



Eddie and Ryan



Love Makes a Home

From Our Hearts to Yours

We're so grateful you've taken the time to read our book. We've tried to give a snapshot of all the love in our family, and hope you can see that through the following pages.

We wanted 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.



Eddie and Ryan



Thank you!



The Story of Us

Our story began in early 2020, right in the middle of a global pandemic, when the world had gone quiet, and two people found each other online anyway. We connected almost immediately, and honestly, the rest has been the best kind of chaos.

Since then, we got married, moved across the country, bought a home, adopted our daughter Viola, accumulated more dogs than we probably planned for, and somehow made Minnesota our favorite place on earth. We are a couple who fell in love fast and built a life even faster, and we wouldn't trade a single joyful moment of it.

We feel so honored that you're taking the time to read our story. We hope that as you do, you get a real sense of who we are, not just the highlights, but the everyday stuff too. The Saturday-morning pancakes, the Nintendo Switch tournaments, the kids' movie nights, piled up on the couch with four dogs who all think they're lap dogs. That's us. That's what a child would be coming home to.



Why Adoption Again?

When we first created an adoption profile in 2020, we wrote about how much love we had to give and how ready we were to grow our family. Then Viola came into our lives, and everything we hoped for became real.

Here's what we learned: our family has always felt like it had more room to grow. Adoption didn't just give us a child. It gave us a deeper understanding of what family means. It taught us that love multiplies; it doesn't divide.

Viola has shown us every single day what it looks like to raise a child who is endlessly loved and endlessly cherished, and we want nothing more than to give that same experience to another child.

We are not adopting because something is missing. We are adopting because something is calling, and we've learned to trust that feeling completely.



A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a light blue sweatshirt and a tan baseball cap, is holding a young child with blonde hair in a pink sweater and red pants. They are standing in a field of yellow and orange autumn leaves. The man is smiling and looking at the child.

Eddie

passionate, empathetic, and creative

Meet Eddie



Age: 38 Occupation: Stay-at-home dad

Fun Fact: I love video games

I grew up in California in a traditional Mexican-American family, moved to Nevada, and then, for love and for adventure, packed everything up and moved to Minnesota. If you'd told me five years ago I'd be a stay-at-home dad in a small Minnesota town with four dogs and a daughter who already runs the household, I would have laughed. Now I can't imagine anything better.

I spent 12 years as a high school English teacher and earned my Master's Degree in Secondary Education. I believe deeply in education, in meeting kids where they are, and in making sure every child knows they are capable and worthy of great things. Those values don't stop when the school day ends. They're just how I parent.

Being at home with Viola has been the greatest privilege of my life. I come from a large family, nine sisters, so I know a thing or two about loud, loving households. Ours fits right in.

When I'm not in full dad mode, I love music, working out, tending to my houseplants, and working on our home. I'm a homebody who also loves an adventure, which means our life in Minnesota is just about perfect.

What Ryan loves about Eddie:

Eddie is the most naturally gifted parent I have ever seen. He makes everything fun, everything intentional, and everything feel safe. Viola lights up when he walks into a room, and honestly, so do I.

He brings so much creativity, warmth, and dedication to our family every single day. I cannot wait to watch him do it all over again.





Meet Ryan

Age: 35 Occupation: General Surgeon
Fun Fact: I love to sew and knit

I'm a surgeon in Minnesota, which still feels surreal to say, because not long ago I was a resident counting down the days. I was born to a German father and a Filipino mother and raised in Minnesota, so, in a way, coming back here felt like coming home. What I didn't expect was that "home" would turn out to be even better than I remembered, because now I get to share it with Eddie and Viola.

Faith, family, and education have always been the foundation of my life. Growing up with three siblings taught me the value of showing up for people, and I carry that into both my work as a surgeon and my role as a dad. I believe in being present. I believe in putting people first. And I believe that a family built with intention is one of the most beautiful things in the world.

When I'm not at the hospital, I love creating things with my hands: painting, knitting, baking, and puzzles. I'm the kind of person who needs a project. Right now, my favorite way to spend my time is with our daughter. I can't wait to see our family grow and for our love to multiply.



What Eddie loves about Ryan:

Ryan is the most thoughtful, steady, and quietly hilarious person I know. He is an incredible husband and an even more incredible dad. Watching him with Viola, the way he slows down for her, the way he makes her feel like the most important person in any room, reminds me every day why I married him. He is going to be an amazing father to our next child. I'd bet everything on it.

A man with a beard and a light-colored beanie is smiling while sitting on a large, circular, black rope swing. He is holding a young girl with blonde hair in pigtails. The girl is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt with small dark spots and red leggings. They are both smiling at the camera. The background is a soft-focus view of trees with yellow and orange autumn leaves. The swing is suspended by black ropes and has a metal ring at the top.

Ryan

consistent, loyal, and wise



There's no place like home.

We live in Minnesota, a state we have completely fallen in love with. After years in Las Vegas, the change of pace took about five minutes to fall in love with. Seasons, lakes, a tight-knit community, and neighbors who actually wave at you. It suits us perfectly. Our home is everything we dreamed of when we imagined raising a family. We have a spacious yard where the dogs run wild, and the kids play hard. We have a pool for long summer afternoons and a hot tub for cool Minnesota evenings. Minnesota gives our kids room to breathe. Room to explore. Room to be kids. And when they're ready for a bigger world, we've got Disney trips, travel, and adventures lined up as far as the eye can see.





Christmas is one of our favorite family times. We stay up late watching a movie in matching PJs and leave out cookies for Santa. Viola loves to watch the snow fall and dance to Christmas music all day!



We love her dogs: Primrose, Piper, Peeta, and Kingston! You can always find them running around the house or chasing a ball in the backyard. They've all become very protective of Viola, which we love.

Family Hawaiian Vacation



Viola with her cousins

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Fair day with Ryan's sister and our niece



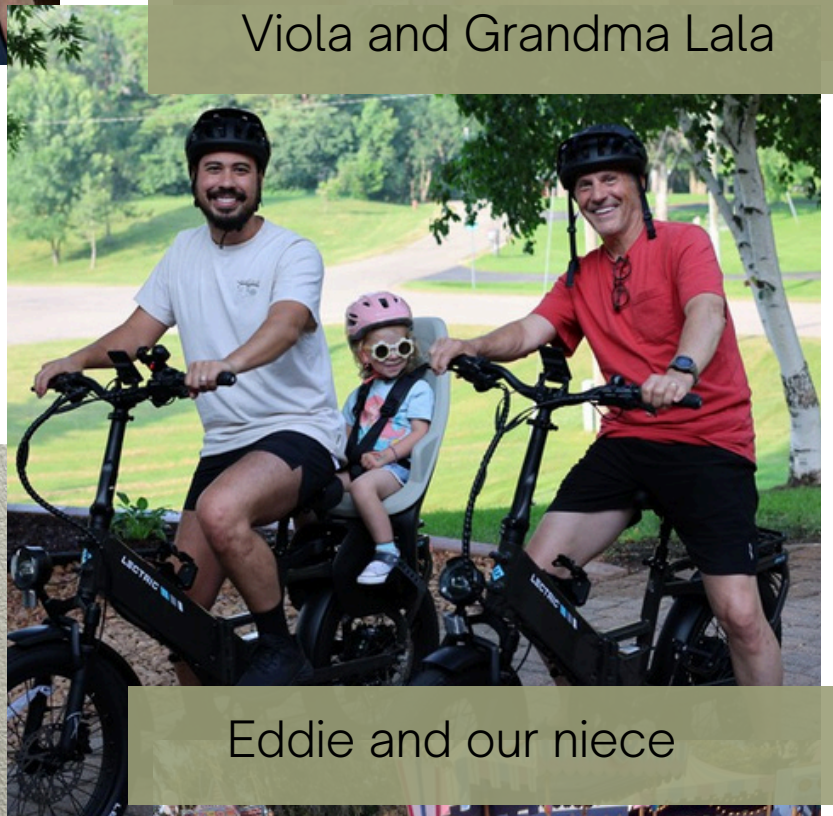
Ryan's brother and our nephew

Family Visit



Viola and Grandma Lala

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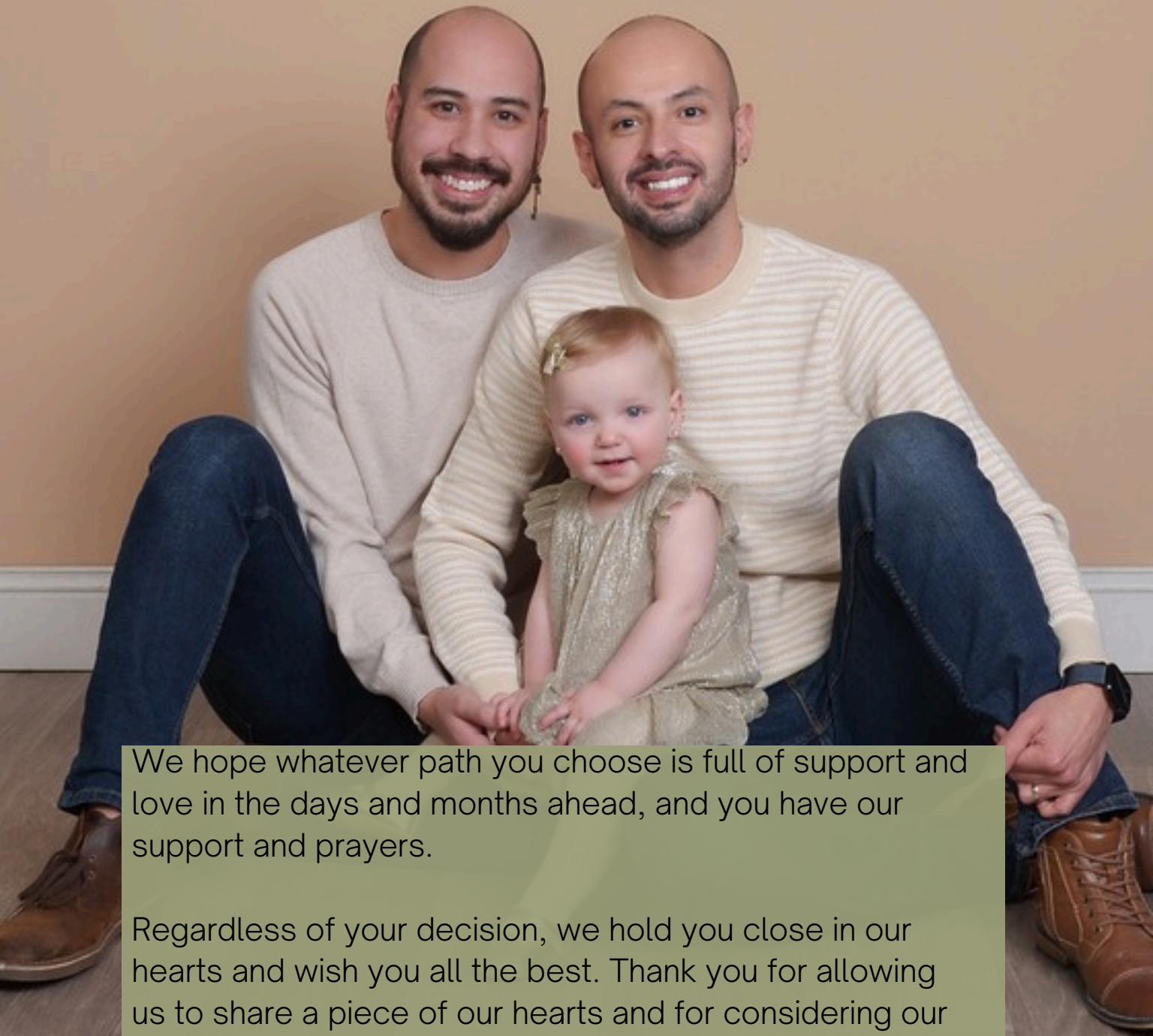
Eddie and our niece



Viola and Nana



Thank you!



We hope whatever path you choose is full of support and love in the days and months ahead, and you have our support and prayers.

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.

-Eddie, Ryan and Viola