



Brad, Buddy & Emma

# Hello!

We're Brad and Buddy, and we're so grateful that you are considering us for your adoption plan. Thank you for reading our profile book. We don't know all the circumstances that brought you to this decision, but we are honored that you would consider trusting us with your child. Because we know that this is one of the most important decisions you'll make, we want to share a little about our family and the life we would offer your child. Whatever you decide, know that we support you and want the best for you and your child.



Meet  
Our  
Family



We met in 2008, married in 2016, and became Daddy and Papa when Emma was born in March 2020. We live in Dallas, Texas, where Brad works as a lawyer for a public hospital and Buddy helps attorneys find new jobs.

We enjoy spending time with family and friends, and stay active and engaged in our neighborhood and the community through service on city, non-profit, and church boards and in various volunteer roles.

We also love travel! We have been fortunate to travel quite a bit to Europe, and Emma has already been to both the East and West Coast (and to Buddy's aunt's house in Galveston). Living in a big city also allows us to take advantage of fun closer to home, like meeting friends for fun downtown at Christmas and Saturday mornings at the Zoo.

Emma fit right in when she joined our family, and we're confident her sibling will do the same.







## How We Met

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Brad first saw Buddy when he walked into a church Bible study at a friend's house, and it was an instant connection. We were both first-year lawyers and bonded over our common experiences. We enjoyed exploring the city together, traveling with friends, and building community. Oh, and good food! In what seemed like a flash, we quickly became each other's "person." We were married in the same church as Brad's parents, and our reception took place at Buddy's family's ranch.

# Buddy

A "recovering lawyer" who now helps other attorneys with job searches

Collects flags from around the US and the world

Happiest when digging in the garden

Loves watching college football

Enjoys reading history books of all kinds



# According to Brad

**Buddy is the first person to put someone new at ease.** Although he downplays it, he is outgoing and often perfectly happy to be the one who introduces himself to a new face.

At home, he keeps everything running smoothly, keeping the house stocked, driving Emma around, and making sure the bills get paid. But, when he has the chance, he likes nothing more than digging in the dirt and nerding out on history books and podcasts. Loyalty is a key value for Buddy, and he is deeply committed to his family and friends. He is a dedicated husband, father, and son, and his friends know they can always call on him when in need.

Buddy took to fatherhood like a pro under unusual circumstances. Becoming a father at the start of a global pandemic, especially to a baby born slightly premature and therefore at even greater risk to pulmonary illnesses, was no small task. But Buddy dove right into being Daddy to Emma and never looked back.





# Brad

Loves his job at a hospital that serves people who can't afford care

Strong believer that tacos are the perfect food

Enjoys listening to podcasts while running the neighborhood

Plays a bit of piano

Worked his way through school as an EMT, bus driver, waiter, and legal aid worker





# According to Buddy

**Brad is the person everyone wants in their corner in a crisis.** He is level-headed, pragmatic, and knows how to crack a well-timed joke. He takes his many family roles as husband, father, uncle, son, brother, and godfather very seriously, but he knows when to cut loose!

Brad is famous among our families and friends for his radical hospitality. He cooks most of the holiday meals in our family, and loves nothing more than to invite friends or neighbors over for a homecooked meal. He also loves to help others learn how to cook, from teaching dinner recipes to our nephew to making an exorbitant amount of Christmas cookies with Emma.

Brad has a heart for people who feel forgotten or disadvantaged, as evidenced by his countless volunteer hours on a city board to help develop affordable housing, serving on the board of a nonprofit that provides senior housing and hospice and his work at the county's public hospital.



**Emma is a very happy, outgoing, and loving child.** She loves a holiday, whether making holiday arts and crafts, helping make holiday treats, or getting dressed up to celebrate. Our neighborhood goes ALL OUT for Halloween and Mardi Gras in particular, but Emma enjoys any gathering of friends or family. She is so smart and is a total character.

She loves attending Parents Day Out at our church twice a week, visiting the many playgrounds in our neighborhood, walks to the donut store, and time with other kids. She has an incredible imagination and is often inventing stories about her stuffed animals or telling us about their adventures.

Music is a big part of our lives. We often enjoy a family dance party before bedtime and Emma loves memorizing songs and then singing them on repeat.

# Emma



We are fortunate that our church, which is just 10 minutes away, is a very diverse and loving environment and one that is perfectly placed to support Emma. She has numerous, older African-American grandmothers there who have "adopted" Emma as their own (and make sure her hair is up to snuff nearly every week).

In addition to making sure Emma has access to loving friends who share her racial background, we have worked to make sure Emma has access to information about and touchpoints with the Black community, whether attending the MLK Day Parade or reading books at night about figures like Oprah, Harriet Tubman, or Beyonce.

Emma loves time with other kids, both those that are older as well as younger kids who she can help to show the way. We are confident that she will be a wonderful big sister.





# Emma's Adoption Story

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We connected with, and met, Emma's birth mother just two weeks before Emma arrived. She was born early (34 weeks) and at the very beginning of the Covid pandemic. As the world shut down, we spent a week in the hospital getting to know Emma (and figuring out how in the world to be dads).

We came home to a back porch full of baby essentials dropped off by friends and family, and then closed the door to the outside world for ~3 months. While it was a strange time in the world, we were so fortunate to have quality time to bond and explore our new life together as a family.

Since Emma came home, we've provided regular email updates to Emma's birth mother, which has been the type and amount of contact she wants, to-date. As time progresses, we continue trying to ensure that relationship has the space and opportunity to grow.





# Our Families



**We both have small but close-knit families.**

Brad's parents live on a cattle ranch just two hours from our home. Buddy's parents, and his aunt and uncle who are like second parents, live just 45 minutes away. Brad's sister, and her husband and son, live in Colorado. We have loved visiting Colorado for hiking in the summer and snow in the winter! Buddy's brother and his family (including Emma's other 3 cousins) live 3 hours away elsewhere in Texas.



**Emma's grandparents are all actively involved in Emma's life and would love to do the same for another grandchild.**

We have enjoyed traveling with family, either to the mountains or to the beach, and time together is a key value in our family's life. Our parents and families, and their unconditional love for us, have shaped who we are today, and they are doing the same now for Emma.



# Friends Who Are Like Family



**We are incredibly blessed to have a group of fantastic friends from all phases of our lives who have loved and supported us for years and who have welcome Emma with open arms.**

From our college and law school friends to our collective at home known as "the framily," they have walked with us through life's ups and downs. We have traveled with these friends, celebrated holidays with these friends, cried with these friends during hard times, and toasted these friends' successes.

For years, we enjoyed the luxury of walking alongside our friends as godparents and honorary uncles to their kids. In many ways, we had the ability to watch and learn about parenthood before becoming parents ourselves. Now, we enjoy the benefit of these same friends giving their time and energy to bless us in return.



Because many of our friends have kids of their own, Emma has essentially inherited a crew of mostly older 'cousins' who she loves to play with, and who are equally obsessed with her.

We baptized Emma in May 2021 at our church, and her six godparents (the more the merrier!) are regular and constant presences in her life. We would expect nothing less for a second child in our family, and we know our friends-who-are-family would do all they could to welcome and love Emma's sibling.

# Our Home

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We live in a great house that is 100+ years old with lots of life still yet to give. There is plenty of space for our current family of 3, and room for a new addition. Outside, we are lucky to have a huge lot with a playset, plenty of room to run, and even a pool to beat the Texas heat during the summer.

Either because we have the space, or because Brad is always cooking good food and hosting, our house tends to be the gathering place for both friends and family.

Our neighborhood is extremely walkable, and we often take family walks or bike rides in the evening, often stopping to say hi to friends and neighbors along the way. The neighborhood school is excellent, and because many of the kids in the neighborhood attend, there is a strong sense of community. In summary, it's a fantastic place to grow up!





# Our Life Together

The phrase most often repeated to Emma in our house is that we expect her to be "kind and helpful." We are raising her to be kind to others — family, friends, and strangers — and to be helpful, particularly to those in need.

When Brad isn't lawyering at the hospital where he works, Buddy isn't helping other lawyers find the perfect job, and Emma isn't practicing her arts and crafts, gymnastics, or dancing skills, we enjoy the rhythms of life during the year. We enjoy **travel** with friends, **planting flowers** in the yard in the spring, **visits to Brad's parents' ranch** to play in the dirt and see the cows, **swimming in the pool** at home, time outside during the fall and **trick-or-treating** in the neighborhood, and spending time with family during the holidays.

We have loved introducing Emma to all of the best that each season of the year has to offer, and we look forward to doing the same for our second child.





*Mixbook*  
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thank you