
Brandon & Michael



Dear Expectant Parent(s),

We are excited to be a part of the open adoption process and look forward to getting to know you. While we don't know everything that you are going through, we imagine that you have a lot to think about. We are thankful for the time that you are giving to read about us. We have been together since 2011 and have been wanting to grow our family through adoption. Open adoption is our first choice because it places the child first and we welcome the opportunity to build a relationship with you and your family. We have great jobs that are flexible and will allow us to spend quality time with the baby. We are a part of a loving and supportive community that will help our child grow and learn!



About Us

We met in 2011 in Detroit, Michigan.

We moved to Oakland, CA together in 2014, bought a condo, and got married in 2016.

We find joy in being outside, spending time with close friends, building community, practicing sports, laughing often, cooking good food, and meditating.

We support and enrich each other's lives and are looking forward to sharing all our blessings with a child.

Open Adoption

We are excited to talk about what you are looking for in an open adoption. It is important for us to have a connection with the first/birth family—if possible—so that our child can know where they came from. We want our child to be part of a loving and diverse community, and that includes their first parent(s) and family. We are open to a range of options to stay connected—phone calls, emails, sharing photos, and occasional in-person visits. We are choosing open adoption because it matches our values of openness and honesty.



Brandon with a friend's baby



Michael with his cousin Gracyn



Brandon loves to cook good food!

About Brandon

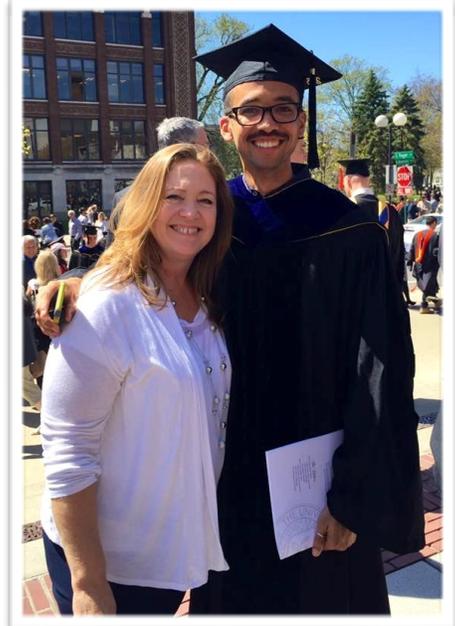
Michael says:

Brandon is the most caring and compassionate person I know. Throughout our relationship, he has honored and respected who I am and has helped me grow along the way. His curiosity, kindness, and humor make him a great friend and partner.

Brandon offers incredible love and support to those around him. He's always looking out for me and his friends, paying close attention to the needs of others, and looking for ways to help. He can make light of most situations, laugh a lot, and balance getting things done with not taking himself too seriously. He will make a great father, and I can't wait to raise a child with him.

Brandon is the first in his family (and in mine) to earn a PhD. He studied Psychology at the University of Michigan and did research about how lesbian and gay people of color cope with discrimination. After earning his PhD, he spent a year dedicated to teaching and supporting young college students of color. After that, he became a consultant working in the legal field, and is part of a small family-friendly company that values his psychology background.

Brandon with his mom, getting his PhD



Brandon and his best friends from college



Brandon and his rowing team after winning a gold medal



Michael studied in Mexico during college

About Michael

Brandon says:

The first thing I noticed about Michael was his confidence. He knows a lot about himself and works hard for the things he wants in life. He is also extremely compassionate. Michael's ability to share, love, and protect is amazing.

I think of Michael as a builder. He has dedicated his life to building community and finding ways to work with compassion on difficult problems. In Michigan, he started an affordable housing community, which is still growing strong after 10 years. He has also worked in politics, both locally and nationally, to end racism, homophobia, and hatred. These days he helps people work better together and supports them in problem solving.

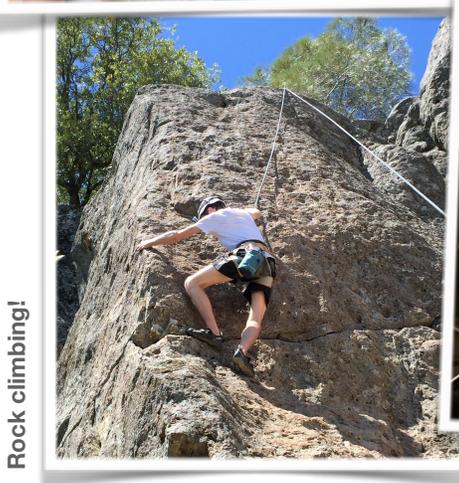
Michael's work as a business consultant is flexible. He often works from home and will work part time once we have a baby. He is also an amazing planner and I believe he will help create a wonderful environment for our child. I feel honored to share my life with Michael and cannot wait to explore parenthood with him.



Michael and mom



Michael parasailing with his sister Sarah



Rock climbing!



Fellow activists

Race & Diversity

Brandon is multiracial and was raised primarily by his white mom and his multiracial stepdad. He grew up in a Southern California low-income Latinx neighborhood. He had friends who were from many different ethnic backgrounds. **Michael** grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood in metro Detroit and had friends who were from many racial backgrounds. In college, he began to work on anti-racism activism in his community.



At the Oakland Museum with Desmond (and his parents)



Dinner party with friends



Meeting writer Cornell West

We are excited to adopt a baby of color and will encourage and nurture our child's racial identity. Since we will be adopting a black or multiracial baby, we think it is important to have contact with first/birth parents if possible (so our child can easily learn about their background and heritage). We chose to live in Oakland because it is a very diverse city and will allow our child to be around other multiracial families, other children that look like them, and other gay and lesbian parents.

Work & Community

We both plan to take paid parental leave from work and use vacation time to stay at home with the baby for the first few months. After that, we will work part time and share parenting and household responsibilities. Our jobs are flexible and will allow us to take extended time off as needed.

Our child will also be part of our strong community of family and friends. This community includes many amazing women and men, both straight and gay. They are very supportive and excited to help us raise our child.

We will offer our child unconditional love and a safe environment to learn and grow in. We want them to be able to explore what they are interested in and have easy access to role models and mentors who can help them build self-confidence and self-awareness.



Getting to know a friend's new baby



Visiting the Detroit river with friends



Picking apples with our friend Jess

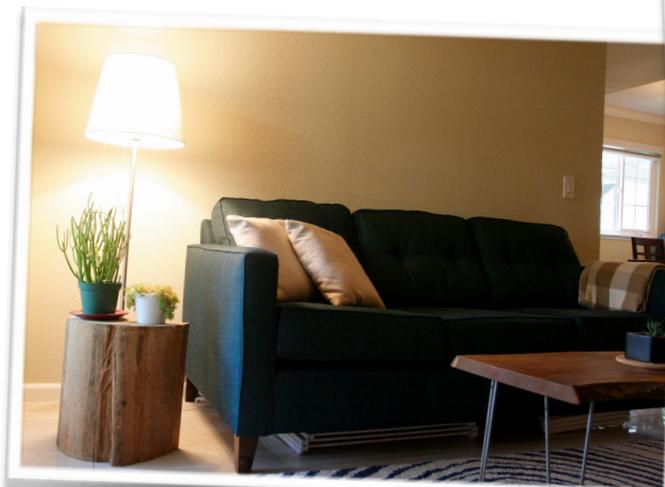


Our Home



We live in a spacious condo in the hills of Oakland, CA. Our multiracial and family-oriented community includes neighbors of all ages and plenty of room for children to play. We live near schools, grocery stores, libraries, restaurants, parks, and the Oakland Zoo.

We are excited to expose our child to the great cultural and natural assets of California, and travel around the country. We have close family and friends in Austin, Southern California, Minneapolis, Chicago, Birmingham, and Detroit that we will continue to visit and vacation with.





Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We believe that all good relationships are based on openness, honesty, and trust. If you decide we are a good match for you, we will welcome your baby into our family and give them everything they need to succeed.

We will be open and honest with your child about their culture, history, and heritage. They will know where they came from and the strength it took for you to make this decision.

If you have any questions for us, we are here to answer them.

❤️ *Brandon and Michael*



Our wedding!