



Christopher & Mitra



Dear Expectant Parent(s)

We respect and admire that you are considering open adoption, and thank you in advance for taking time to get to know us. We have a loving home filled with mutual respect, honesty, fun and honor everyday as a blessing. We would like to grow our family through open adoption and are familiar with adoption through Mitra's best friend who has adopted two kids and some of Christopher's family members who have raised children through kinship adoption. We both understand the importance of centering our child's needs and are looking forward to providing a secure environment that is full of attention. We look forward to the possibility of getting to know you and welcoming you into our lives in whatever way makes you feel most comfortable. Thank you.

- Christopher & Mitra



About Us



Mitra's Fun Facts

Age: Born June 17, 1971 in Tehran, Iran
Ethnicity: Iranian American
Religion: Born Muslim, I keep the traditions but am not practicing
Education: Bachelors of Art in Architecture, University of California Berkeley
Career: Owner of a large Architecture Firm
Hobbies: Biking, dancing, yoga, travel, volunteering

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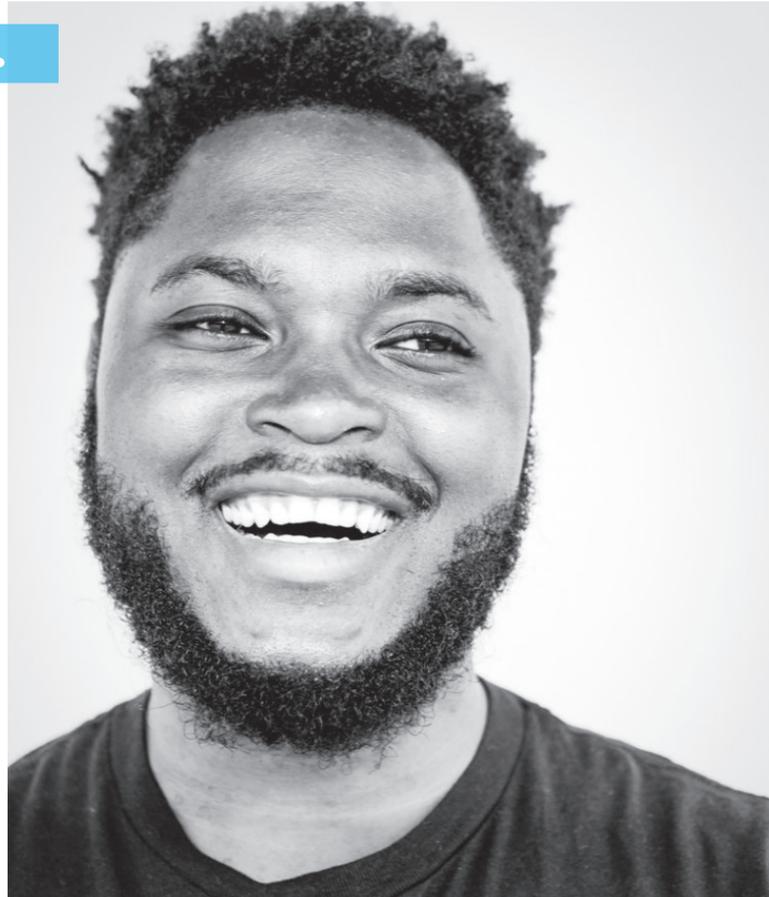
Christopher's Fun Facts

Age: Born February 8, 1992 in Hartford, CT
Ethnicity: Jamaican American
Religion: Christian
Education: Masters of Architecture, University of Michigan. Bachelor of Fine Arts University of Massachusetts Amherst.
Career: Designer and Co-founder of a small advocacy architectural design business
Hobbies: Biking, dancing, traveling, listening to music, gardening, filmmaking

Meet Christopher - Written by Mitra

Meet Mitra - Written by Christopher

03.



04.



My Pride and Joy...

"**Christopher** is a designer and activist who believes in doing things that will impact other people's lives positively and puts his energy into up lifting those around him. He is a proud black man and celebrates his Jamaican heritage unapologetically. His faith keeps him grounded and when faced with challenges he maintains an optimistic view. His confidence and care make him an incredible companion"

My Love is...

"**Mitra** has an upbeat, considerate, caring personality. She is not afraid of being vulnerable in her commitment to being a better person every day. Her energy and love for Iranian culture is a beauty I value in our relationship daily. She is willing to take risks for the sake of enjoying the journey of life. She is not only my best friend but also my biggest cheerleader. I am blessed to be her partner in our journey to build a family."



How We Met

We met at work in 2016 and started a year long journey of getting to know each other and being friends before dating in 2017. Our relationship is built on trust, affection, and exploration. We got engaged in June 2021 in a well-planned and beautiful surprise by Christopher. We approach our relationship by being grateful for having each other every day. We are lighthearted and find ways to daily celebrate our love with joy, laughter, and hope.



How We Grow

We are each other's sounding board. We listen attentively to the issues and concerns in both our relationship and career to provide support and advice. For example, in 2020 Mitra wanted to expand her leadership skills at work, knowing this, Christopher's thoughtful Christmas gift was a book that helped transform Mitra's approach with success. We both cherish the wisdom we bring to our relationship.

Times of Trials

The biggest gift in our relationship is our ability to have an open dialogue with care with each other. We talk about everything including all of our emotions and listen keenly to understand each other's perspective. This is even when the feelings are not positive. For example, when Christopher got word that his sister was suddenly admitted to the hospital in critical condition Mitra dropped everything to fly to Connecticut to be by his side during this difficult time.

Our Next Steps

We are committed to the growth of our relationship and continue to nurture the foundation of our love and care. We are excited about getting married and buying a single-family home together to create room for our expanding family. We are exploring what it means for us to be parents and continue to educate ourselves through reading books and talking to friends who are parents. We are looking forward to the joy of being parents and are ready to face its challenges together.



Our Commitment to Open Adoption

Centering our child in the adoption triad is very important for us in a successful open adoption. We value a caring relationship with our child's first family and would like to develop a post adoption meeting plan with you. We envision gathering with you for occasions such as birthdays or special family holidays that are important to you. We know it will be important for our child to know their first family's culture, heritage, and extended family members to help reinforce the foundations of their identity. We will be open with our child that they are adopted and are loved by two families. In having these conversations early on, we hope to build a support system around our child that respects their needs and journey in life.



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Our Childcare Plans

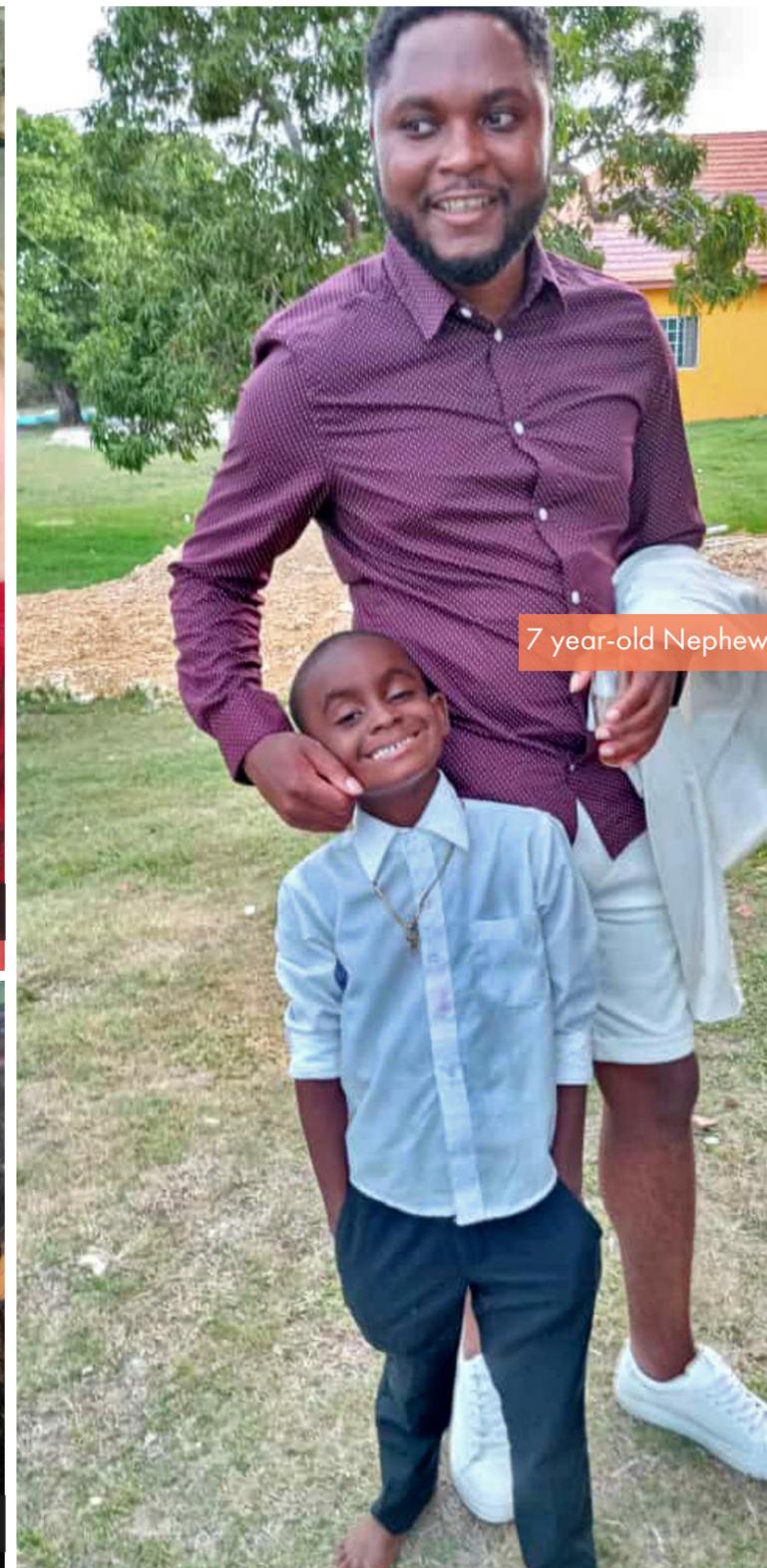
We believe that creating healthy attachment requires significant time and attention to our child. Mitra's position at her job affords her a lot of flexibility to work from home and be a caregiver. At the onset we will be taking the first two weeks to bond with our child. Mitra will take the 4 months of maternity leave followed by Christopher taking 3 months of paternity leave. Mitra will plan to work 2 to 3 days from home when she goes back to work and will have support in the house to help care for the child.



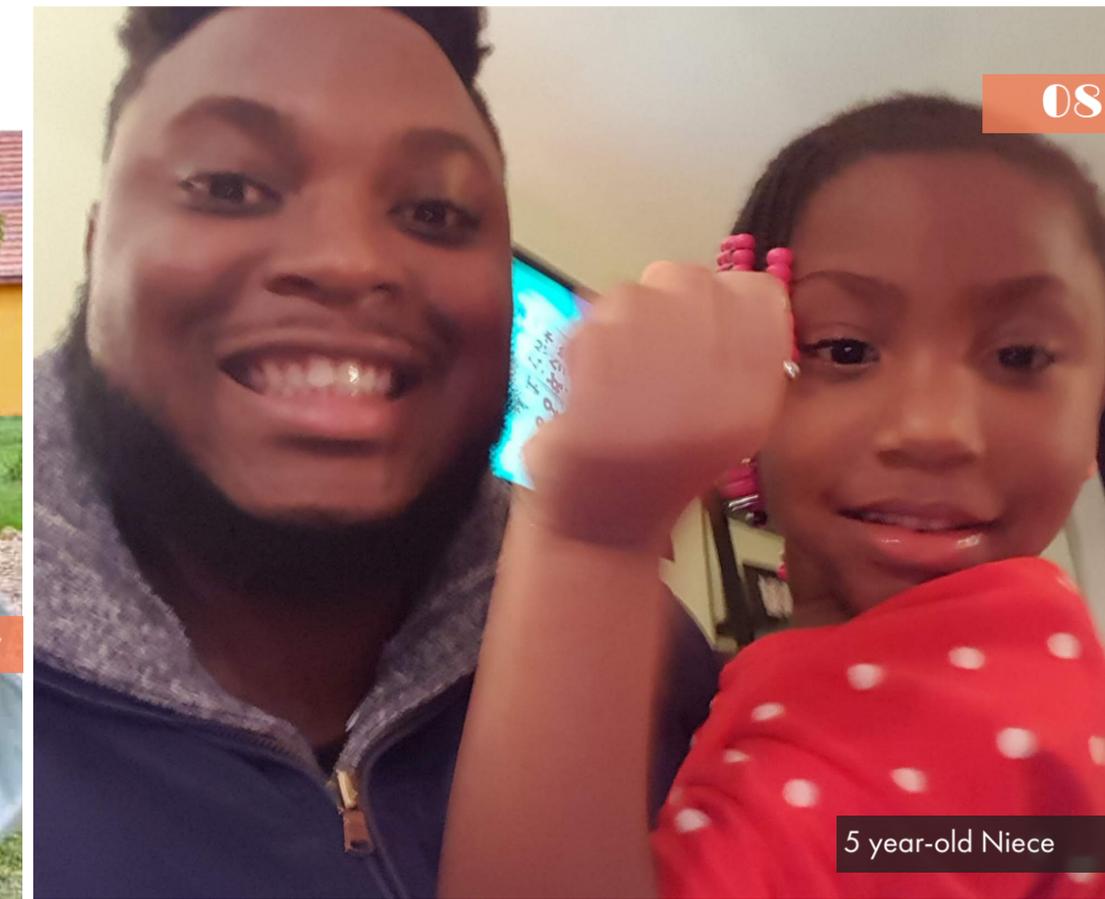
Extended Family



Twin Nieces

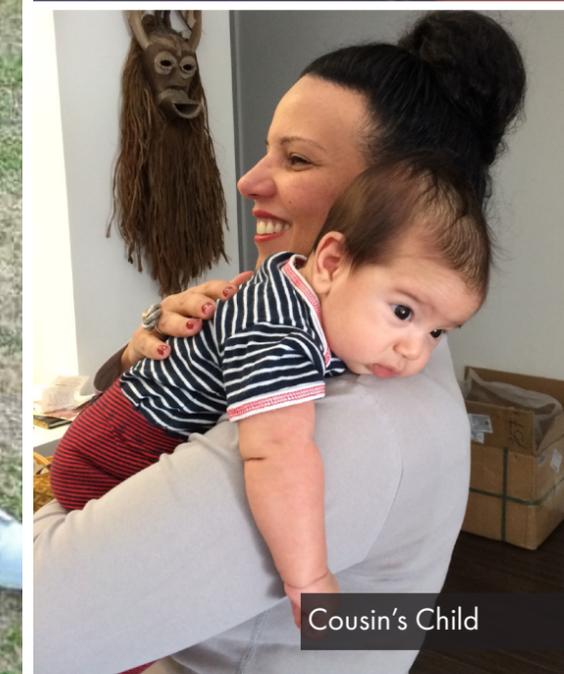


7 year-old Nephew



08.

5 year-old Niece



Cousin's Child



1 Year-Old Cousin

Mom and Sisters



Dad

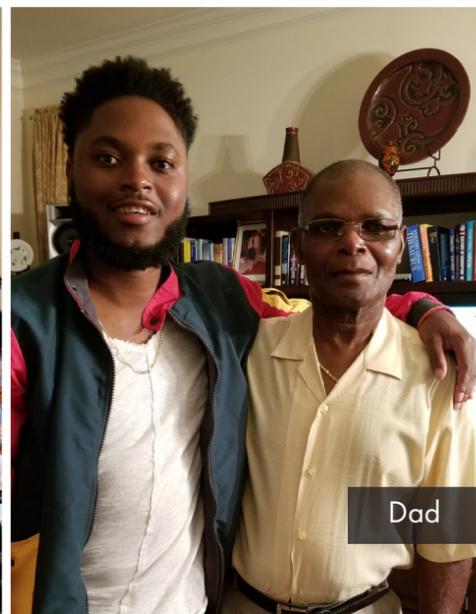


Mom and Sister

Our Family

We work hard to ensure that we pay attention to our personal relationship, while also maintaining close connections with family and friends. Mitra is the youngest of five children and has a niece and nephew in which she supported her sister in raising. Mitra grew up with her extended family of uncles, aunts and cousins. She cherishes these relationships. Christopher has six siblings, four nieces and two nephews. He grew up looking up to his siblings and getting support and guidance from them. We value family and the importance of having close relationships. We both grew up with a lot of interaction with our cousins (over 100 combined between our families) which taught us how to create meaningful relationships that last a long time. We hope to create similar experiences for our child by building a close relationship between our friends and their children within our community.

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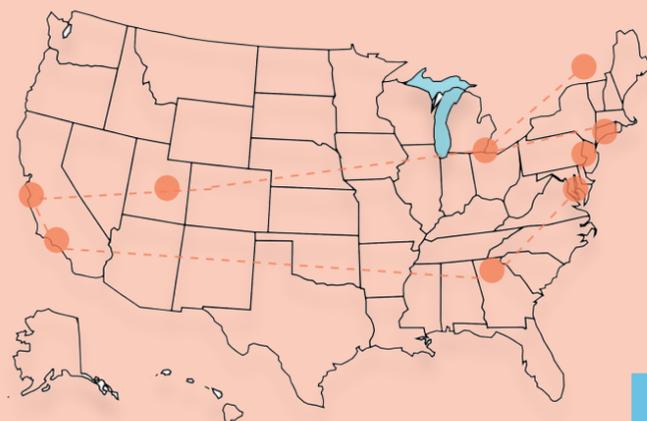


Dad



Siblings

Our Family Across the U.S. and Canada





Our Lives Together



Our Culture & Traditions



Smoked Jerk Chicken



Ludi Game Board



Carribbean Festival



Ackee & Saltfish

11.

Jamaica is the birthplace of Christopher's mother and father. He learned from a very early age to embrace and celebrate the Jamaican culture. From reggae, island cuisine, festivals, speaking patois, he is a proud Jamaican and enjoys visiting the country to see his many cousins while also enjoying the abundance of fresh fruit, jerk chicken, oxtail, and ackee & saltfish, the country's national dish.



Clarendon/Westmoreland



Salaam!!



Mitra was born in Tehran, Iran and emigrated to the U.S. at 12 years old. She takes pride in continuing the traditions she grew up with such as decorating her home with Iranian tapestry and rugs. She loves her grandmother's saying, "a guest is a gift from god." Welcoming others into her life is a tradition that she holds dear to her heart. Iranians have an extremely family-oriented culture and Mitra's close connection with her extended family is a foundation of love learned at a young age. Mitra learned how to recite Iranian poetry from her uncle and enjoys the wisdom of poetry books such as Rumi.



Bazaar in Tehran



Iran Soccer Game

12.



Tehran, Iran



Haft-Seen



Kebab & Flat Bread



Dinner Prayer



Christmas 2020



Iranian New Year



Mitra's Birthday

13. **We both value spirituality and faith.** Mitra is spiritually Muslim and Christopher a practicing Christian, we were both raised with a belief in God and having faith. Christopher grew up in church and learned to use his voice by participating in sermons as a young speaker. Mitra has admired the devotion and care practiced by her mother's faith every day, a joy she has learned to bring into her life. Today we share our spirituality together. For example, at the dinner table we say a prayer and share a personal reason for gratitude for the day, which allows us to have an awareness that life is bigger than the two of us and any challenge we may face at the moment. For traditions and holidays we celebrate the Iranian New Year which coincides with the first day of spring, by gathering around an altar called a Haft-seen, which means seven S's in Farsi. We also celebrate Christmas and Eid together with our families.

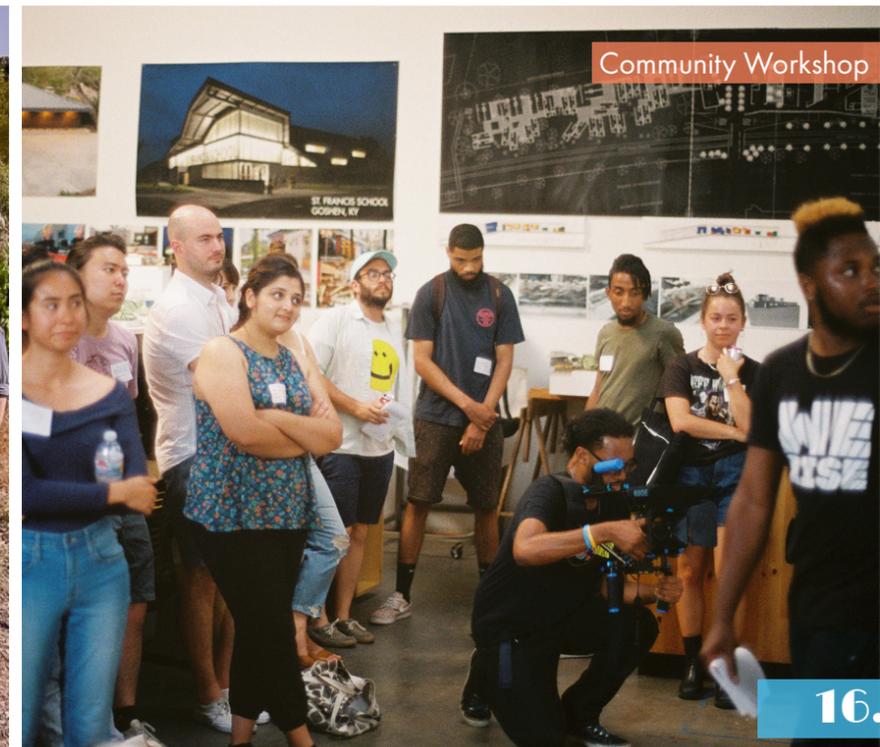


Church Sermon

Our Community & Racial Justice



15. We take pride in our ethnicity and have dedicated our time to creating a more diverse, inclusive and equitable profession as architects. We both volunteer and mentor young individuals to help them get exposure to new possibilities. Mitra creates influence in her role as the incoming President for the American Institute of Architects Los Angeles chapter and the only woman and person of color owner in the Los Angeles office of her firm. Mitra is passionate about mentorship of BIPOC women both at her firm and in the architecture industry, where she is constantly raising awareness of the need for equity and inclusion. Christopher, through his own business, Designing in Color, has dedicated his time to educate and show individuals how to advocate for justice and anti-racism for communities that have been oppressed. We plan on teaching our child about the rich history and culture of the Black diaspora and Iranians. We want our child to appreciate their own racial identity and culture from their first family as well as understanding how to respect people with different backgrounds. While we have different ethnicities, the mutual respect, the warmth, and love has been unwavering. This is the spirit with which we plan to raise our child.



Our Creativity and Exploration



Our Balcony Garden



Snorkeling in Mexico



Traveling in Australia

We are both lucky to be healthy individuals. We believe in the importance of a healthy diet and both enjoy cooking meals together using organic and fresh ingredients. We live an active life and enjoy biking and hiking on weekends and exercising during the week. We both love to travel and explore the world and the many different cultures and sights that exist. Since we are both architects, the lure of exploring new buildings and architecture around the world has also been a motivation for travel.

Our relationship is based on trust. Our mutual respect, intellectual equality and youthful demeanor has blurred any of our differences. We believe the strength that we each bring to our relationship; financial security, life experience and open heart from Mitra and the grounded approach to life, patience and drive for success from Christopher, brings a balance and energy that is a blessing to our daily lives.





19.



Our Kitchen

We have created a welcoming, warm, and comfortable home together.

We want our home to be a place for reprieve and comfort as well as a gathering place for friends and family. The dinner table is a place for reflection and projection of our dreams for the future. One of our latest creations is a balcony garden. Christopher has been growing different fruit, and vegetables which we use in our cooking. Since we both love to cook, the kitchen and pantry are well stocked with spices and specialties from both of our cultures. As architects, we enjoy redesigning our space and making it a comfortable home for each other. We take pride in the color and tapestry of our space. When the time comes, we are excited to take on our next endeavor, turning our 2nd bedroom into a nursery.



Our Balcony



Our Dinner Table

Through this book we wanted to give you an overall view of our life. We put a lot of time into highlighting what we felt you would want to know about us. Although it's a thoughtful package it's only a snapshot of who we are. We hope that this is a gateway to a relationship we can build together. We will be vulnerable in sharing our emotions with you throughout this process with the hope to make you comfortable doing the same. We both are caring and loving individuals who are excited about the opportunity to bestow that onto our child as parents through open adoption. We plan to dedicate ourselves to living and cherishing our child. We will be honest with our child about the strength it took for you to make this decision, and we will honor your preferences regarding communication. We wish you the best in everything you do, especially in the coming months when you will be faced with tough decisions. Regardless of our potential match, we hope you find peace and happiness in what path you choose for the next stage of your life. Thank you for taking the time to read our story, and we hope that we'll be able to begin our open adoption journey together.



Thank You!

We wish You Peace & Joy

