



Sara & Joe





Hello

We are so grateful you're considering an adoption plan and are honored and thrilled for the opportunity to share with you who we are.

We hope the love we have to give to a child shows throughout the pages of this book as well as our sense of humor, our love of adventure + play, our unbreakable bond with our blended families + friends, our celebration of each other's culture + heritage, and our deep desire to share our life, our love, and our joy with a child.

We want you to know an open adoption relationship is absolutely welcome if that's what feels right.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us!

Gratefully,

Joe & Sara

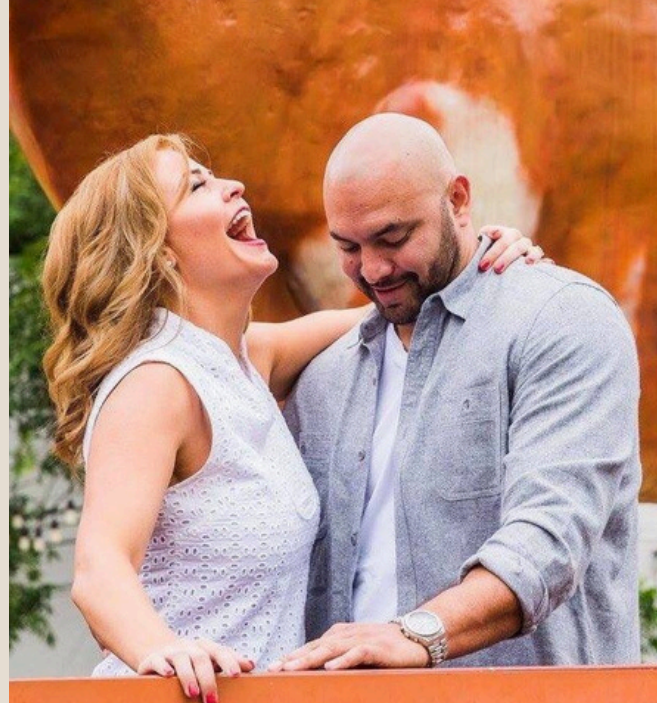


About Us

We met in February 2016 and became fast friends. We have a very compatible, twisted sense of humor and cracked each other up constantly. As we got closer it was undeniable that we were more than friends. We both felt like it was the first time we could be ALL of ourselves with a partner and the first time we felt like we were HOME.

We were so different on the surface yet so similar. Our culture, religion, and traditions were different. However, we both grew up with big extended families where humor + laughter were predominant, love + connection were prioritized over money + means, faith over religion, and every family tradition included a huge home-cooked meal.

We started dating several months after meeting and married on September 16, 2017.



While the through line of our partnership has been laughter + play, going through years of infertility, we are also no strangers to heartache. Our deep bond and amazing support system helped us weather every storm and find joy through all of it.

We know we can face anything life throws our way as long as we have each other. We enjoy the hell out of each other; we love our blended families, friends, and we can't wait to share our abundance of love + support with a child of our own.



Why We're Adopting

We both interestingly, had a desire to adopt from a young age. Specifically for Joe, whose mom was pushed to have him at 16 years old, it is the opportunity to offer someone the choice for themselves + their child that his mother didn't have.

We tried to get pregnant first and after 6 years of unsuccessful IVF attempts, we decided to stop. Thinking about what was important to us, we realized that loving and nurturing a child was far more important than giving birth.



Bedtime stories with Sara's niece & nephew



Joe's goddaughters

We have a ton of love to give and are so excited to share that with whatever little soul(s) we are blessed to bring into our lives.

Meet Joe



Fun Facts

- Profession: Sales Director at an engineering consulting firm
- Religion: Catholic
- Born in El Paso, TX
- Bachelor's degree in Corporate Communication from the University of Texas at Austin
- Member of the University of Texas men's basketball team
- Served as a Big Brother for Big Brothers + Big Sisters (BBBS)
- A.C.T.S. Ministry Men's Retreat Leader
- Fluent in English and Spanish

Interests

- Anything UT related
- Mentoring
- Outdoor grilling
- DIY home improvements
- Working out
- Watching football, basketball, and boxing
- Crime show marathons
- Tailgating with family and friends

What Sara loves about Joe:

Joe is one of the funniest and kindest human beings I've ever met. I love his wicked sense of humor. And I especially admire the way he cares about people, how he sees people and makes everyone feel special in his presence.

He is a natural father. Born into difficult circumstances, he helped raise his younger sister + brother (8 + 12 yrs younger), with whom he still has the closest bond, and has always dreamed of being a father to his own family one day. He'll be the most compassionate, "all-in" dad a little kid could be lucky enough to have as a father. And I'm lucky to be loved by such a great man.



Abuela Rita & Abuelo Ruben

Enchiladas

In 2005, I attended the Saturday evening mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in East Austin. That evening I received such a beautiful and powerful message. The Friar looked at the congregation and asked ¿Cuál es el ingrediente más importante al hacer enchiladas? (What is the most important ingredient in enchiladas?)

One older lady raised her hands and said "Las tortillas". Another woman raised her hand and said "El chile". Friar Francisco nodded and responded, "No...es amor. El amor es el ingrediente más importante. No sólo en las enchiladas sino en todo lo que hacemos en esta vida." (No, love is the most important ingredient. Not only in enchiladas but in everything we do in this life.)

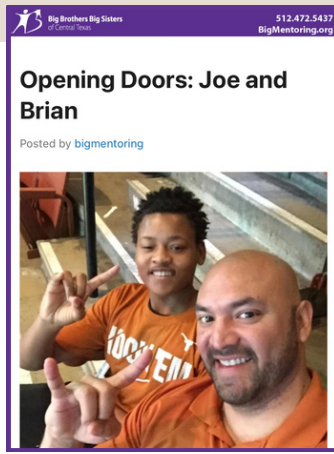
Prometo cocinar, jugar y vivir cada día con tu hijo o hija usando el ingrediente más importante... El Amor. (I promise to cook, play, and live every day with your son or daughter using the most important ingredient... LOVE.)



I live for teaching anything I have learned along the way.



It's all about the BBQ sauce



Spending time with my Big Brother/Big Sister mentee



Teaching my BBBS mentee the art of grilling



Working on my nephew's BB skills

Growing up I didn't have anyone teach me how to work with my hands. Through trial and error, and a few minor electrocutions, my Jale Chicano (Mexican Engineering) skills have improved. I'd love to share what I wish someone would have taught me as a kid.



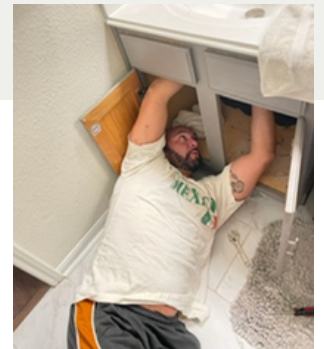
Watching a Longhorn game with Penelope



Putting up a chandelier. And yes... I'm scared of heights

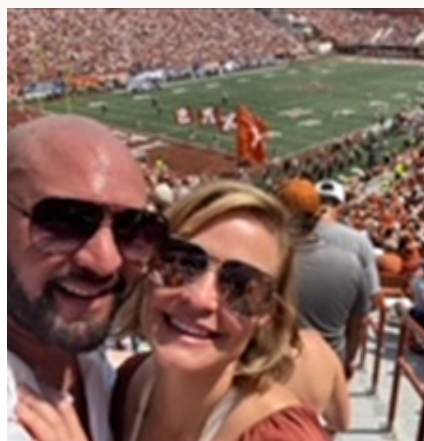


Getting my nails & hair done courtesy of my friend's lil' princess



Praying I dont flood the bathroom again

Since I was eight years old in El Paso I wanted to be a UT Longhorn. I would love nothing more than to share that love with a little one.



Meet Sara



Fun Facts

- Profession: Neuro-Somatic Trauma Counselor
- Religion: Non-denominational
- Born on a hippy commune in Tennessee. Grew up in a tiny town outside of Dallas (population 900).
- Bachelors degree in Acting; studied at an acting conservatory in London; acted professionally in LA for a few years.
- After acting, taught preschool, then corporate HR. before going back to school for counseling. Recently started a private practice.
- Volunteer group facilitator for the Girl's Empowerment Network.
- Competed in the Great Urban Race National Finals in Puerto Rico.
- Soon to be published author, Oct 2024!

Interests

- DIY-Upcycling home decor
- Cooking + hosting get-togethers
- Reality TV junkie
- Teaching + Studying Nervous System Regulation Techniques
- Avid reader + writer
- Re-learning piano (played as a child)
- Dancing (Two-Step; Learning Salsa + Cumbia)
- Improving my Spanish

What Joe loves about Sara:

Meeting Sara, I discovered one of the funniest, most supportive, and goofiest people I have ever met. She is truly all smiles and all heart. She has had such a positive impact on how I see the world now. Her compassion has always compelled her to see and help anyone in need or pain. This is what makes her such a relentless advocate for social justice and equality.

Sara is also the most resilient person I've ever met. I will forever be amazed at how she handles life's challenges, not the least of which was our physically, mentally, and emotionally taxing infertility journey, with so much grit and grace. I am truly blessed to have such a kind, playful, strong woman in my life, and I know any child will be as well.





Great Urban Race with friends



Cooking in the kitchen with nephew Charlie & niece Elliot



Morning yoga with nephew Charlie & dog Oliver

An actress at heart, I've always connected with the curiosity + playfulness of children. I can't wait for impromptu costume play, dance parties around the piano, playing my favorite game Guesstures, building forts out of pillows + bed sheets, making chocolate chip cookies, and teaching them my Mom's famous bread recipe.



Teaching preschool - music class



Getting dangerous with a nail gun



On stage in London, England

I'm also SO excited to share a pastime I started w/my dad - narrating digital versions of children's books for my niece + nephew. Next is writing, illustrating + narrating original books based on characters they come up with.



AcroYoga in the park



5th grade piano recital



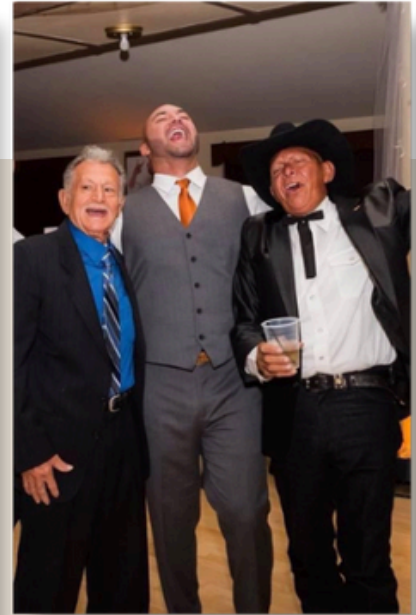
On a film set in Hollywood, CA

Joe's Family

I was born the oldest of three siblings just outside of El Paso, TX. Although raised mostly by my mom, I grew up with tons of support and love from both sides of my family. Being the oldest, I always had a special bond with my immediate family as I played a heavy role in helping raise my brother and sister. We have always remained a tight-knit group. The majority of my family resides in El Paso except for my uncle's family who lives here in Austin.



Extended family at my grandmother's birthday party in El Paso



*Tres generaciones.
"Y Volver, Volver, Volver!"*

Growing up immersed in the Mexican culture, I have always been proud to celebrate my language, my traditions, and most importantly...my FOOD.



Christmas in El Paso with MommaBear & siblings.



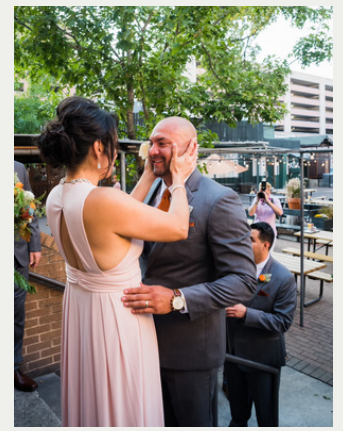
Cousins celebrating our grandfather.



I was always my mother's shadow



MommaBear as I grow older



Momma's blessing on my wedding day



Spending time with my brother & niece

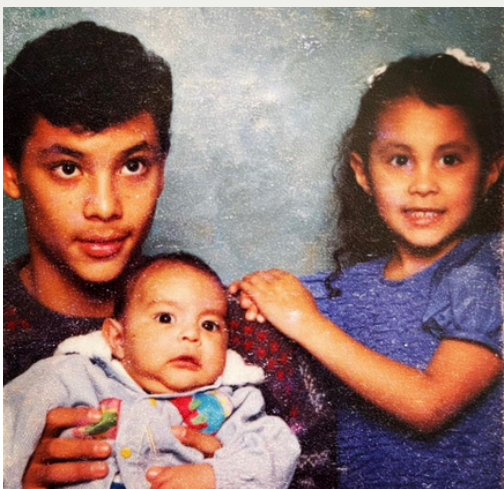


Aunts, Uncles, & Abuela Rita



My Uncle, who's always been by my side

My Mother, brother, and sister live in El Paso along with the majority of my huge extended family. We make it a point to fly out multiple times a year to spend time with them. A highlight of our visit is spending time with my niece who is growing up at the speed of light. When back in El Paso the trips are packed with my grandmother's home-cooked Mexican food, hikes, sports watch parties, and a ton of laughs. Here locally, I have my uncle and his family who have been my home away from home since I was 18. Watching them raise their two daughters has made a profound impact on me.



*Joe, brother Chris, sister Valerie
I loved being their big brother then...*



*Joe, brother Chris, sister Valerie
I love being their big brother now.*

Sara's Family

I am the middle child of 3. My dad was a carpenter (later moved into corporate project mgmt), a musician, and an artist. My mom was a special education teacher. They live 15 minutes away from me in Austin. My older sister, who lives in Southern California with her husband + 2 kids, is an ER doctor and my younger brother, who lives in Austin, is a medical tech.

We were raised in a small town in the piney woods of East Texas. For most of my childhood, we didn't have a lot of financial means, but an abundance of laughter, music, art, outdoor play, and unconditional love.



My Extended Family



*W/ Joe, sister,
bro-in-law, brother*

Some of my favorite memories were dancing around the piano while my dad played and sang, running through the woods around our house, catching tadpoles in the pond, camping trips with my family, and huge holiday family gatherings.



*My Family Then
(little brother in the belly)*



My Family Now



Life by Tom Paxton

May the sound of children be your music
May your blessings be the ones you earn
May your days be filled with sun
May you deeply love someone
May that someone love you in return

And life - May yours be long and loving
Peace - May you enjoy its blessing
Joy - May it be yours to savor
Love - May it be yours forever

May your only sorrows be the small ones
May they leave you stronger when they go
May the love of friends be yours
May you live with open doors
May you feel the love within you grow

And life - May yours be long and loving
Peace - May you enjoy its blessing
Joy - May it be yours to savor
Love - May it be yours forever

May your smallest moment be a full one
May your life be all that it can be
May you come to love yourself
And hold that love above yourself
And hold that love for all the world to see

My Dad and brother sang one of my favorite songs at our wedding that my dad used to sing to us as we fell asleep.

I have dreamed of singing my child to sleep with this song and demonstrating to them the love that speaks to me in these lyrics. Pure & simple, a love that doesn't have to be earned. A love that I offer to them freely with no expectations in return.



My Family's first UT Longhorn's game



Jam sessions w/my Dad



Grandparent hugs are the best hugs



My nephew teaching my niece the art of peeing outdoors.



Building stuff with grandpa and a teeny, tiny toolbelt



My sister, Emily, & her fam

My parents, Drury + Linda, and my brother, Homer, live nearby in Austin. We get together almost every week usually for Sunday dinners. I talk to my mom and sister almost every day. My sister, Emily, and her family live in Southern California but we see them several times a year. Her kids, Charlie + Elliot, can't wait to cuddle their baby cousin.

While I'll be doing most of the childcare since I only work part-time from home, my parents, both retired, are ready and waiting to clock into their grandparent duties. They love teaching their grandkids to ride bikes, daily trips to the park, chauffeuring to + attending all the afterschool activities, arts + crafts, music lessons, gardening lessons, cooking lessons, helping out with bedtime routines + stories, and oodles of cuddle sessions.



Wheelbarrow rides with grandpa



Making cookies with grandma



Shoulder rides on Uncle Homer



Gardening with grandma & great grandma

Our Village



Our blended families & friends



Some of our besties



Get togethers w/the Crew



Film festival

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD AND IT
TAKES A CHILD TO RAISE A VILLAGE.

-REV. MICHAEL BECKWITH



Joe & his crew



Sara & her crew



Group hug at our engagement party

Our village of friends and family is a big part of our lives. Most of our friends, many with whom we've had decades-long relationships, have children, and some of our friends + family have babies or babies on the way that will be close in age to our child. We have frequent friends and family get-togethers with kids running around and have long envisioned a little one of our own in the mix.



Line dancin' w/fam & friends



Dollar dance at our wedding



Joe's Uncle Ramon & his family at their home in Austin.



Joe facilitating one of his best friend's wedding



Sara serving as best "man" at her Gusbands' wedding



Joe's fraternity brothers



With Sara's friend since kindergarten & her husband

Our Home

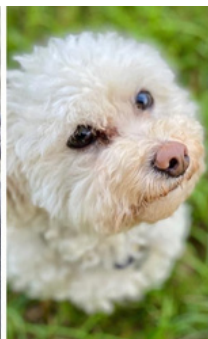
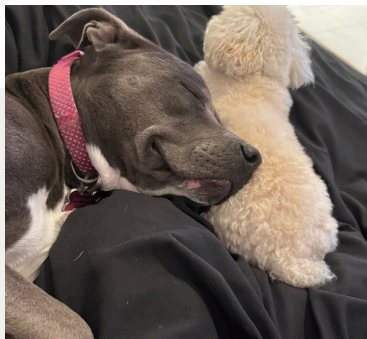


We live in a great family neighborhood in Austin which features a fishing pond with 6 miles of hiking trails, 2 parks with playscapes, a community library, and a rec center with tons of year-round kids activities. After 7 years of living here, we can't wait to take our kid fishing, play in the park, ride bikes on the trails, walk the dogs to the dog park, and play dates with our next-door neighbors and their 2 young children.



Penelope & Oliver

These two live for walks to the dog park, playing with kiddos, doing tricks for treats, and snuggling with us on the bed. They are both well-trained, super sweet, gentle, and loving.



Life Adventures

Coming from very humble beginnings. we both grew up wondering what it would be like to take a vacation or even fly on a plane someday. Adventures with the ones you love are truly worth the wait. We are so excited to share our adventures with a little one (even if the other passengers on the flight aren't as enthusiastic).



*Vacationing in Joe's motherland.
Playa Mujeres, Mexico*



*"Top of the World!"
Ferry to Bainbridge Island*



*Joe attempting to snow ski.
Breckenridge, CO*



*Christmas hits different
in Hawaii.*



*Catching a Cubs game.
Chicago, IL*



*We're old enough to remember
this tv show. Boston, MA*



Helicopter ride over Maui.



*A whole lotta sand & no beach.
White Sands Nat'l Park, NM*



*It's always sunny in Seattle.
Seattle, WA*

Our Traditions



Christmas unwrapping mayhem in El Paso



White girl on the tamale assembly line @ Xmas



Summers in California

We spend Christmas in El Paso with Joe's huge extended family where everyone joins in to make tamales and menudo. Thanksgivings are spent in Austin with Sara's and/or Joe's family gathered around a huge potluck feast. Summers are when we escape the Texas heat and travel to Sara's sister's house in Southern California for pool and beach playtime. Sunday service is usually split between Joe's Catholic mass and Sara's "hippy church" with frequent Sunday dinners at Sara's parents' house in Pflugerville.



Abuela cooking lessons



Quinceañeras



Thanksgiving with Sara's fam

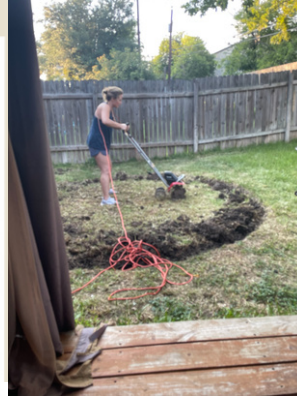


Sunday dinners at Sara's parents'

Interests



Pool parties & backyard BBQs at our crib



Home Renovations



Volunteering at Community First Village



Comedy Shows



Live Music shows

We look forward to backyard BBQs + play dates with our friends' kids, teaching them how to help around the house with home projects, introducing them to music, theatre, and comedy, instilling in them the importance of being of service within your community, and of course, dressing them up head to toe in burnt orange for their first UT Longhorns game!



UT Tailgates & Games



Taking it to the streets at the Women's March

Our Promise

If you choose to, we want you to be part of your child's life as much as you feel comfortable, so they can have an appreciation for the tremendous demonstration of love you have made. Your child will always know where they came from, their heritage, the traditions you would like to be passed down, and how much you love them.

More than anything, we want you to know that we will love your child unconditionally. We promise to provide an upbringing in which generosity, kindness, and respect for others + themselves are taught every day. We promise to expose your child to different forms of art, sports, education, religion, cultures, nature, and humor. Through this, we hope they will learn to love and appreciate the world and the different people and places that comprise it. Most importantly, we also promise to encourage your child's dreams and provide them the tools, opportunities, guidance, and support to be whatever they dream to be.

We are humbled and appreciate the time you've taken to read these words. Whether we are part of your journey or not, we wish you the best of luck.

With Love,

Joe & Sara

