we see often. There are tons of kids at all of our family parties and I am very excited to bring my own little one into the mix. I also have multiple cousins that are adopted so adoption is close to my heart!



Dani's brother, sister-in-law, nieces, and nephew



Dani with her grandma, & brother (& of course, Mumps the cat)



John holding our niece the day she was born



Our nieces and nephew who live in Wisconsin



John with his parents

My family consists of my parents, my brother, and my sister. My parents are retired Lutheran ministers and live part of the year in Missouri and the other part near my brother's family in Wisconsin. Despite living in different states, we are able to visit with both of my siblings and their families several times each year.

I have several nieces and nephews, so our child will have many cousins! I have several cousins who are adopted, so my extended family is incredibly excited for us to expand our family through adoption!



Cousins at the baseball game



Out to Thai with John's whole family

John's family

Our Chosen Family



Aunt Phoebe & cousins Homer, Marley, and Mary

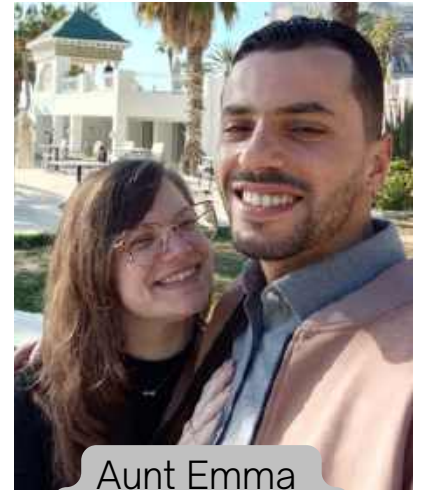


Aunt Caitlyn, Uncle Adam, & cousin Sam

We are lucky to have an extremely close group of friends who we have known most of for over 20 years. Their kids call us aunt and uncle, and we hope our future child will do the same with them!



Aunt Victoria & Uncle Dean



Aunt Emma & Uncle Khaled



Dani with cousin Marley at a school carnival



Aunt Allison & Uncle Brent



John with cousins Homer & Mary

What we do for fun!

We enjoy just spending time together, hanging out with our friends, being outside, exploring our city, going to soccer games, traveling, cooking, and watching movies. Dani loves to read and swim while John loves baseball and playing music.



Dani with baby Braylen



John holding baby Marley



Dani getting her hair done by our friend's daughter



Out to hot pot with friends!



John's softball game. He has played on the same team for over 15 years!

There's no place like HOME!



We live in an urban area in Missouri. Our home is on a tree lined street in a walkable neighborhood. We love being able to walk to farmers' markets and festivals.

We enjoy hosting BBQs for our friends and family. We have the party house where everyone likes to hang out.

We are big fans of decorating for holidays, especially Halloween. We have become a bit of a neighborhood (and social media) hit with our oversized decorations.

We have a ton of great things to do close to our house, such as the zoo and museums. We also live close to great parks with tons of festivals and fairs.



Paul, our 12ft skeleton

Our Promise

Your child will be loved unconditionally and given all of the love, support, and security that they could ever need. We will ensure that your child knows how much you love them and how you gave them life. Your child will also be loved by so many people. We promise to be the best parents we can be.

We would love to have a relationship with you, but we will respect and support whatever level of openness you are comfortable with. We would love to share your hopes and dreams for this baby's future. No matter what, we will make sure that you are part of their story.



On top of a volcano

From Our Hearts to Yours

We're so grateful you have taken the time to read our book. We've tried to give a snapshot of all the love we have to offer and hope you can see that through the previous pages.

We want you to know how much we admire your bravery and courage through this journey. We have so much love to give and hope you can be a part of that, but above all, we will always honor your decision.

Regardless of your decision, we hold you close in our hearts and wish you all the best. Thank you for allowing us to share a piece of our hearts and for considering our family.

Dani & John



At the drive in

THANK YOU!



Despite his face here, Mumps loves sweaters