



Julia, Matt & Isaac

# Hello!



**We are Matt, Julia and Isaac- along with dogs Matilda and Pavlov.**

This is an awkward way to get to know someone, isn't it? Reading these profiles one after another must start to feel like a broken record, making a difficult process even harder. You're poring over pictures and paragraphs for clues that this family is the right choice for you and your baby. We can't tell you if we are the right one for you, but we tried to make a completely honest profile, so that you'll have a better idea of whether we might be a good match. Nothing is off the record.

	Julia	Matt	Isaac	Our Future Child
<b>Job</b>	Veterinarian	Molecular Lab Technologist	Being adorable	We Don't
<b>Hobbies</b>	Reading, writing, knitting, learning to play piano, crosswords, rock climbing	Trivia, crosswords, puns and wordplay, learning guitar	Making up stories about Mickey Mouse, pretending to hide from monsters, MagnaTiles	Know Yet But But
<b>Favorite Type of Food</b>	Indian or Thai	Mexican (I love a good guacamole)	Candy, bread, pasta, candy	We Are
<b>Dream Vacation</b>	Somewhere we can see the Northern Lights	Seaside town in France or Italy	Mimi and Grampy's house	Going To Love
<b>Favorite Movie</b>	The Princess Bride	The Blues Brothers	TBD (hasn't seen one yet)	Discovering
<b>Favorite Books or Authors</b>	Margaret Atwood, NK Jemison, Michael Chabon... so many more	Treasure Island, Sherlock Holmes stories, Ernest Hemingway	Super Worm, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Little Critter stories (this changes often)	Them As We Go On
<b>Favorite Music</b>	The Beatles, Janis Joplin and that one about the guy in the place	Rock/classic/blues/folk/etc....it depends on my mood	BB King (sometimes with his friend Eric), Wheels on the Bus	Our Adoption Journey
<b>Favorite Family Activity</b>	Apple or berry Picking	Hiking	Going to the playground	Together!

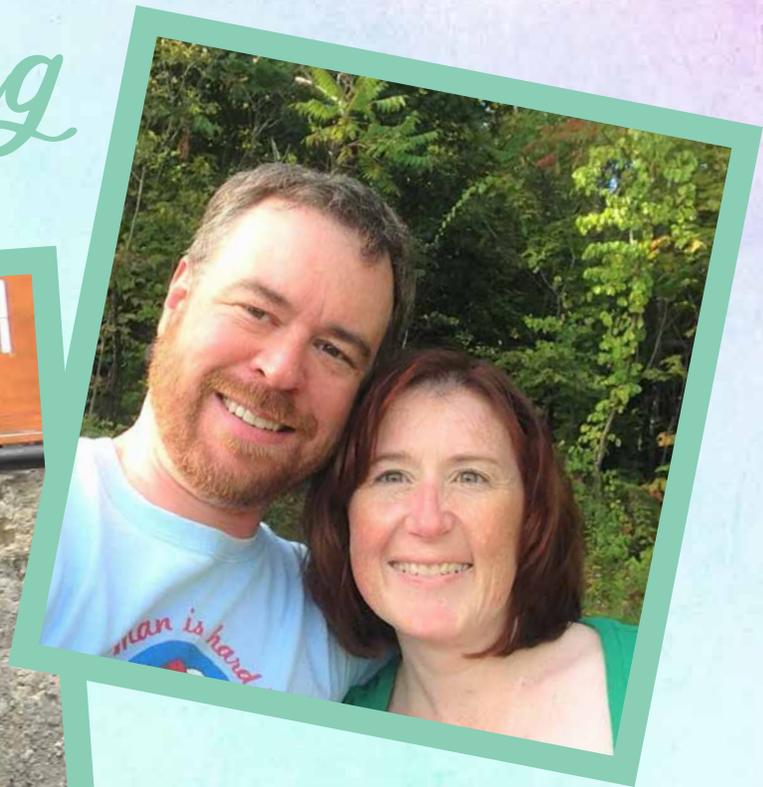
Thank you for taking the time to learn about us.

We figure you're dealing with a lot of uncertainty right now. We want you to know that we will love your child unconditionally and be sure that he or she has every opportunity to know your love too. You and your family will always be a part of your child's life and identity.

We are comfortable with whatever level of openness you would like to have. What you want may change- that's ok too! Whichever path you ultimately choose, we truly wish you and your child the best.



# Our Beginning



Although we both grew up in New England, we didn't meet until our late thirties. When we finally did, we fell in love quickly and absolutely. Our families joke that we played catch up on the milestones: a proposal after hiking the Inca Trail, rustic wedding, bought an old fixer-upper and had a baby in the space of a few years. Of course, these milestones came with challenges and conflicts. We were washing our dishes in our bathroom for two months after our son was born, until we finally installed a kitchen sink! Stressors like that were frustrating, but they did teach us how to use humor and empathy to realize we are in this together and to solve problems like a team.

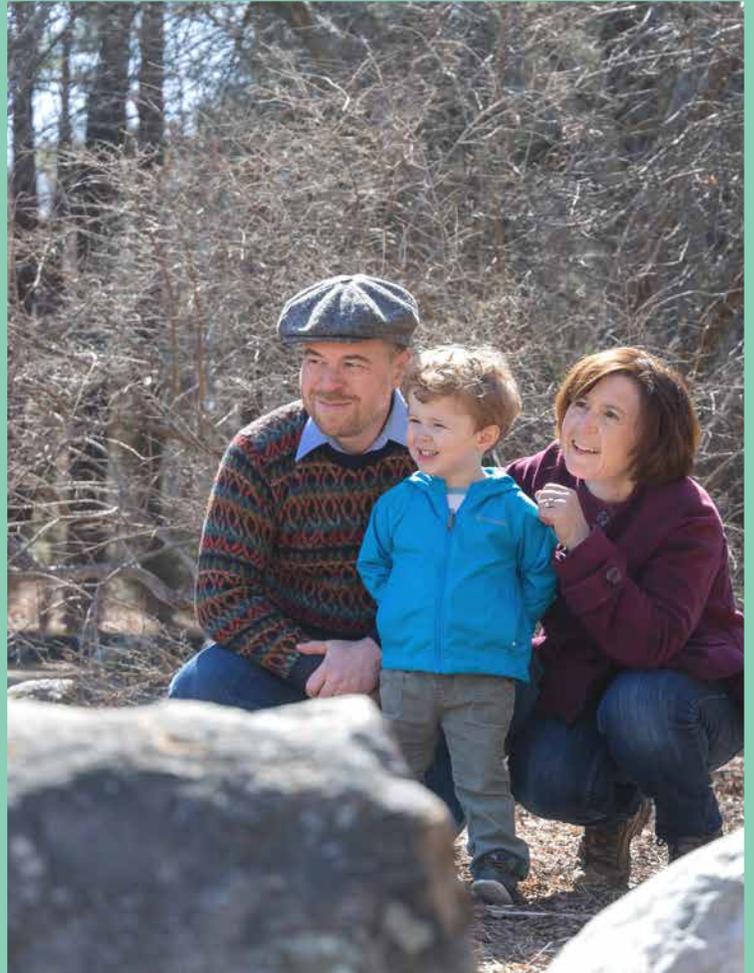
# Why Adoption?

*We would love to become parents again!*

After welcoming Isaac, we knew we wanted to have more than one child.

We've both always been drawn to adoption. Julia looked into it when she was single and many of Matt's cousins joined his family, as Matt's grandmother lovingly put it, through the blessing of adoption.

The more we learn about the bittersweet complexities of adoption, the more certain we are that this is the right choice for our family. We love seeing the world through our son's eyes and long to welcome a new little person into our lives- one with different needs, perspectives and interests to cultivate and love. All our children will be raised to know that their feelings are important, that every part of them is cherished and that their family is inclusive.



# About Matt by Julia



Matt is the one who reminds me to have a little faith and optimism. He is someone I can be completely myself with, quirks and all. The man pays attention to everything! On one of our dates, I went to a trivia night that he hosted and he had designed an entire round where the answers referenced random details of my life. Whether it's deftly creating a well-balanced meal from cabinet leftovers or making sure we are fully prepared for any eventuality on a trip (fully = a set of batteries for your batteries), he is a partner I can always rely on for support and fun. I can't wait to see him with another son or daughter doing things like improvising silly lullabies at bedtime and digging in the dirt for worms with his kids.

*"Walking, holding a smaller hand in each of my larger ones."*

*Matt on something he looks forward to about being the father of two*



Opposite page: Hemingway...I mean Matt, writing postcards in Peru.

This page, top left: Matt and Pavlov on a windy day in Acadia National Park.

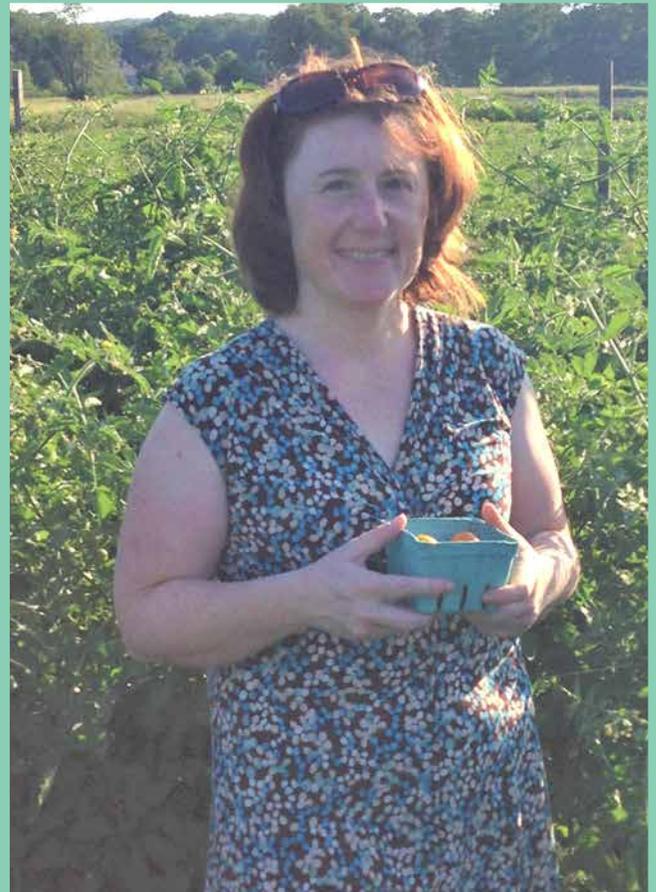
At top right: Matt is wearing an anniversary present, an addition to his collection of "punny" t-shirts.

At bottom left: Matt shows Isaac a worm they dug under our lilac trees.



# About Julia by Matt

Julia means more to me than simply wife or best friend- there's no one I'd rather travel through life with. Our first date was just lunch, but we talked for three hours! I noticed her quick wit first, but soon grew to appreciate how well she listens. She thinks carefully and responds with sensitivity, respect, and well-placed humor. If I'm troubled, I know I can rely on her for empathy and support on top of figuring out what to do. She applies the same talents to being a mom, using books and other resources to help our son explore his interests, learn new things and prepare for difficult situations.



*"What will make them both giggle?"*

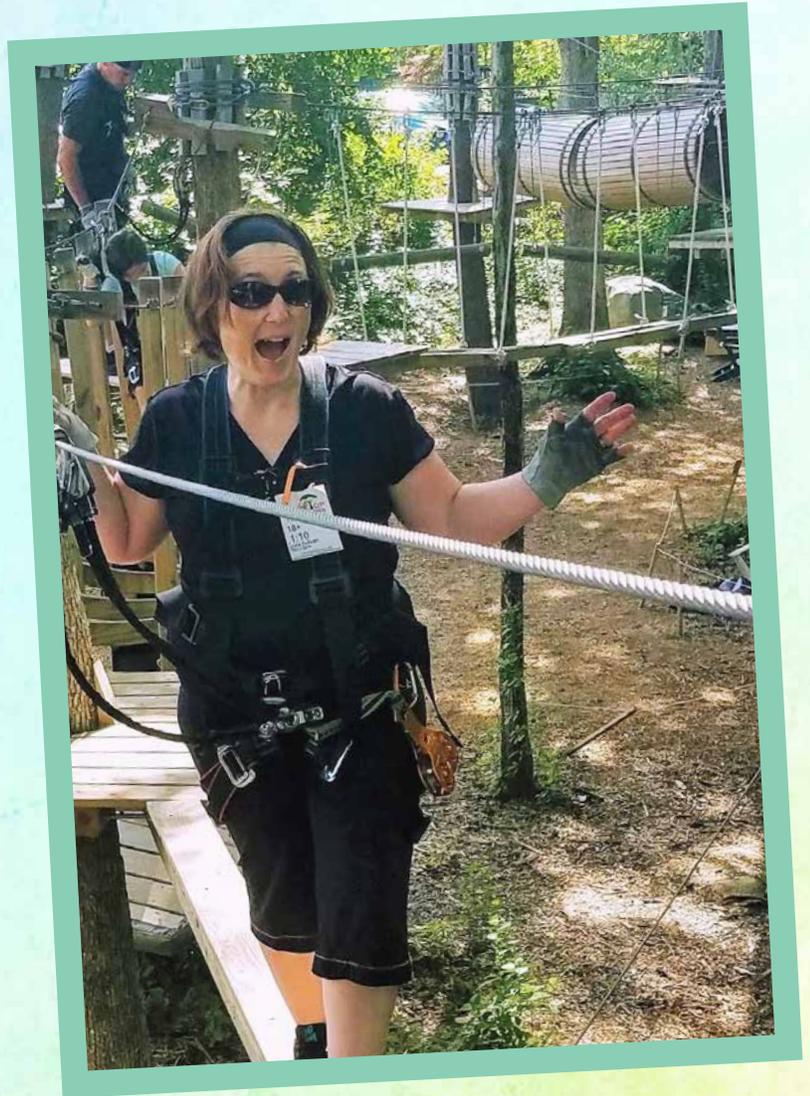
*Julia, on something she's wondering about being the mother of two*

Opposite page, top right: Julia and I  
join a CSA farm program most years.  
Sun-warmed Sungold cherry tomatoes  
are the best!

Opposite page, bottom left: Our entry  
from when we exchanged pandemic  
Thanksgiving pictures with family.

This page, at right: We climbed in the  
treetops for a recent anniversary- it was  
fun until I got stuck!

This page, below: Isaac and Julia pound  
the ivories. Which instrument will our  
next little one enjoy?



# About Isaac

Isaac is a playful and kind three-year-old.

He enjoys building with Magna-Tiles, baking and reading. When outside, he likes bikes, scooters and climbing up twisty slides. Lately, he's been interested in jazz and blues- we introduced him to B.B. King and now he wants to listen to B.B. every day in the car. He has a great laugh and already has a talent for making other kids giggle. He will be such a fun, engaging older brother!



*"I want to play with them!"*



*Isaac, on why he wants a little brother or sister*

# Our Family and Friends

Matt has a large family- most are within an hour's drive, though his sister and brother live in other states. Prior to the pandemic, we visited with Matt's parents regularly and his siblings visited several times a year.

Julia's family is more scattered- her parents and brothers live out of state. We are not as close to them but we see them about twice a year. Since Julia has lived in several states, she has a large network of friends we consider part of our family too. Here, we focus on who would be a frequent part of your child's life with us.



Matt's parents, aka Mimi (professor of nursing) and Grampy (professor of agriculture), love exploring the wonders of coastal living with their grandchildren.



Backyard BBQ and bubbles at our house. They were helping us with landscaping. Grampy has an extensive garden and he loves teaching. Your child will know how to plant tulip bulbs (pointy side up) and how apple trees grow.



Mohita is Julia's friend from college. She and her family live in San Francisco- they can't wait to show the redwoods to our next little one!!



Adria and Rich are Matt's friends from college and live nearby. Pre-pandemic, we visited with them often- their children dote on Isaac and we half-joke that they are potential babysitters for our kids.



Althea and Becca are friends Julia met while rock climbing. They live nearby- their children are fun to play with, but no rock climbing...yet?



Matt's aunts helped us make decorations for our wedding. Creating them together made even the "Pinterest fails" special!



Matt's sister and her husband at Thanksgiving. Their older child had just started a wave- and we all followed suit!



Matt's brother (right) helps at the annual Fourth of July lobster bake at Mimi and Grampy's house.



Amy lives in New York and has known Julia since they were three!  
We are close to her family and gather with them 1-2 times a year.



Matt has many aunts/uncles and cousins who live nearby- this is only about half of them, with their partners and children!

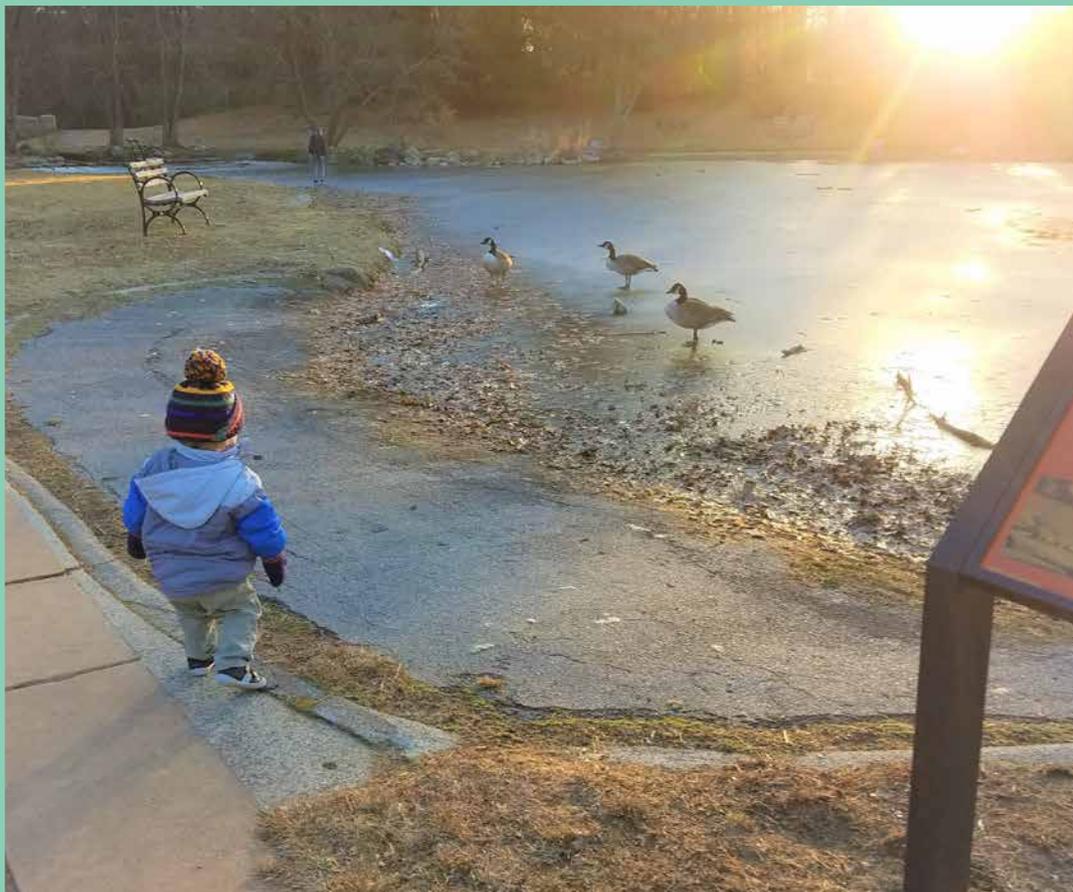
# Our Home



We live in a suburb, 40 minutes outside of Boston. Our house is at the corner of a busy street and a quiet side street. The neighborhood itself is full of kids of all ages. When we bought our house, it had lots of fixing up to do and still does- it's a work in progress but with the help of Matt's parents and YouTube DIY videos, we've come a long way! It's finally at a point where it feels like a home. We did some landscaping work this year and are planning a vegetable garden in the spring.

# Our Community

There is a beautiful park about a block away from our house with two goose ponds, playgrounds and acres of trees. Isaac will enjoy showing a younger sibling all the goslings and ducklings in the spring! Our town tends to hold a lot of community events here, such as the annual jack o'lantern festival and storywalks.



# Our Daily Life



Matt works 4 and Julia works 3 days per week.

Isaac attends daycare when both of us are working. When a child is placed with us, we will take 5 months of parental leave. After that, we will likely hire a nanny but may use daycare again.

We get outdoors in every season- sledding, berry picking, going to the beach, visiting farmers markets, camping and hiking. We visit friends and family as much as we can.

Days at home are filled with cooking, reading, listening to music, yard work and walking the dogs.

Sometimes, we try to figure out which bird is at the feeder (many look like squirrels...). Now that Isaac is older, we're starting board game nights- he would love a sibling to play "Monkey Around" with!



Here are some of our traditions...we look forward to making more as our family grows.



Two weeks before Christmas, we get a tree at a local nursery and then trim it. Isaac is ready to share the cookies and cocoa with a sibling, but not the dogs!

We spend Christmas with Matt's family. Matt's father's side has a tradition of bowling around Christmas Eve. This was the first one, taken in 2008!



Carving jack-o-lanterns with pumpkins from Grampy's garden! On Halloween, we make a pizza then trick-or-treat- we look forward to planning costumes with our next child.

On Easter, we have a basket scavenger hunt- we can't wait to see how Isaac and a younger sibling partner up to decipher the clues!

# Our Parenting

We hope the following examples from our life give you a good idea of the parents we try to be and the values we have. Every child is different, but the core of our approach remains the same. Respect, empathize, and be flexible within set limits.



On our first airplane trip as parents, we brought small toys and projects to entertain our one-year-old. (He was more interested in opening and closing the toy bag!) Eventually, he needed a nap. Matt paced the entire airplane with him in a sling, soothing him to sleep. On our next trip, we imagine Isaac helping us soothe his little brother or sister to sleep.



Isaac is not picky -he eats a balance of "good" and "fun" foods- but he has trouble waiting. When he was very young, we would sing to him and give him cues like counting microwave beeps. Now that he's older, we work on getting him to distract himself or helping us get food ready.





Rainbow rice and other mommy blog projects were great distractions during the lock down. We still have this rice a year later, in bins, in the carpet, in our hair.... it's fine. Learning is about mess, fun and improvisation! Whatever your child's interest, we will find a way to explore and learn about it.

We try to instill the importance of living sustainably and an appreciation for nature. Visiting farmers markets, canning berries, sledding, apple picking, gardening- all will be double the fun with two little ones!



Long story short- this was not Halloween and if, like, Isaac, your child wants to wear a costume out and about, the answer will likely be "okay."



During the lock-down, our town had programs such as "bunny hunts" in the park and hanging banners for first responders. We tried to participate in as many as possible- the pandemic has really driven home the importance of family and community.

# Our Pledge



We know that we haven't learned all the ins and outs of parenting yet, and that our second child will be an entirely different, unique little person. We promise to approach our second parenting journey with unconditional love, the wisdom we've gained so far, and a deep devotion to your child's growth into a happy, loved, secure and healthy person.

**Promise:** You and any family you choose to involve will have a role in your child's life and one of respect, honor and gratitude in our family.

**How:** We will weave your child's adoption story into our conversations from the beginning. References to you and your family will be made with joy and respect so that your child will be able to appreciate their roots and love all of his or her parts.

**Promise:** Your child will know that they are appreciated and loved for who they are and will be helped to become whomever they want to be.

**How:** Your child will be surrounded by loving family and friends. We will read books, listen to music of all genres, explore nature and encourage imaginative play. We will travel to national parks, various states, and sometimes other countries. We will promote and support formal education from elementary to college, and beyond. We will seek out and nurture the free expression of feelings and opinions.

**Promise:** Your family culture, ethnicity and heritage will be a full part of your child's personal identity and our family identity.

**How:** We will bring music, art and books from your culture into our lives. We will dance to the music and cook the dishes. We will try to copy the sculptures and paintings. We will tell stories using characters from the books. We will find opportunities like history classes, cultural groups and trips. We will consult you and others with a similar background to figure out more ways to fulfill this promise.

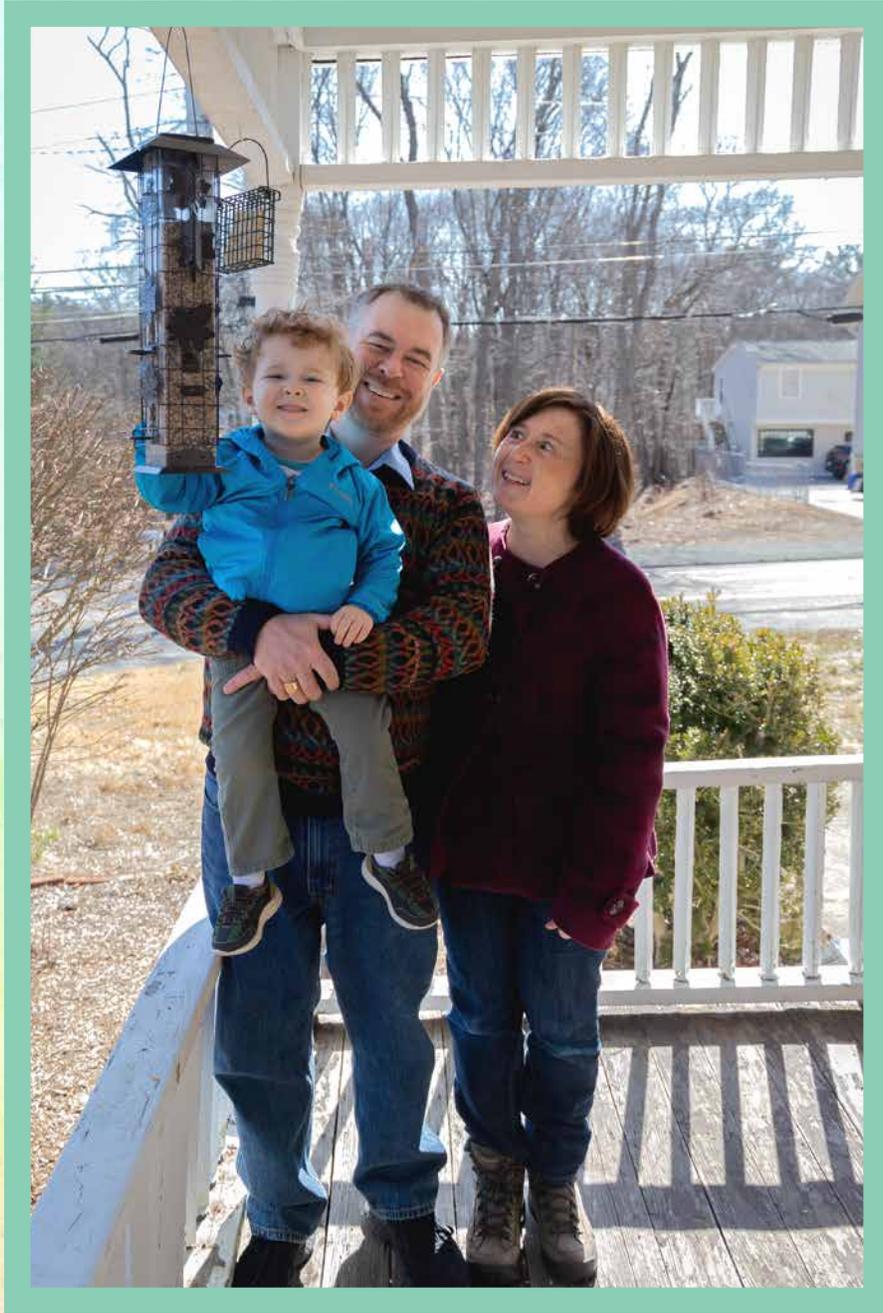
**Promise:** If your child is a different race from us, we will endeavor to make sure he or she knows the challenges they face and actively help him or her in dealing with them.

**How:** We will educate ourselves through classes, books and other resources. Your child will see themselves reflected in our home; for example, in their toys, books, pictures, etc. We will discuss racism and bias with them. We will actively find role models, mentors and friends from your child's background from whom they can learn.

We truly believe that keeping these promises is in everybody's best interest. Every child has the right to know where they come from, and that they are loved. Every parent has the right to know that their child is safe, loved and happy.

Thank you for getting to  
know us a little.

# Thank You!



We would love to hear from you and look forward to getting to know you!

We can be reached through our agency at:

Bright Futures Adoption Center | 978-263-5400

[kcheyney@rfkchildren.org](mailto:kcheyney@rfkchildren.org)