



growing our
FAMILY

MICHAEL + MARGARITA



OUR STORY

When we met in 2005 through friends, we were drawn to each other's fun and lighthearted personalities. After spending four years getting to know each other, we decided to begin our lives officially as a married couple in July of 2009. Six months later, we entered the dog-parent life by growing our family to three with Labelle, who joined us at nine weeks old. Outside of our busy days—Michael as a graphic artist for a world-renowned tech company, Margarita as a compliance officer in the healthcare industry, and eight-year-old Kyle's extracurricular activities—we enjoy traveling together as a family or with friends on trips to Disneyland, San Diego, our vacation home in Kauai, or anywhere else around the world. Maintaining a work-life balance is important to us, so we make it a point to spend weekends wisely together as every second counts.



our home & pet

For 11 years, we have lived in a quiet, diverse, family-oriented community in California. Our neighbors are practically family. Our home is a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home that has a nice lawn out front where you might find Michael playing catch with Kyle as Labelle chases the ball, like “monkey in the middle.” Other times, Kyle's treehouse in the backyard that Michael built is enjoyed by the kids in the family or neighborhood. We believe it's important to stay involved in our son's life, so we remain involved in his school despite our busy workday schedules. Margarita is vice president of the school's parent/teacher group, and Michael coaches the seventh grade basketball team. In anything we do, family always comes first.

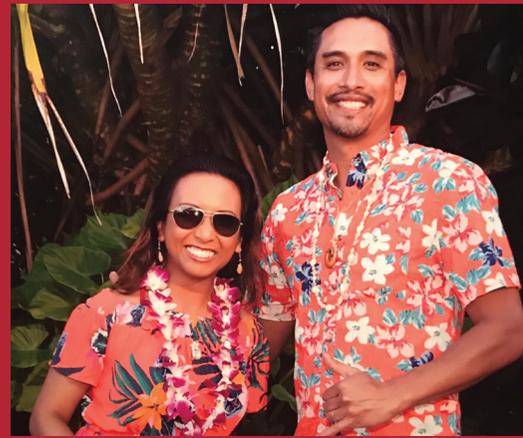


what led us to adoption

We always planned for a life with two kids and a dog. However, a month after our son, Kyle, was born, Margarita was diagnosed with lupus. We wanted to start having another child when Margarita's lupus was well-managed, but doctors discouraged it due to the high likelihood of a stillbirth or severe flare-up. Almost instantly our dreams felt shattered—until we started considering adoption. Two of Margarita's youngest sisters were adopted at birth, and Kyle expressed wanting a sibling, which made the decision easier. While we know adopting a baby would fulfill our lives and grow our family, we would be more thrilled to be able to share that same love and joy with a baby—the same love and joy Margarita's family gave her two adopted sisters.



our life
TOGETHER





get to
KNOW...

MICHAEL

OCCUPATION: Web designer

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Fine Arts

RACE: Pacific Islander/Hispanic

RELIGION: Christian

SPORT: Football

HOBBY: Running

TRADITION: Super Bowl

MUSICAL GROUP: Boyz II Men

MOVIE: Star Wars

DREAM VACATION: French Polynesia

SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: Music

BOOK: Unbroken

MARGARITA

OCCUPATION: Compliance officer

EDUCATION: Master of Jurisprudence

RACE: Pacific Islander

RELIGION: Catholic

SPORT: Basketball

HOBBY: Yoga

TRADITION: Christmas Eve lumpia rolling

MUSICAL GROUP: Journey

MOVIE: Fools Rush In

DREAM VACATION: Maldives

SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: Health law

BOOK: Disney War



our families + friends

We spend a lot of time with our extended family. Almost every weekend is spent with Margarita's parents, who also help us with childcare. Margarita's Sister, Best Friend, and Michael's Best Friend are Kyle's godparents, which we had already planned to remain consistent with all our children. Michael's family lives farther from us, so we try to spend holidays with them.

We are intentional with family time, where you will find us filling our foodie souls with trips to different restaurants and traveling to different cities, states, or countries together. If schedules clash, we'll sometimes meet in another country with Margarita's two younger sisters, who were adopted and are finishing nursing and medical school in the Philippines, just to make sure we get that time together. The holidays are spent with our traditions. Every Christmas Eve is spent around the table rolling lumpia together. It's a great time for us to reflect on the past year and plan for the year ahead.



DEAR

expectant mother,

We want to begin with genuinely admiring your strength and courage in considering this selfless path for you and your baby. We hope this letter gives you light for your journey.

Our decision to adopt came with the difficult news of Margarita's inability to give birth to another child. It was an emotional ride until Margarita's two younger sisters, who were adopted, shared their loving memories about joining Margarita's family. Their experience and the love they added to our family convinced us adoption was the path meant for us to grow our family. Should you choose us, your baby would always know who they really are. They would only be surrounded by the same love and support we provide our eight-year-old son, who has wanted a sibling as much as we want to grow our family. He has become an older brother to his younger godsister, protecting her, playing with her, and caring for her to show us how ready he is to be the big brother your baby deserves. Your baby will have the same education and opportunities in life, and with our diverse family and community, your baby will always feel included while knowing their courage and strength came from you.

As this life-changing decision is a difficult one, we are here for you and would only feel that much more honored to be chosen as your baby's adoptive family.

With love,

Michael + Margarita