

Jodi *and* Mark



We love our unique lifestyle!
WE'RE EXCITED TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT

Warm greetings to you!

THANK YOU for taking the time to look at our family book. Our names are Mark and Jodi and we live in a laughter filled home with our 7 yr old daughter, Anneka (who prefers to be called Lily). **We know that another child would thrive as part of our warm, loving, adventurous family.**

We won't pretend to know just how you feel at this moment. We can't wait to meet you, learn your story and hope to become a part of it.

We are seeking an open adoption and are ready to welcome your child and your connection with each other, if that is the decision you make. Whatever you decide, we think you are brave.

We came to chose adoption to grow our family after more than five years of trying to conceive, and one miscarriage. We would love to have another child join our family and Lily would adore having a little brother or sister.

Thank
YOU for getting
to know us



HAVING FUN AT A FUNDRAISING GALA



HIKING IN MEXICO. WE LOVE BEING HERE!



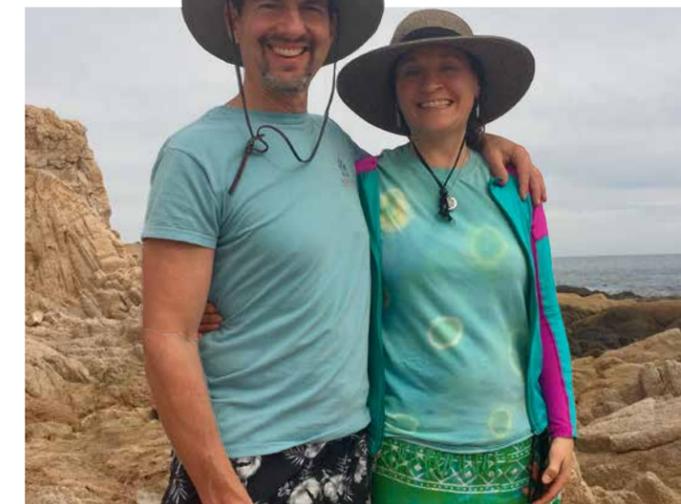
MARK TEACHING LILY HOW TO RIDE A BIKE

our life
TOGETHER

You can find us enjoying warm snuggles on the couch while watching a movie or planning our next adventure. We also appreciate the arts, including the symphony, theatre, painting and photography. We enjoy **ice skating together** and the **occasional pillow fight/tickle time** with Lily. We love to **explore** new places, learning as we go and **expanding our horizons**. I take lots of pictures wherever we go.

We find delight being in nature, whether hiking a trail, swimming in the sea or jumping in rain puddles and we make the time to do the things we enjoy as much as possible. Warm evenings are spent relaxing and **talking by the campfire**, either at our site or at the community fire pit with our neighbors. **The kids are all playing together at the adjacent playground**, stopping by occasionally to warm up by the fire.

WALKING ON A FAVORITE CABO BEACH



Fun fact!



We love celebrating everything with **ice cream**

"HAVING A PARENT WHO LISTENS creates a child who believes he or she has a voice that matters in this world." ~ Rachel Macy Stafford



WHERE THE KIDDO'S WILL SLEEP!



LILY AND MARK COOKING UP A STORM



PLENTY OF ROOM TO RELAX IN OUR COMFY HOME



awesome DESTINATIONS in our community

- 🍃 Seattle Center because of the International Fountain, wading pool, the Pacific Science Center, and ice skating at Winterfest
- 🍃 The local playground; we always see someone we know
- 🍃 The Cascade Mountains; great hikes and outdoor adventures all year round
- 🍃 The 5th Ave Theatre; fantastic shows
- 🍃 The pool; water play is our favorite!



ENJOYING A NEARBY RIVER AND FARM

WE CURRENTLY LIVE IN OUR 46FT RESIDENTIAL QUALITY, CUSTOM DESIGNED, 5TH WHEEL TRAILER AT A WONDERFUL RV RESORT NORTHEAST OF SEATTLE. IT IS A MAGICAL PLACE! WE ARE LOVING OUR LITTLE HOME AND THE LIFESTYLE IS SUITING US WELL.

Although the commute is longer than when we lived in the city, we are thriving with the fresh air, quiet nights, and lots of outdoor time. The trailer has everything we need while we save money for a new home. We are enjoying the park amenities including the playground, the fantastic pool, hot tub, mini golf, and lots of events and activities for the kids. We have discovered a lovely nearby dance studio and neighboring art studio where Lily attended various camps and is continuing with more classes. We have lovely neighbors and are enjoying our new community. We are all excited about this adventure and the financial goals it will help us reach.

OUR NEW DREAM HOME WILL BE BUILT IN SAN JOSE DEL CABO, MEXICO. We love the culture, the climate, the food and, of course, the beautiful beaches! The people we have met in Mexico have all been so kind. Our plan is to spend as much time as possible in Mexico, eventually living there for the majority of the year after Mark retires. In the summer months, we plan to have family travel adventures exploring the US with our RV. In the meantime, our 5th wheel trailer home has plenty of room to welcome your little one and focus on the things that matter most; quality time with family.

welcome to our neck
of the
WOODS



Favorite room in our home:

Umm...the outdoor space by a roaring campfire. And the kitchen.

Future site of our home in Mexico with an awesome view of the Sea of Cortez!



IT'S ALWAYS WARM AND COZY IN OUR HOME



INTROVERTED, PASSIONATE ABOUT HEALTH, CREATING DELICIOUS FOOD, UNSCHOOLING OUR DAUGHTER, AND LOVES COMING UP WITH IDEAS TO MAKE THINGS WORK BETTER, MORE EFFICIENTLY AND WITH MORE EASE FOR ALL. HAS A NEED FOR FRESH AIR, QUIET GREEN SPACES, AND HOT SHOWERS.

As a stay at home, homeschooling mom, I spend my days caring for Lily, transporting her to various activities, working with her on various projects, reading, cooking, baking, and of course, cleaning up. I focus on providing a healthful, nutrient-dense diet without being fanatical about it. I enjoy nurturing a tasty herb garden and attempt to grow a few veggies every year. I love taking Lily on adventure walks, where we go out and explore the woods or the neighborhood, seeing what we can see and enjoying whatever comes up. I look forward to sharing our adventures with our new little one.



fun facts ABOUT JODI

- Before becoming a massage therapist, Jodi earned a BFA in photography
- Jodi drove across the USA twice after college; once from NY to CA and again from NY to WA
- Jodi loves painting with watercolors!
- Jodi savors a daily meditation practice



AT THE TULIP FESTIVAL IN LA CONNER, WASHINGTON

Meet Jodi



AN INTIMATE DINNER IN MEXICO AFTER A HIKE



MAKING FISHY FACES... JUST BECAUSE



HAVING A BLAST AT THE CLIMBING GYM!



JODI RELAXING WITH A YOUNG FRIEND



HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS AND ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE

When Jodi sees a baby she lights up. All of her wonderful traits come to life when she is in the presence of a little being. Jodi is an exceptional wife and mother. Lily and I are so blessed.

about Jodi by Mark

I have had the absolute pleasure of knowing my best friend, wife, and mother of our child for 20 years. She is a fantastic

partner and mom and I am grateful every day that we are together. Our relationship is effortless. Jodi and I are health conscious, spiritual, foodies, relaxed, and politically compatible. If you asked Jodi a question about an important issue, it would be very probable that I would know how she would answer.

Jodi has a warm and welcoming personality. She is also extremely intuitive and is a tremendous resource for my office. She is a sumptuous and daring cook and loves to try new recipes. I remember the old adage "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach". Boy is she good at that! Fortunately for me, there is much more. Jodi is an incredible artist and teacher. Jodi is an "old soul". **She is a great listener and communicator.** Whenever I need advice about work or something personal, I know my

go-to person. She is rarely quick to react but rather has the ability to sort out the important details and respond appropriately. She loves to snuggle and is very cozy. I am amazed that even when she is not feeling her best, she gives everything she has to our family.

As a mom, Jodi does whatever it takes to provide for Lily. She takes on the job of parent with enthusiasm, loving and guiding our daughter to be an independent person and allowing her to be the natural leader that she is. **She also has a mountain of patience. She respects our daughter's right to make choices and make mistakes.** Jodi knows that decision making is a learned skill. She has encouraged Lily to make her own decisions almost her entire life and that is very empowering for a young person. She is always there to encourage and assist when needed. She is always aware of the language we use with Lily and strives to teach and guide her in the most positive way. We are grateful that Jodi is able to be home with Lily, to kiss every boo boo and encourage a variety of learning opportunities.

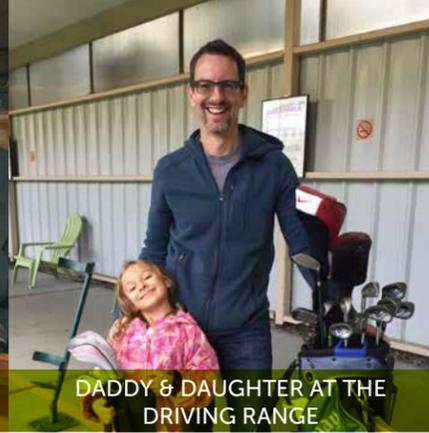


fun facts ABOUT MARK

- Before becoming a chiropractor, Mark worked for eight long years as a craps dealer in Atlantic City, NJ
- Mark was the smallest kid in his 9th grade class and he had the largest appetite
- Mark shared a love of music with his mother, who played piano for over 80 years
- Occupation: Doctor of Chiropractic



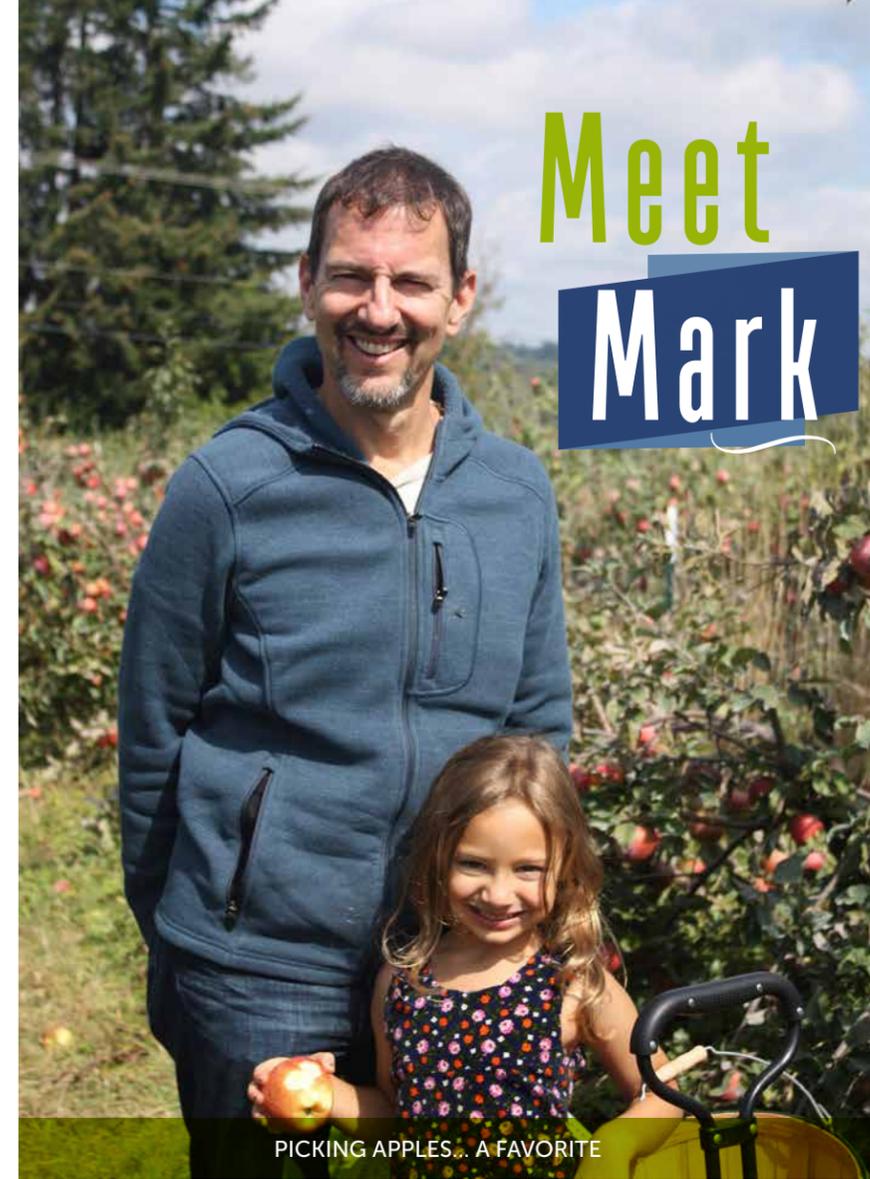
LOVE, SMILES & COLORING



DADDY & DAUGHTER AT THE DRIVING RANGE



CLIMBING WITH FRIENDS... SO EXHILARATING!



Meet Mark

PICKING APPLES... A FAVORITE

I grew up in a small town in PA. I was raised by my mom and four siblings as my dad passed away when I was 6 months old. I played a lot of sports including baseball, wrestling, skiing, and golf. After graduating from college I ventured off to work in a casino in Atlantic City. Then, I got a calling to do something more beneficial for the world. The idea came for me to become a Chiropractor. **They say that if you love your work you never work a day in your life. That is so true!** I have a fantastic Chiropractic office that I'm very proud of. It is so much fun helping people lead happier, healthier, more productive lives.

Most of all, I truly enjoy spending time with my eternal partner, Jodi. I am extremely blessed. I am an amiable, sometimes extrovert. **I am always thinking about the future and having fun in the present.** People have told me that I'm a happy guy. I must agree. My library includes books that either help me help people better or help run my business more efficiently. I really enjoy the serenity of a round of golf. I have learned over the years that if you do your best and detach from the outcome you have one of the keys to a happy life.

I LOVE BEING A DAD. I enjoy having what Lily calls "father-daughter days". We spend the day doing various things together such as hitting golf balls at the driving range, going for a bike ride, learning about coins and shopping at the coin shop, going out for lunch or getting a hot chocolate. My girl can hit a golf ball! I am truly blessed to have the best family, friends, and career I could ever imagine. **I love my girls and would welcome another little one into our family with open arms.**

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT MARK, BY JODI

OUR SHARED VALUES IN EVERYTHING HEALTH, FITNESS, POLITICS, FINANCES, PARENTING, AND LIFESTYLE. HIS PLAYFULNESS, HIS ABUNDANT POSITIVE ENERGY, HIS DETERMINATION, HIS RESOURCEFULNESS, HIS JOY IN TAKING CARE OF HIS PATIENTS, HIS EMPLOYEES AND HIS FAMILY, HIS GENEROSITY, HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR ADVENTURE AND FOR CREATING OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE TOGETHER, HIS LOVING SUPPORT FOR ALL THE THINGS I WANT TO DO, AND ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES I WANT FOR LILY. HIS LOVE FOR HIS FAMILY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR MAKING IT BIGGER! I LOVE THE SMILE ON HIS FACE AFTER SERVING HIM A DELICIOUS MEAL I'VE PREPARED. I ESPECIALLY LOVE WHEN HE DOES THE COOKING!

about Mark by Jodi

Mark is a wonderful father and role model for Lily. **He has a great sense of humor and is always uplifting with his positive energy.** He is the one who gets our family giggling and happily volunteers for pillow fight duty. The laughter is contagious! **He is strong, caring and dependable, working hard everyday to provide for our family.** He loves his work as a chiropractor and his enthusiasm for good health and staying fit is unmatched. Before we moved out of the city, he walked about 3 miles a day to and from work, helping his patients all day and then helping at home as well. **I am grateful for his love and friendship and the beautiful life we have created,** and continue to manifest, together.



CHECKING OUT COINS FOR OUR COIN COLLECTION



Meet Lily



SO EXCITED TO UPGRADE TO GEARS!



HALLOWEEN FUN WITH FRIENDS!

The people we Love by Jodi

Our families are spread on both coasts, in NY, CT, PA, FL, and CA. We don't see them often, but we do our best to connect via skype/phone/text/e-mail and we are always happy when family comes to visit us! My mom's passion is teaching swimming and whenever she comes to visit, Lily's swimming improves dramatically. My sister is a librarian, and always sends us the best children's books for Lily's birthday and holiday gifts. Mark's eldest brother, a garage owner, is our go-to person for any car related questions. Mark has been playing golf with his siblings since he was 12 and loves to fit in a round of golf with them whenever they are together. **Every two years, about 20 of my family members gather together at my brother's house for what has become known as "Foodie Fest";** several days of cooking, eating and fun! We all contribute our recipes and kitchen talents to the well coordinated events planned by our hosts for the weekend.

We also spend some time visiting Mark's family in PA and see all his brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. Mark's sister, Dort, is a master pie maker and spoils us with the best apple pie! Kibbe night and homemade perogies are also dinner traditions that we share at Dort's house.

It is always great to connect with family, catch up and enjoy delicious food together. We look forward to hosting Foodie Fest in Mexico, once we've settled into our future home.



DINING WITH MOM DURING HER VISIT



DRIVING UNCLE DAN'S BOAT



LILY SNUGLING BY THE FIRE WITH COUSINS

qualities WE VALUE in our friends and family

- honesty • integrity
- humor • kindness
- health awareness



GATHERING WITH FRIENDS AT A LOCAL CRAFT AND BOOK EVENT

Lily rides her bike everywhere, visits with friends, plays at the playground, and absolutely loves being outside in the woods.

NOTE TO EXPECTANT PARENT: "I have been dreaming of this moment (having a sibling) for years. I can't wait to meet you!"

Fun facts about Lily: (who wanted me to include her fun facts)

- She has always been the oldest and the shortest in 95% of all the classes she has taken
- Every other year, she whispers one of her favorite foods in her sleep

Occupation: kid extraordinaire

Hobbies/Interests: dancing, swimming, biking, imaginative play with her dolls, gymnastics/trampoline, ice skating, science experiments, numbers, astronomy, cooking shows, coin collecting, hanging out with her friends, super exciting carnival rides, playing at the playground, exploring nature, hiking, painting

Our friends BY JODI **Through various daughter-related activities, I have met several strong, authentic, caring women who I am glad to call my friends.** They have been incredibly supportive. I love that I can connect over tea, or at the playground and feel confident to leave my daughter with any of them for an evening or a sleepover and I am happy to care for their kids as well. I am grateful to know them all and have them in my life. **We are also meeting new friends at the campground...several who have been adopted and one family who has three adopted children!** We have connected with several homeschooling families as well. **Mark and his friends connect on the phone regularly, and go out to enjoy a ball game, go fishing or play a round of golf.**

our promise to **YOU**

- ☛ We promise that your child will know the decision you made was out of love
- ☛ We promise to provide your child with a nurturing, safe, and healthy home
- ☛ If we end up being lucky enough to bring your child into our home, we will spend the rest of our lives loving your child, taking care of them, and giving them a secure place from which they can explore the world
- ☛ We promise to parent with love, respect and sensitivity
- ☛ We promise to provide the resources and support to fulfill their potential and live a joyful life

As parents, we understand that children are people with their own thoughts and ideas about what they want and need. We respect Lily's unique perspective and we discuss solutions when our needs conflict. We encourage our daughter to explore the world around her, and make decisions for herself. We support her in following her interests. We educate on best choices, suggest solutions, and keep her safe. We strive to teach her to be a strong, smart, and kind person and develop a great sense of gratitude for all she has.

our heartfelt
THANK YOU



We hope our book has given you a clear picture about who we are - the family we are, the home life we cultivate and the love we have to give. We do not know how you feel right now, but we want you to feel confident that your child will be loved and well cared for in our home. **We want you to know that you can feel welcome to build and maintain a relationship with your child within your comfort level.** We envision a future where your child, our child, is thriving and you know you made the best choice.

Thank you for considering our family. We wish you good luck in your journey. *Jodi and Mark*

**Reach out, we'd love
to meet you!**

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