

DANA
+
TOM



Warm Greetings from **MARYLAND!**

**TOM SHOWING OFF THE NEW
PRIVACY SCREEN HE BUILT IN
FRONT OF OUR HOUSE**

HERE'S OUR STORY



Our story began fourteen years ago when we met at a friend's BBQ. After several good conversations, we realized that we loved the same things—being outdoors, exploring new places and foods, and traveling. Five years later, we were married a block away from where we had our first date.

WE'RE
**TOM,
DANA, +
LUKE**

*(and furry friends
Milo + Sawyer)*

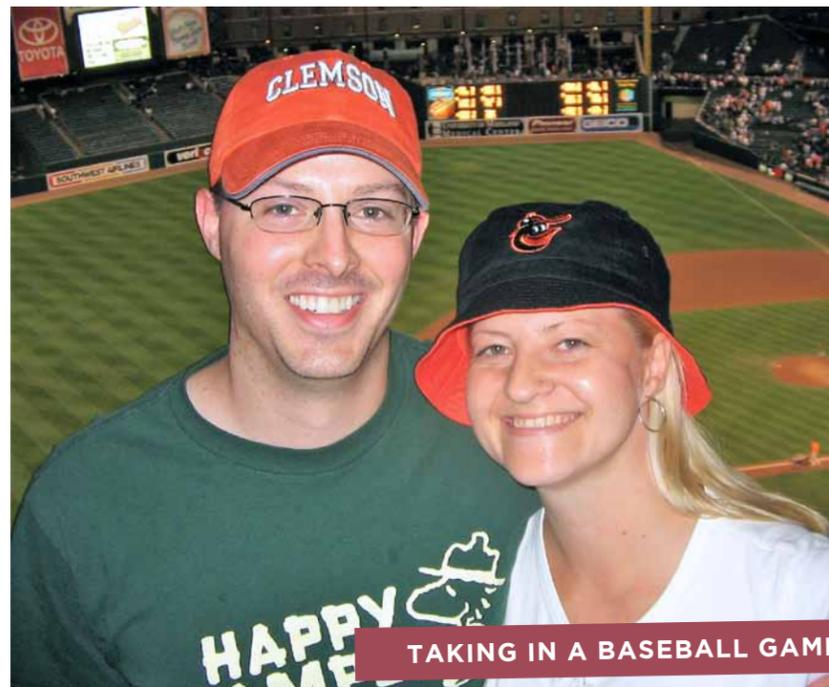


Every night at dinner, we raise our glasses and say, "CHEERS TO FAMILY!" and, we **THANK YOU** for reading about ours. We hope the following pages provide a snapshot of who we are, the fun we have together, and the life that we would provide your child.

We appreciate the effort you are taking in finding the right family and want to tell you how brave you are for putting your child first. **Adoption has always been a part of our plans**

for growing our family, and we're honored you're considering us.

The most important thing to know about us is that we pledge to you that we will love your child unconditionally and support them in all they do and who they become. We will provide a home that celebrates who they are and honors your courageous act. **They will be part of a family where laughter is abundant, hugs are always available, and love is endless.**



TAKING IN A BASEBALL GAME

We have always believed that we'll have the children we're meant to have whether that's through biology or adoption. In 2013, we were lucky enough to have our son, Luke. **Our dream is to grow our family even more through adoption.**

We are proud of the family we've created, which is centered on love, togetherness, community, and faith, and we can't wait to bring a new little one into our family to teach them about these values. All these years later, we still love new experiences. **We hope that teaching our children to explore and discover will inspire them to find something they love whether that's karate, knitting, drawing, basketball, or cooking.** Whatever it is, we'll be there cheering them on, wearing ugly sweaters and catching their foul balls.

MEET TOM

through Dana's eyes



TOM ZIP-LINING



TOM & LUKE HEADING OFF ON A BIKE RIDE

I always know where Tom is in any room because I can always hear his loud, effortless laugh. Sometimes I don't even know what he's laughing at, but there he is, laughing away playing with our son, Luke, or making jokes with friends. It's fair to say that this is what drew me to him when we met at a Labor Day party in 2004. At first, this smiling, energetic guy from Wyoming was confusing to me—a skeptical Midwesterner—but he quickly became the person I wanted to be around all the time.

Always energized by an activity, Tom loves to be outside hiking with our dogs, biking, or camping. That is, unless his beloved Clemson football team is playing on TV! Tom has also recently gotten into woodworking (and scouring the internet for new tools!) and has already made some lovely things for our home, including book shelves and a super hero playhouse!

DANA'S CAREER

Dana has worked in international relations for many years, but took a lower profile job after our son was born to have more time home with family. Now Dana has a flexible job in her field that lets her work remotely. This allows her to volunteer in school, make soccer practice, and be around for our children.



CAMPING TRIP WITH THE DOGGIES

FAVORITES

- FAVORITE HOBBY: *Writing*
- FAVORITE HOLIDAY: *Thanksgiving*
- FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Goonies*
- FAVORITE FOOD: *Thai Food*
- FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: *Northern Michigan*

MEET DANA

through Tom's eyes

A woman with a kind, caring heart is the short answer to describing Dana. **She is the rock of our family, with her strength in lifting us being immeasurable and her loving care being endless.** I'm blessed to have her as my wife and to see her as a mother. **Having grown up on the lake, Dana loves the water and regularly seeks out new places to go kayaking on local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.**

Dana has a strong passion for reading and writing and can often be found curled up reading a book. In her spare time, she likes to write and has published short stories. She's also working on a novel and participates in a weekly writing group.

A passionate cook, Dana also loves collecting cookbooks. She is always looking for a new meal to cook for the family. **It's safe to say that we don't have the same thing to eat for dinner every week!**

TOM'S CAREER

Tom is a thoughtful and creative individual. **As a Human Factors Engineer, Tom uses these skills to solve complex problems.** However, these abilities also come in handy building birdhouses, little libraries, and Lego sets, too.



PRACTICING HIS WOODWORKING SKILLS

FAVORITES

- FAVORITE HOBBY: *Woodworking*
- FAVORITE HOLIDAY: *Christmas*
- FAVORITE MOVIE: *Star Wars*
- FAVORITE FOOD: *Barbeque*
- FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: *Grand Tetons, Wyoming*



MAKING HALLOWEEN RICE CRISPY TREATS

DANA & LUKE TAKE THE KAYAK FOR A WHIRL IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN



OUR NECK of the WOODS

We live in a historic garden community located outside of WASHINGTON D.C.



GETTING READY FOR FALL TO COME

D.C., we frequently hop into the city, taking advantage of the various restaurants, museums, events, and city attractions.

Our three-bedroom home sits at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac where have a large, fenced-in backyard. The woods around our home provide lots of shade for playing on the large playset or swinging in our hammock. The large garden and deck we have completes our backyard oasis, where we love to play games, read books, enjoy family meals, and simply take in nature.

This quant town allows us to easily walk or ride our bikes to the library, local swimming pool, movie theater, and restaurants. Walks are frequently interrupted with play time at one of the many playgrounds along the way. We enjoy spending time at the near-by hiking trails or parks, and particularly love walking around the lake a few blocks from our house. Being outside Washington

THIS IS OUR VILLAGE

We want our children to know that as much as we love them, it's important they have others to rely on. Although our family is spread around, we are grateful for the strong relationships we have with them. There's a lot of Face Timing, car rides, and plane trips to visit Luke's grandparents in South Carolina and Michigan. Luke especially loves visiting his baby cousin, Presley, in Florida and swimming in her pool! We also love spending summertime "up north" on grandma's lake in Michigan riding around on a pontoon boat.



PONTOON BOAT IN MICHIGAN



VACATION WITH OUR BEST FRIENDS



GRANDPA AND LUKE BUILDING TOGETHER



FUN AT THE LIBRARY WITH OUR NIECE PRESLEY

Our neighborhood "family" has also been instrumental in our lives and have become an extension of our family. We help each other and trust one another to support and guide the children. We also

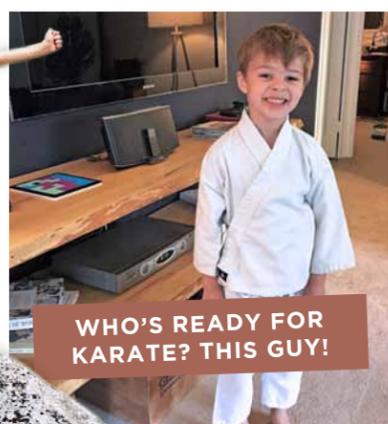
make sure our homes are well stocked with snacks since at any time one of our homes may be filled with a pack of children playing together!

MEET LUKE

Luke is a five-year old whirlwind of energy, who cannot wait to be a big brother! He's a funny, independent kid, who loves to tell jokes, play with Legos, cuddle with his dogs, and build things with his dad. He's begun making his own plans for a brother or sister, whom he lovingly refers to as, "Dory Pumpkin." When asked what he wants to do with his younger sibling, he loudly cheers, "Everything!"



GETTING READY FOR A KIDDIE OBSTACLE COURSE



WHO'S READY FOR KARATE? THIS GUY!

meet

MILO + SAWYER

These two rescue pups are actually old fellas who love kids, especially if they drop food and give out cuddles! Kids in the neighborhood love practicing handshakes with the dogs and rubbing their bellies.



SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY IN FLORIDA



LUKE IN HIS HOMEMADE SHEPHERD COSTUME FOR OUR CHURCH CHRISTMAS PAGENT

FIVE THINGS WE WILL TEACH our children

- 1) BE CURIOUS — ask questions, learn about different people, places, and ideas!
- 2) BE OPTIMISTIC — life is not as bad as it seems sometimes!
- 3) BE GIVING—give to the world your kindness, compassion, and talents;
- 4) FIND SOMETHING YOU LOVE—cultivate a hobby that is enjoyable and calming;
- 5) BE COURAGEOUS— don't let fear drive your decisions.

WE LOVE BEING PARENTS!

We think the most important thing is being present for our kids. We believe in lazy family days and not overscheduling our lives. We love impromptu dance parties, indoor picnics, and building “couch” forts. We also value outside time—digging holes, finding worms,

“decorating” rocks. We especially appreciate the everyday things like bath time, bedtime stories, and morning cuddles and can’t wait to have a new little one with whom to share the big and small things!

We’ve been able to establish a work-life balance for our family where Dana has a great part-time work schedule, so that somebody is around for our children. With our next child, Dana looks forward

to her schedule providing time for mommy/child exercise classes, music classes, and the other fun activities that she enjoyed doing with Luke.

Although we love offering new experiences, we believe in giving our children room to learn, grow, and make mistakes on their own. Whatever happens we want them to know that their family will always be there to love and support them.

A FINAL MESSAGE TO YOU

contact

If you have any further questions, please contact us at **844-279-7554** or **tomanddana.family@gmail.com**

It’s so hard to summarize a family in just a few pages! **Thank you for your time and effort in learning more about us.**

We know the decision ahead of you is very difficult. We want to give you peace of mind knowing that, if you decide we’re the right family, **we will provide a warm, safe, and nurturing home for your child.**

If there’s anything in this profile that resonates with you even a little, we’d love to chat with you to tell you more about us and learn about you. We wish you luck and offer prayers as you go through this process, knowing whatever you decide will be the very best outcome for you and your child.

Dana and Tom

