



MICAH & BLAKE

HELLO,

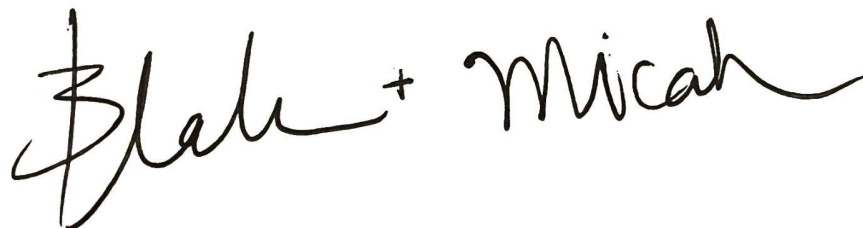
We're honored that you are taking the time to get to know more about our family. We want you to know that we understand this isn't a decision that you are making lightly. It takes courage, time, and most importantly love.

What we have in common is the rollercoaster of emotions we're on. We want you to know what never wavers for us is our excitement to become parents. We've always been content being the cool "guncles" (gay uncles), but as we've watched our family members and friends become parents, we realized how much a child would enrich our family.

Adoption holds a special place in both of our hearts. Blake's younger brother and sister were both adopted and so were his sister's three kids. Our family would not be our family without them; their joy and love brought into our lives are immeasurable. We know the same love and joy will be brought into our family with whatever child is placed with us.

As we round out over a decade of being together, we're both excited to expand this family. This letter is to thank you for exploring adoption, and this book is to give you a glimpse of who we are and what type of parents we can be to a child.

All the love,

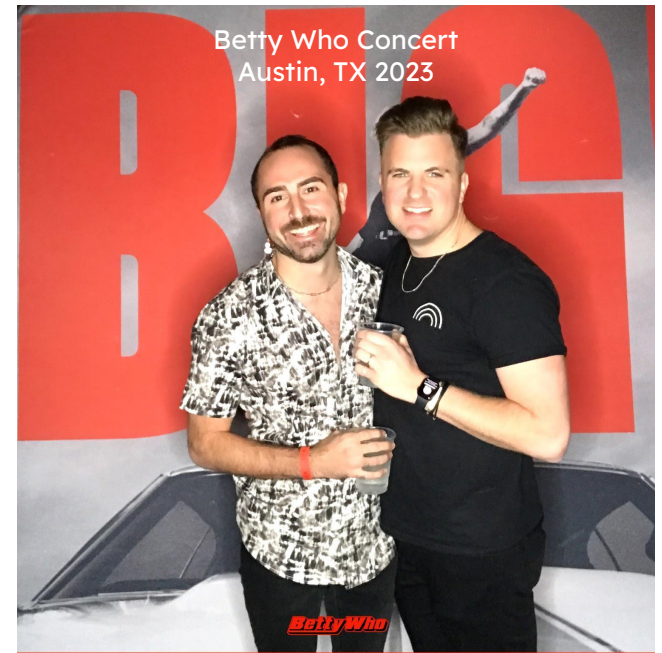
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blake + Micah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Blake" is on the left, followed by a plus sign, and "Micah" is on the right. The lines of the signature are connected and fluid.



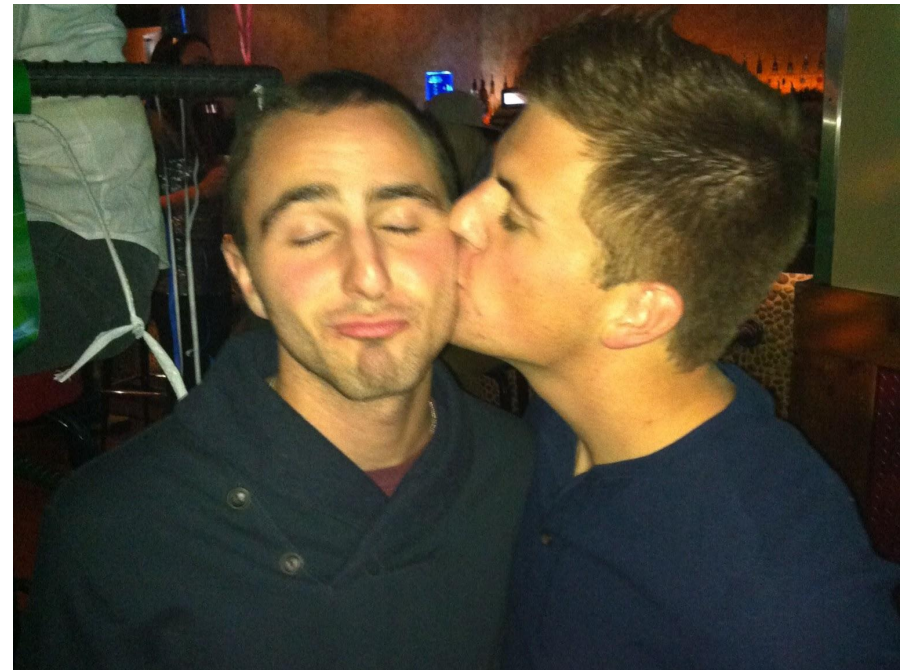
OUR STORY

We met in college at Texas A&M in 2012. It was Micah's freshman year and Blake was a senior. Blake knew it was right when Micah had The Rocket Summer on his iPod. Micah knew when he saw Hocus Pocus on Blake's DVR. The rest is history. After a year and half, Blake got transferred to Mississippi which started our year and half of long distance. After Micah graduated, we both made Austin our home and we've been here ever since. One of our favorite things to do together is travel, whether that's a road trip across Texas or halfway across the world to Romania. Traveling has opened up our eyes to so much, and in many ways has let us grow together.

We've had some amazing memories as well as trials and tribulations over the last decade, and we're ready to take our next challenge and reward of parenthood. We're excited to be expanding our family of four (can't forget our pups).



Dancing on our wedding night
Dripping Springs, TX 2019



New Year's Eve
Dallas, TX 2013



WHAT I LOVE ABOUT MICAH

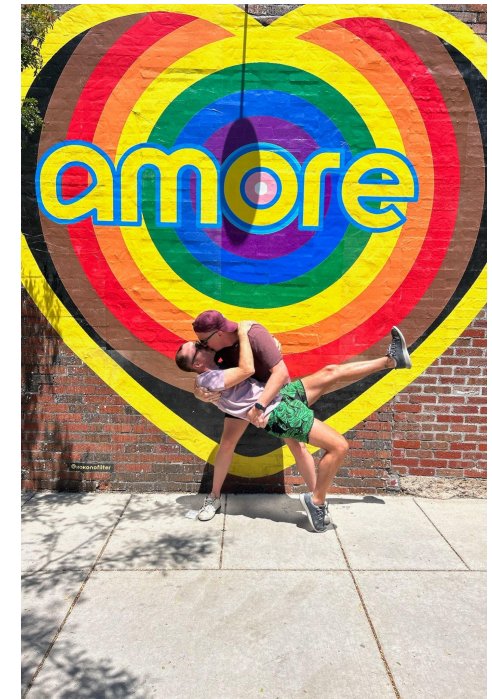
Oh, gosh, where do I begin? From the day I met Micah, he has pushed me to be a better person. He's gotten me out of my comfort zone, had me try new things, made me relax, and take time to let the little moments sink in. I love how much we love being together, even if it's doing absolutely nothing. He's my favorite travel partner and I can't imagine experiencing life without him. - Blake



NOH8 Campaign
Austin, TX 2019



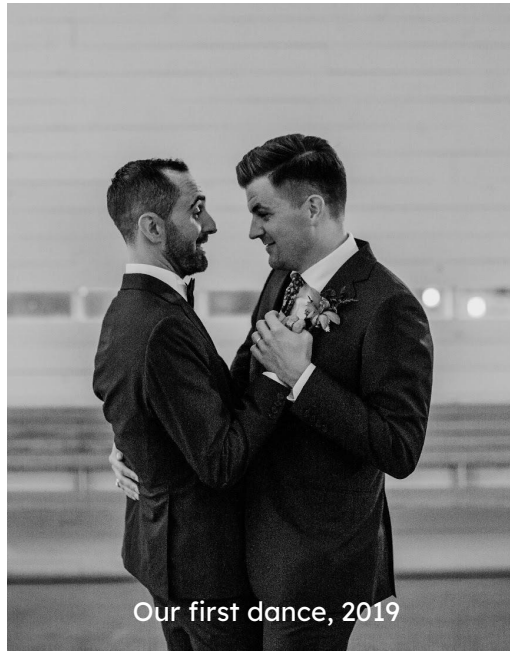
Our first home together
East Austin 2015



Visiting Denver for Taylor Swift
concert, 2023



Memorial Day
Thorndale, TX 2023



Our first dance, 2019

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT BLAKE

There's so much I love about Blake, but my favorite is how goofy we can be together. We have so many inside jokes and he's one of the only people I've met who can finish my sentences. Whether we're traveling around the world or laying on the couch binging a Netflix show, we can always have a good time. He makes me realize that it's okay to have a plan. I secretly love that he loves to clean, but if you ask, I'll deny it. - Micah



Our first photo
College Station, TX 2012



ACL music festival
Austin, TX 2022



Blake proposing to Micah (he said yes!)
Wimberley, TX 2018

HEY THERE! I'M BLAKE.

I'm the Type-A, organized, probably-too-cheery-in-the-morning person who thinks cleaning is therapeutic. No, seriously, I do. It's my favorite way to relax.

I was born and raised just outside of Dallas, TX, in Garland. My parents divorced when I was young, but both were still a huge part of everything I did, from my dad coaching my little league teams, both attending all my birthday parties, and supporting me in all my show choir and theater shows. They both remarried, so my sister and I have a blended family with two step-siblings and two adopted half-siblings.

After high school, I went to Texas A&M University, where I met some lifelong friends, including Micah. After graduation, I had a short stint in Mississippi but eventually put roots in Austin with Micah. My first job in Austin was one I was at for almost 7 years. I grew my career as an HR Manager and met some great people I'm still friends with. Since then, I have worked remotely for a global company and have gotten to work with people from all over the world. Over the years in Austin, I've grown so much personally and professionally. I can't wait to continue growing and making more memories.

I'm both extroverted and introverted, so fun to me can look like spending a night out with friends or sitting on the couch watching reality TV. Beach volleyball is one of my favorite pastimes, and we have been in a weekly league for several years. I've always known I wanted to be a parent and was overjoyed when Micah came to the same realization. I can't wait to be the one to coach my kid's sports team or cheer them on from the audience.



Blake and his best friends Judi, Tecia, and Whitley at the Dead Sea Jerusalem, Israel 2014



Blake with our nephews Andy and Aiden, San Antonio, TX 2023

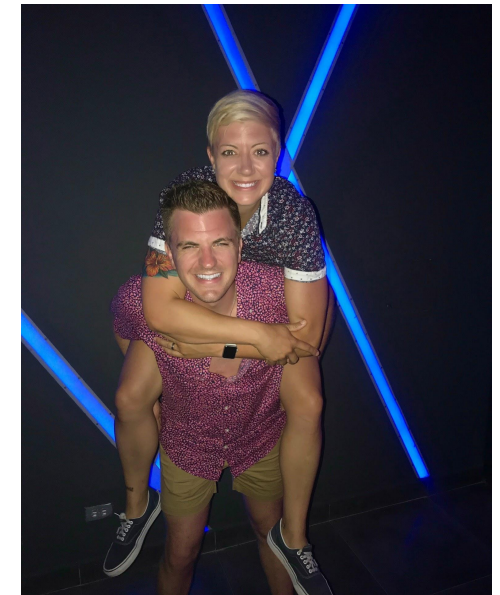


Blake holding our friend's baby, Maura Jean Austin, TX 2022

Favorite travel spot:
Barcelona, Spain

Favorite book:
To Kill a Mockingbird

Favorite hobbies:
Broadway musicals, escape rooms, playing beach volleyball, traveling the world, watching reality TV, trying new foods, playing card games & Mahjong, taking bubble baths



Blake and his sister, Bailey Cancun, Mexico 2019



HEY! I'M MICAH.

I'm excited to tell you a little bit about me. I'm the Type B one in the relationship (or Type Z as Blake likes to joke). I'm laid back, easy going, and have a mantra that everything works out the way it's meant to.

I'm also a Texas native. I grew up in Midland, TX with my two parents and sister. Though my parents divorced when I was young, both my mom and dad were very active in everything I did. Whether that was baseball games or track meets, I always had a small cheering section with my aunts, uncles, and cousins. One of my favorite things about my family is the traditions we were raised in from Sunday dinners with the whole family, cheers-ing sparkling grape juice to ringing in the New Year with my grandma, or beating my dad at mini golf.

After high school, I was ready for a change in scenery, so I moved to College Station, TX to attend Texas A&M University (where I met Blake!). After a stint of doing long-distance, we soon realized that we're better together and put roots in Austin where we've lived the last decade. Professionally, I've worked in various marketing roles in the architecture industry, art consulting, and tech, most recently working for an ad tech company as a Senior Marketing Manager. I love working in marketing because it allows me to use both sides of my brain.

At my happiest, you'll find me snuggled up in bed reading a book, convincing Blake to go see a movie with me, or asking him if he thinks our dogs really love me. I'm excited to add being a dad to that list.



Micah and his sister, Talia, getting his Aggie Ring
College Station, TX 2014

Favorite travel spot:

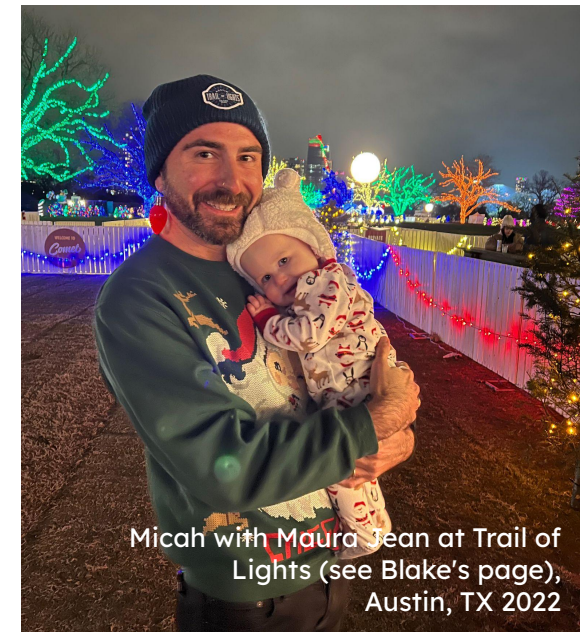
New York, NY

Favorite book:

Perks of Being a Wallflower

Favorite hobbies:

Reading, drag brunch, playing beach volleyball with Blake, seeing new places, road trips, going to the movies (mainly for the popcorn)



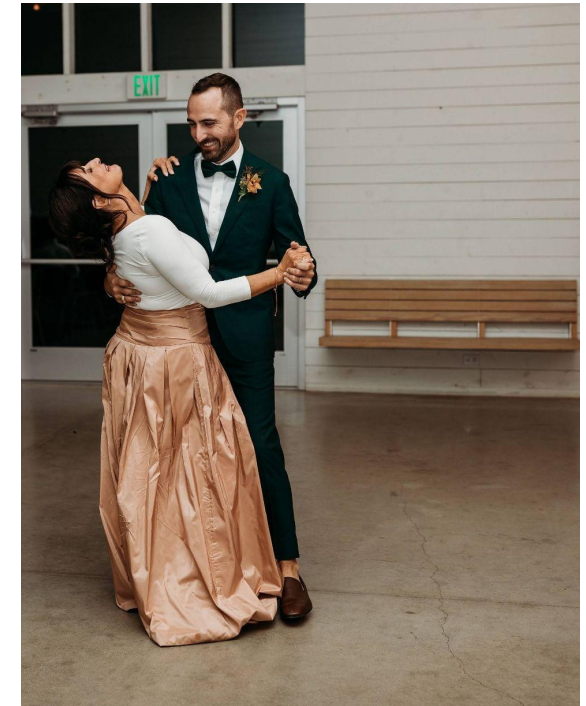
Micah with Maura Jean at Trail of Lights (see Blake's page),
Austin, TX 2022



Micah's skating with his best friends
Faryn and Cam, Austin, TX 2022



Micah with his college roommates
College Station, TX 2014



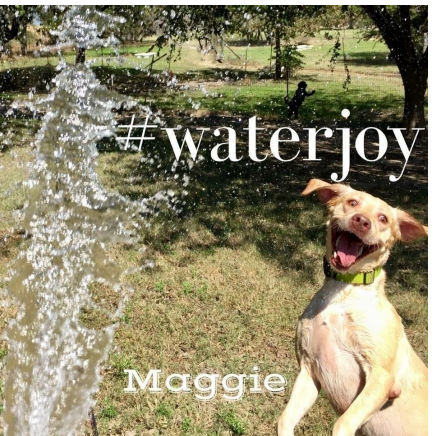
Mother-son dance at our wedding, 2019



HERRRO!

I'm Maggie (Mags for short). I'm the yellow Lab. My best friend is Snuffleupagus (pictured with cone), but I'm pretty excited to add someone new to the fam! My dad Blake gave me to my other dad just after a couple of months of dating which I thought was a little crazy, but I'm glad I'm here. I love to eat, snuggle, and long walks by the grass.

My name is Brody. I'm the brown and white Border Collie. I might look and act like a puppy, but I'm actually 12 years old. My dad tries to hide toys from me, but I always know where they are (like the squeaky tennis ball in the drawer). I'm excited for someone in the house that has as much energy as I do! I love to take the squeakers out of toys, spend time outside, and to show off all my fun tricks.



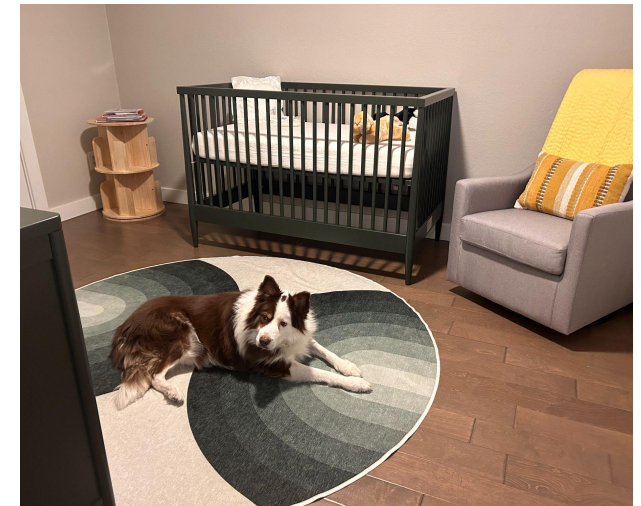


We've planted our roots in a cozy three-bedroom home in Austin with a backyard to play and a stone's throw away from a park and neighborhood pool.

In the heart of our home is a special table where Micah has celebrated every birthday growing up, we've gathered for countless holidays, and we share daily family meals. We can't wait for the new memories around it we'll create with our growing family.

And in a corner of our home, a nursery (and a little library) is already taking shape, getting ready for our newest additions.

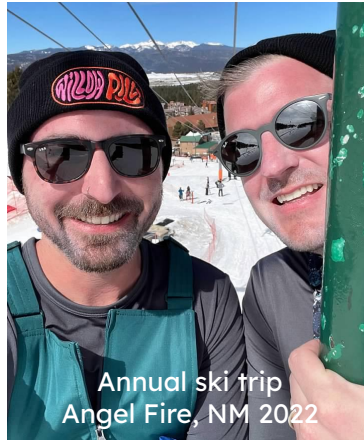
HOME SWEET HOME



FAMILY TRADITIONS



Bananas in Pajamas
Halloween 2022



Annual ski trip
Angel Fire, NM 2022



Christmas Eve at Blake's Family
Caddo Mills, TX 2020



Texas State Fair
Dallas, TX 2019



Annual Great American Picnic where we celebrate our friends birthday and dress up in the most silly American garb we can find. Rockdale, TX 2019



Biannual chair pic at the beach
Navarre, FL 2023



Making cookies with Nanny
Leander, TX 2020

Both of us grew up with a lot of family traditions, so we've carried a lot of them into our relationship. From yearly trips to the Texas State Fair to Halloween costumes, we can't wait to start our own traditions and see our child experience them.

OH, THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN...



PHILADELPHIA, PA



ORLANDO, FL



SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN



BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TX



CANCUN, MEXICO



NEW YORK CITY, NY



RASNOV, ROMANIA



ROME, ITALY



PARIS, FRANCE

Traveling is our love language. We both knew we were meant to be after our first big trip together.

Being in different cities, states, and countries has been one of the best learning experiences for both of us. To see different cultures and the world from someone else's point of view has opened our minds so much. We hope we can explore the world with our future child so they can be instilled with the lessons we've been so lucky to experience.



LONDON, ENGLAND



Blake and Micah with Blake's parents and siblings at our wedding, 2019



Blake with dad and sister after running a half marathon Dallas, TX 2013

BLAKE'S FAMILY



Blake and his siblings at his little sister's graduation Caddo Mills, TX 2022

Watching fireworks on the beach
Navarre, FL 2017



Blake dancing with his Aunt Mi at
our wedding, 2019



Family get together
Dallas, TX 2016



Blake with his sister, sister-in-law, niece, and nephews at their adoption hearing
Dallas, TX 2016



Texas State vs USM game with Blake's sister,
sister-in-law and the kids
San Marcos, TX 2022

Micah and Blake with Micah's parents and siblings at our wedding, 2019

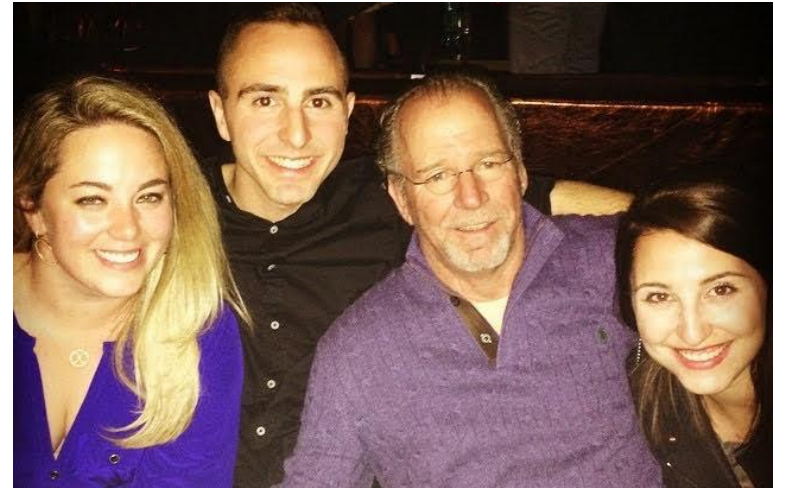


Micah and Blake with Micah's sister and uncle Saratoga, NY 2022

MICAH'S FAMILY



Micah with his mom and sister College Station, TX 2011



Micah with his sister Talia and their Nanny
Saratoga, NY 2022



Micah and Blake with Micah's mom and partner at the
Pride Parade Austin, TX 2019

FRAMILY

n. [fram-uh-lee]

friends that you love like family



Color Factory
Houston, TX 2020



We love these people so much. Even though they aren't all blood, they will play a huge part in our child's life. They've been there for us through the highs and lows, and we can't imagine doing this without them.



Playing in the snow
Pittsburg, PA 2019



Cooking class in Italy
Rome, Italy 2017



Meeting Vaughn for the first time
Houston, TX 2017



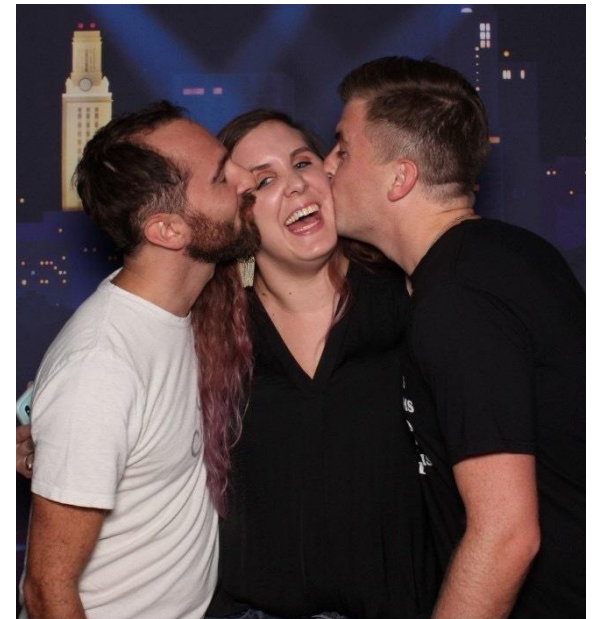
Romania, 2018



Annual Texas State Fair trip
Dallas, TX 2023



Our wedding party, 2019



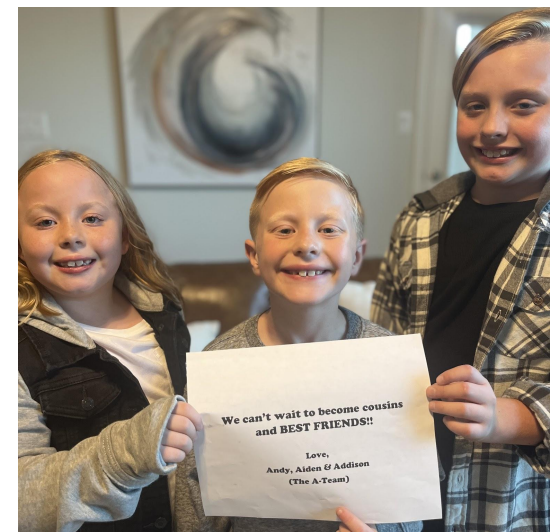
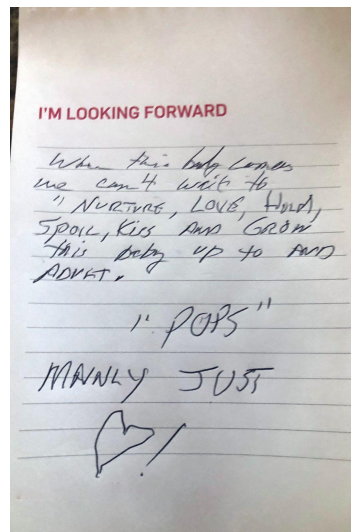
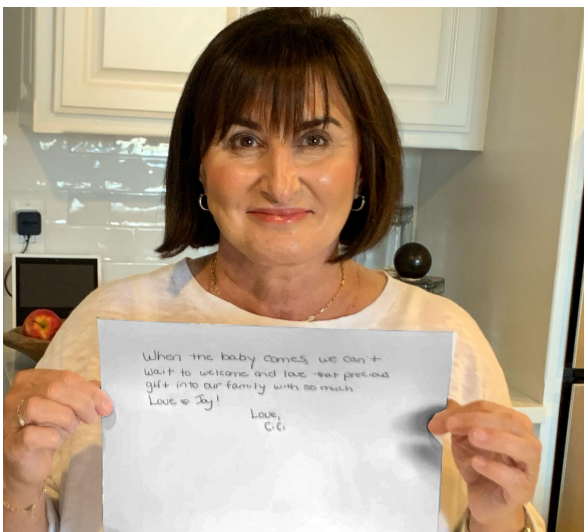
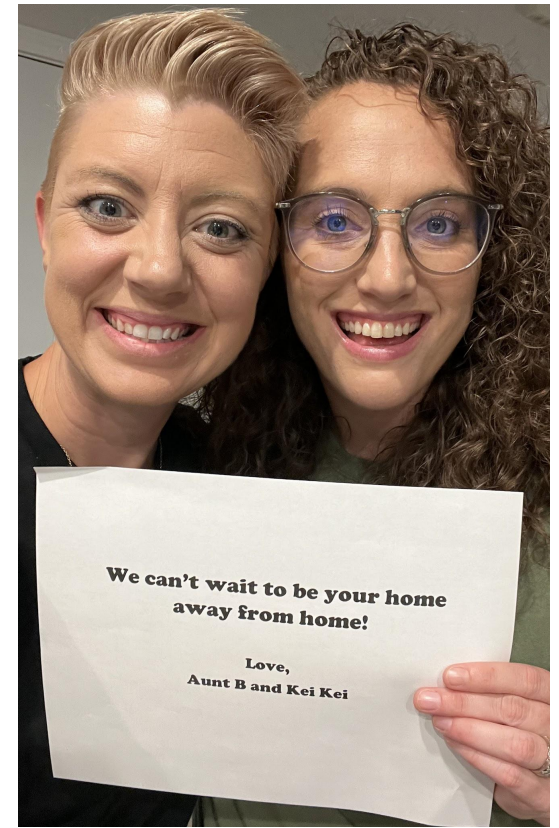
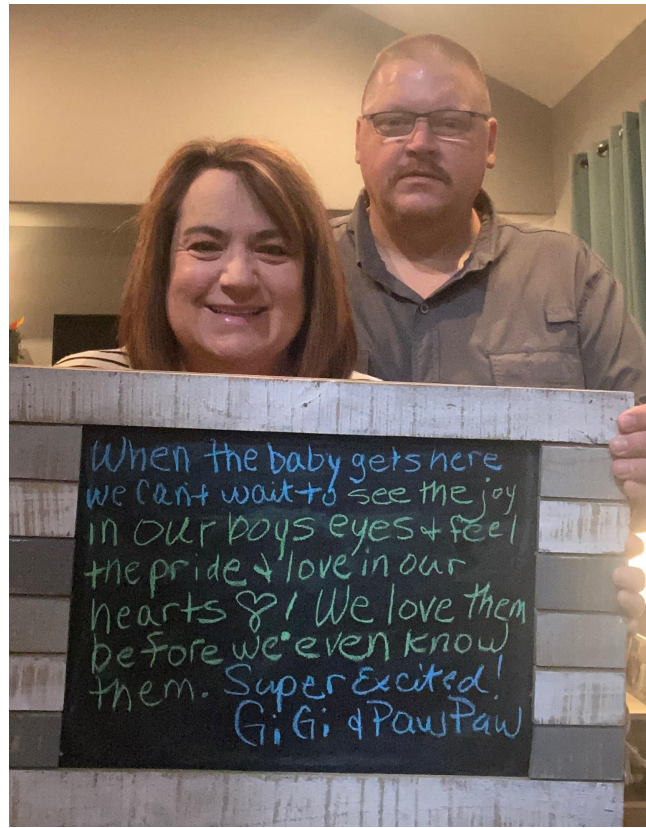
At the Troye Sivan concert with our BFF, Sam
Austin, TX 2017

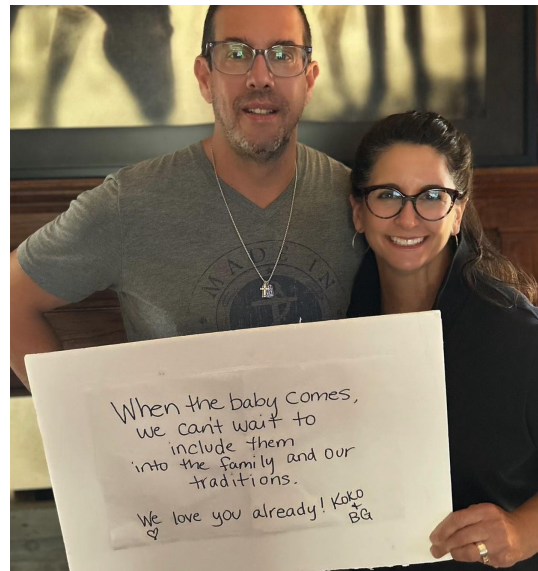
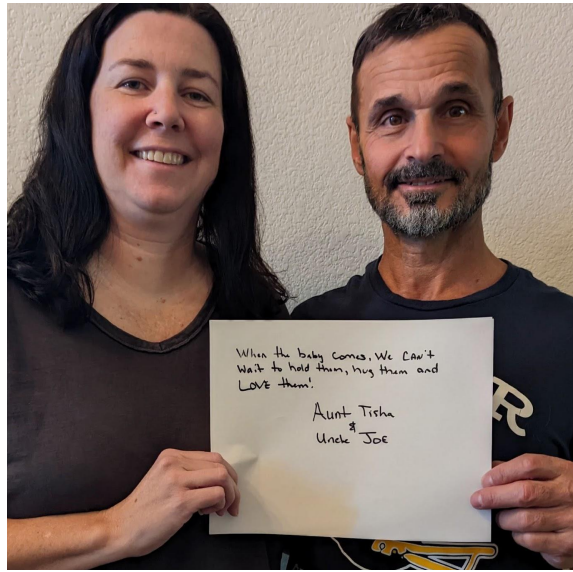
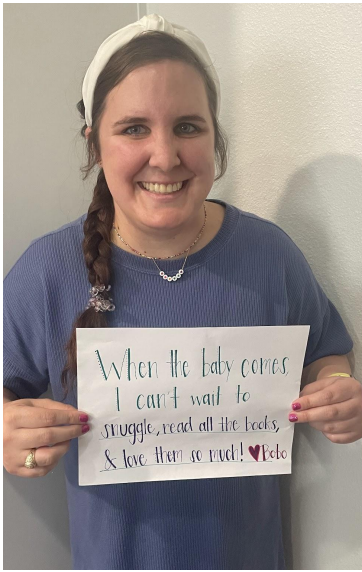


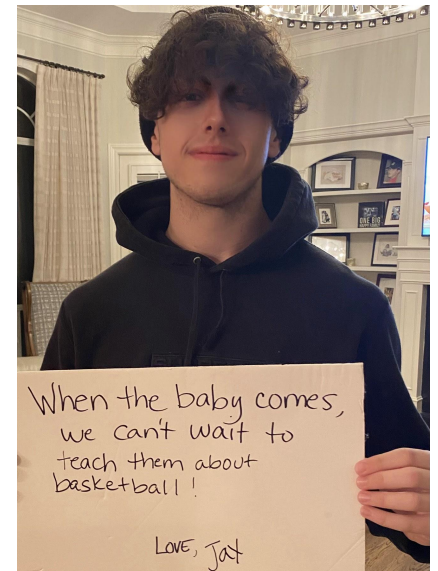
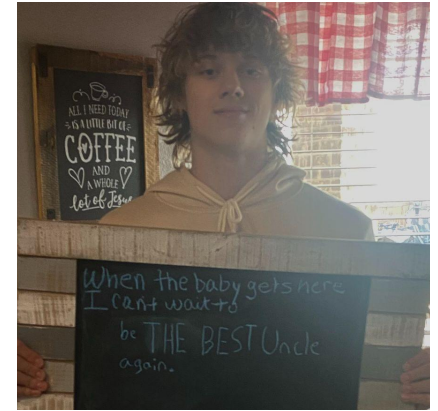
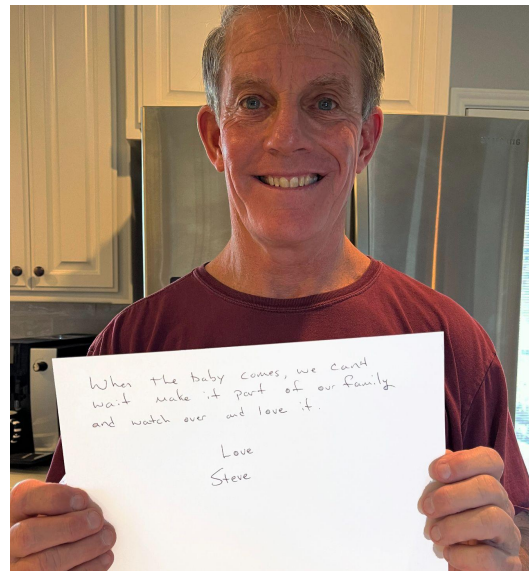
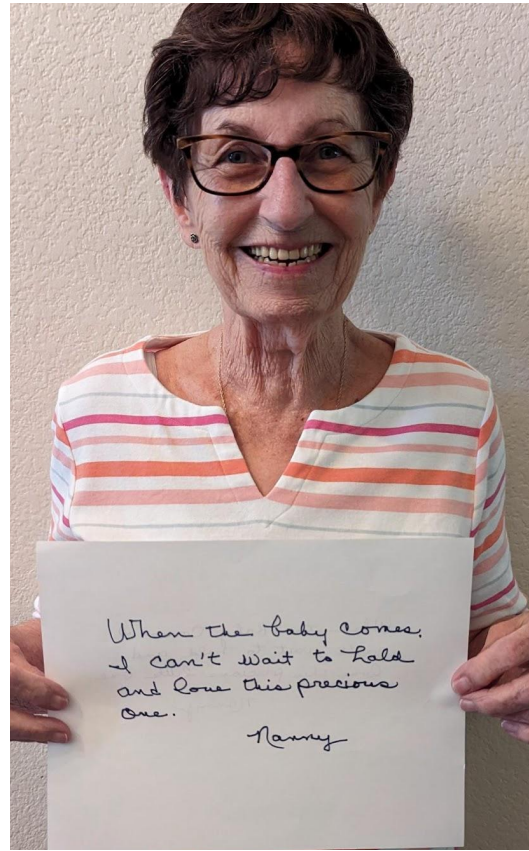
WHEN THE BABY COMES, WE CAN'T WAIT TO...

- Read our childhood favorites together
- Build a sandcastle on the family beach trip
- Make pancakes in the shape of our initials
- Bake Nanny cookies on Christmas Eve
- Learn how to make Pop's Thanksgiving dressing
- Enjoy Sunday gravy and meatballs with the family
- Take a picture with Big Tex at the State Fair
- Dress up in American garb for the annual Great American Picnic
- Snuggle on the couch and watch movies (and eat popcorn)
- Plan our family Halloween costumes

AND OUR FAMILY & FRAMILY CAN'T WAIT TO...









OUR PROMISE TO YOU

Thank you for taking the time to get to know a little bit about us. We're so excited to be part of this process, and we hope you got a little glimpse of the types of parents we hope and strive to be.

We might not know exactly what our family's future holds, but we do know that we, along with you, are going to surround this child with so much love.

On our honeymoon, outside of our favorite restaurant/bar in Barcelona, Spain. What made us fall in love with it was that they're owned by a brother and sister and the brother, and the entire bar staff, is deaf. It was a great opportunity to practice our sign language.