

JENNIFER + MARTY

THANKS

FOR OPENING
OUR BOOK



HELLO

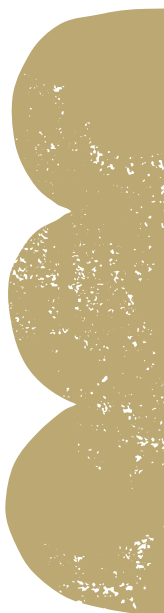
IT'S SO NICE TO "MEET" YOU

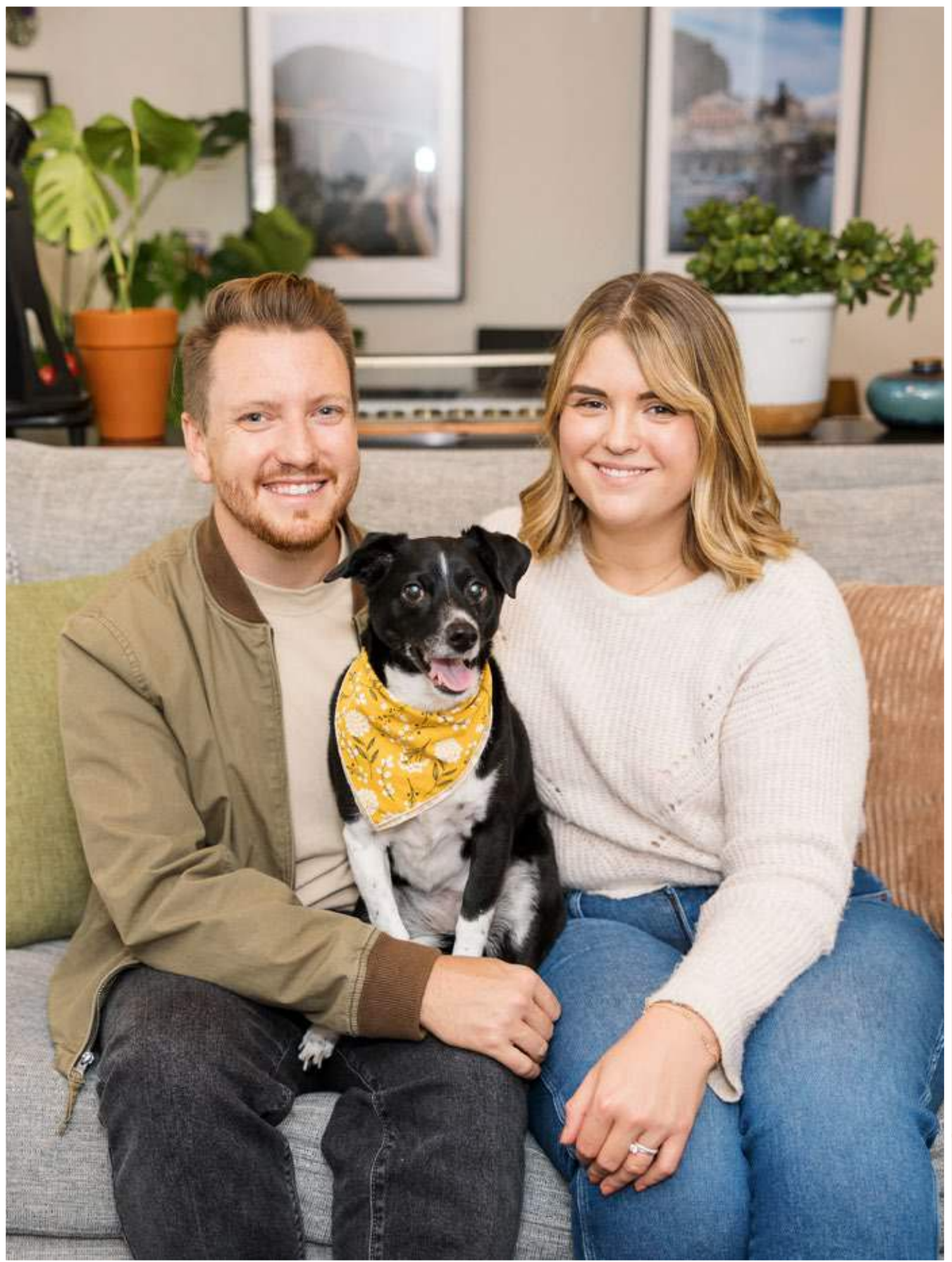
Hello! Our names are Jenny and Marty, and firstly, we want to express our appreciation for you in opening our book. We are excited to share more about ourselves in the coming pages! **Most importantly though, we want you to feel empowered to make the decision that is right for you and your child at this moment - whatever that may be.** Be assured that we are 100% supportive of you and we trust you to make the best choice for you and your family.

Now, for a bit about us and the journey that brought us to this moment. We have been together since 2015, and as we approached our 30s, we started to discuss how we want to grow a family. **We chose adoption because we know that we have lots of love to give, and have the drive to educate ourselves on the important and critical items to ensure an adopted child has the best chance to succeed and be happy.**

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter and book! We are excited to share more about us in the coming pages, and we are very much wishing you peace and guidance in your journey.

Jennifer and Marty



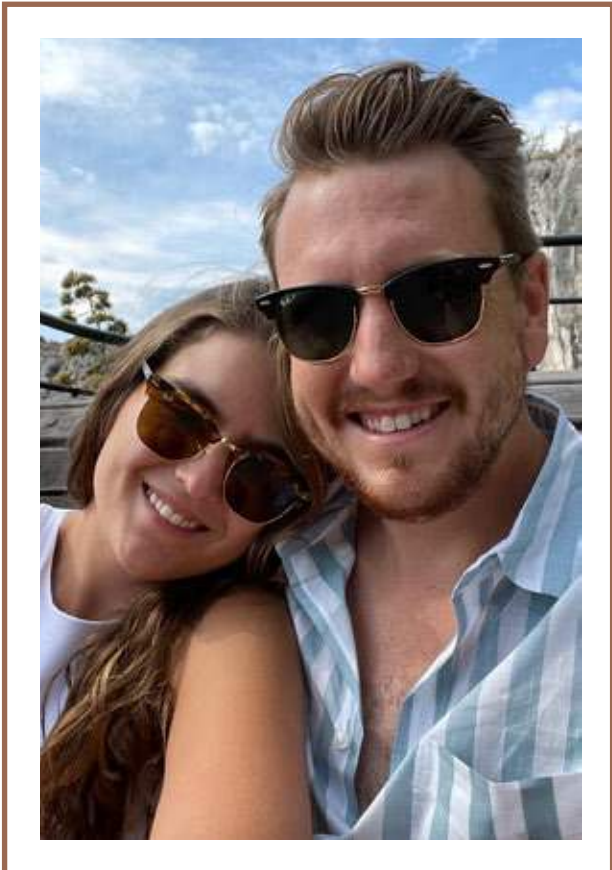




OUR STORY

Cupid's arrow struck when we met on a dating app in 2015. Most of our first conversations were us debating on who could "brie" the best at making cheesy puns. Instantly we knew we were two "curds" of a feather and we had something "gouda" brewing. As the weeks went on, Marty was drawn to Jennifer's gentle soul, intelligence, determination, and lightheartedness. Jennifer was charmed by Marty's excitement for life, curiosity, and the love he inspired in everyone he met. **Kindness continues to be the foundation of our relationship.** In 2018, we bought a house together, and a year later Marty proposed to Jennifer at the campsite she frequented growing up. This spot is where she had fond memories of fishing and camping with her dad, and is nestled in a picturesque old-growth forest, with a mountain creek flowing nearby. Jennifer found the ring clipped to Allie's (our dog's) collar. It was the best day ever when we were married in Sedona, Arizona surrounded by 40 of our closest friends and family in 2021.

We both adore that we are in a fun, caring relationship. We know how to support each other, how to help each other grow, and how to encourage one another to be our best selves. We love to play together - from board games, to pulling silly pranks on one another, to laughing until our bellies hurt. **Our favorite activities together are spending time with our good friends, being outside, going on walks, hiking, or enjoying fresh air on our back porch.** We, of course, also love spending time with our sweet dog who loves to play fetch and will be a great snuggler and friend to our future child.





HOW WE DECIDED ON ADOPTION

Our hearts are filled with a desire to provide a nurturing home for a child, and we are so excited to share all of the love we have to give with a future little one. Jennifer's predisposition to significant issues in pregnancy ruled out the "DIY method" of growing our family. After thoughtful discussion, we decided that adoption was the right route for us. **Our abundance of love, openness, kindness, and honesty will enable us to navigate the unique situations within the world of adoption.**

We envision our child knowing they are cherished, loved unconditionally, and free to pursue their dreams. We will embrace their goals with open arms and provide them with all the support they need. We know we can't do this alone, so we're grateful for the love and support of our wonderful friends and family. Additionally, we will always be open with them about their adoption story and the love their birth family has for them.

FAVORITE BOOKS:

"Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austin
and "Their Eyes Were Watching God"
by Zora Neale Hurston

I'M INSPIRED BY:

The wonder of nature

FRIENDS DESCRIBE ME AS:

A breakfast-loving, hard working,
organized, and kind-hearted woman



MEET JENNIFER

I grew up in the Appalachian Mountains in a small town. We did not have much growing up, but we had each other and it was a very loving home. My earliest and best memories are being outdoors, either playing in the yard, camping in the national forest near my hometown, or catching fresh trout with my dad and cooking them over a fire. I feel extremely lucky to have grown up in such a beautiful place with a warm, kind family.

My goal is to leave the world better than I found it, so I enjoy spending my time doing little things to brighten people's days, providing a smile and warm hug when needed, and volunteering. My career as a senior project manager allows me to take advantage of my strengths in organization and working effectively with people. I take a lot of pride in a job well done, and have been awarded a top five percent employee in my company multiple times. In my free time, I love to read, go on neighborhood walks with Marty, and go on long runs accompanied by a good audiobook.



Five things Jennifer loves:

- Distance running (I have run two half marathons.)
- My dear friends
- Our dog, Allie
- Freshly baked desserts
- Reading a great book



I want to be a parent because I have tons of love to give. **I am so excited to share this life with my future child.** I want to prioritize spending time outside with them, exploring all the things nature has to offer. I remember being so filled with amazement at the world as a child, and I want our child to experience that same sense of wonder. Additionally, I can't wait to learn with our child! Being able to teach our child everything from what a strawberry is to how to do algebra is something I'm very much looking forward to.



FAVORITE PLACE I'VE VISITED:

The Azores Islands

I'M MOST PROUD OF:

Being a first-generation college student and building my career

FRIENDS DESCRIBE ME AS:

Personable, quick witted, charming, and just a little quirky

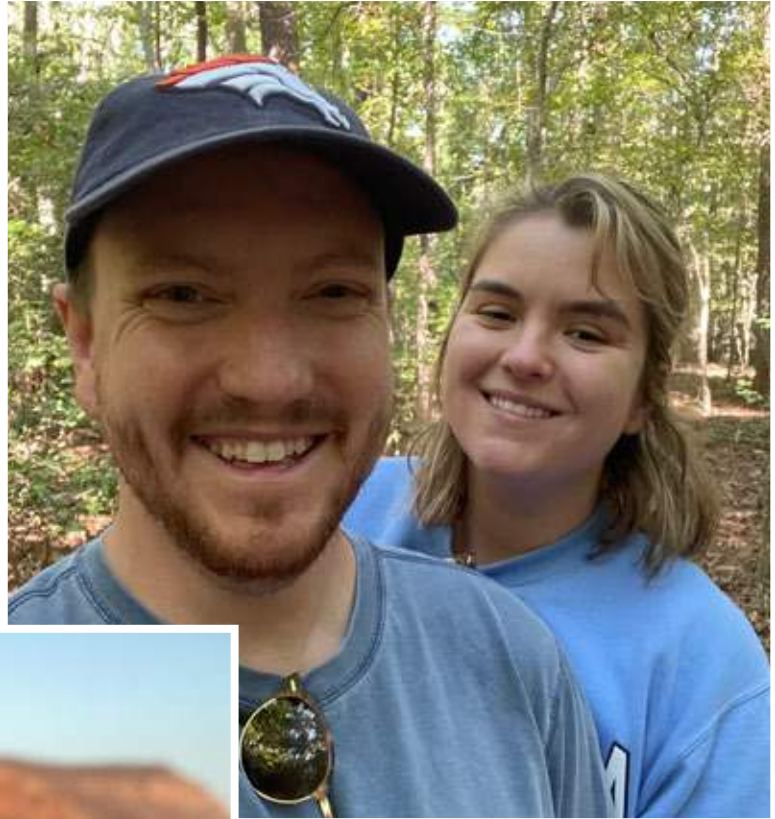
MEET MARTY

I grew up in a rural ranching community in central Texas. In fact, I actually lived on a sheep ranch and bottle-fed two sheep that became my pets! Though my school was quite small (I was one of only eight students), I always loved learning and being curious.

I've had a rewarding career in the tech industry, starting as a junior account manager at a startup and quickly advancing to enterprise account manager in London, England. After my company was acquired, I was promoted to manage a team of twelve people who help new enterprise customers get started with our product. **I like to fill my free time by having quality time with Jennifer, our dog, and our very close friends.** My time around the house is spent gardening, doing DIY projects, or simply enjoying a video game or television show. Outside our home, I love photography, hiking and exploring, tennis, learning a new recipe, trying new restaurants, and spending time with friends.

Five things Marty loves:

- Photography
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Hiking
- Geography (learning about new places, traveling, and exploring)



What I am most excited about fatherhood are the little moments. Watching my child explore the world with wide eyes and endless curiosity, seeing their face light up when they discover something new, teaching them how to cook a simple meal or plant a seed in the garden, helping them tie their shoes, teaching them to socialize with friends, and helping them grow and develop into the person they are meant to be. These are the moments that I will cherish forever. These are the moments I am excited to share with Jennifer.

JENNIFER

IN MARTY'S WORDS

"I love Jennifer's knack for always knowing the right thing to do in any situation. She can always understand everyone's viewpoint. She has a passion for sharing her love with those close to her - including every animal she meets. Jennifer is one of the smartest and most educated people I know. She constantly has her nose in a book either trying to learn something new, or diving into some fanciful fictional world.

I know Jennifer will be a great parent because in her mind there are no other outcomes other than being the absolute best parent she can be. Her kindness and empathy will be great tools to help a child grow and develop in a loving household. Whatever challenges that raising a child may come with, I know Jennifer will rise to the occasion and gracefully face things head on."

MARTY

IN JENNIFER'S WORDS

*"Marty is one of the kindest individuals I know. He is always thinking of others first - how can he make their day better and how can he be accommodating and sweet. He truly sees the best in everyone. Marty also has an innovative brain, and I love how creative he is. Marty is someone who is not afraid to have fun. **He will laugh his heart out and be silly without pause or hesitation. He is someone who truly enjoys life.***

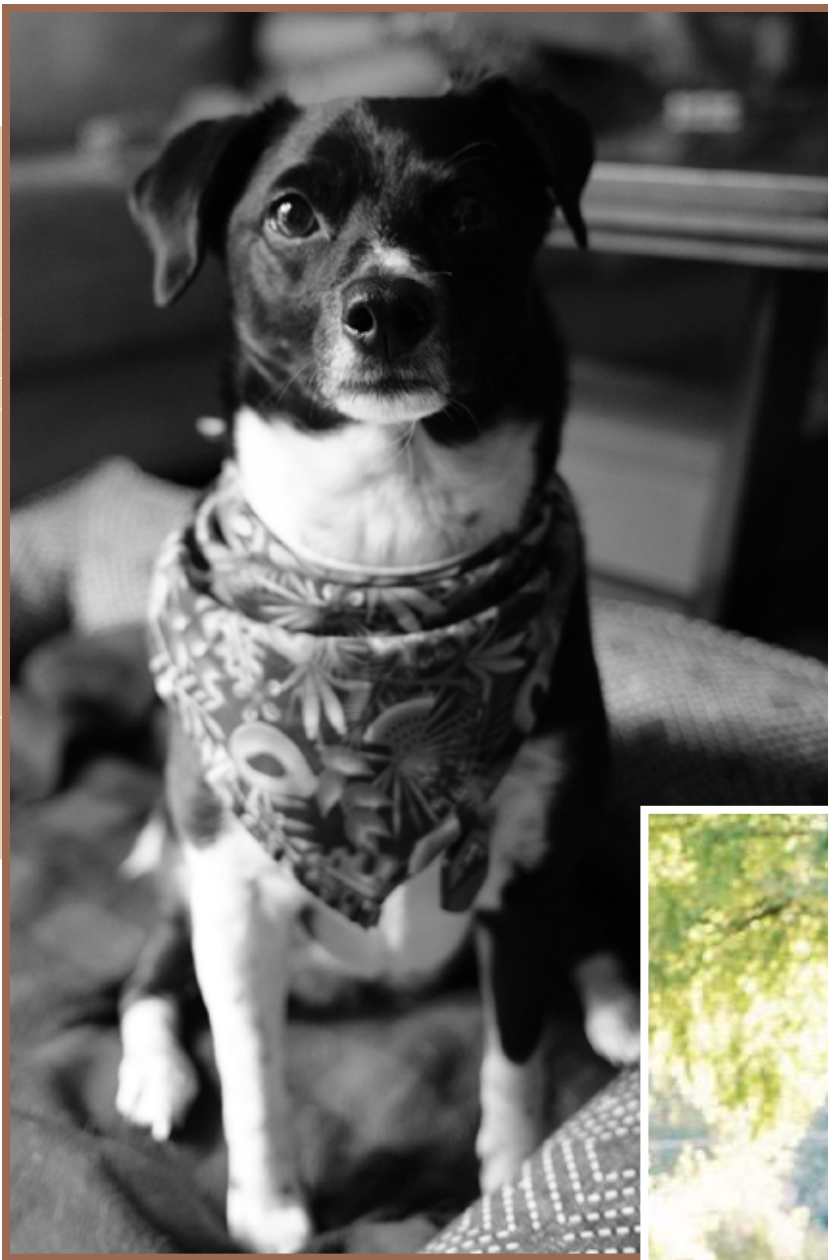
I can't imagine a better dad. Not only is he caring and kind, but he will also be so much fun for our future kid. I can already hear them laughing at silly antics together or some prank they pulled on me, or building some creative invention in our garage."



OUR CURIOUS AND GENTLE PUP

Allie is an older girl, but you wouldn't know it if you met her. She takes her full-time job as a fetch athlete very seriously. In her free time, you can catch her napping in the sun or snuggled up with one of us.





Jokes aside, Allie has so much joy and excitement for life. She is such a light in our home. She has met several babies and toddlers in our friend group, and on these occasions she usually sniffs the child and gives them a big lick on the face. She is perfectly curious, yet gentle with kids.



WELCOME TO OUR
LIVELY AND COZY

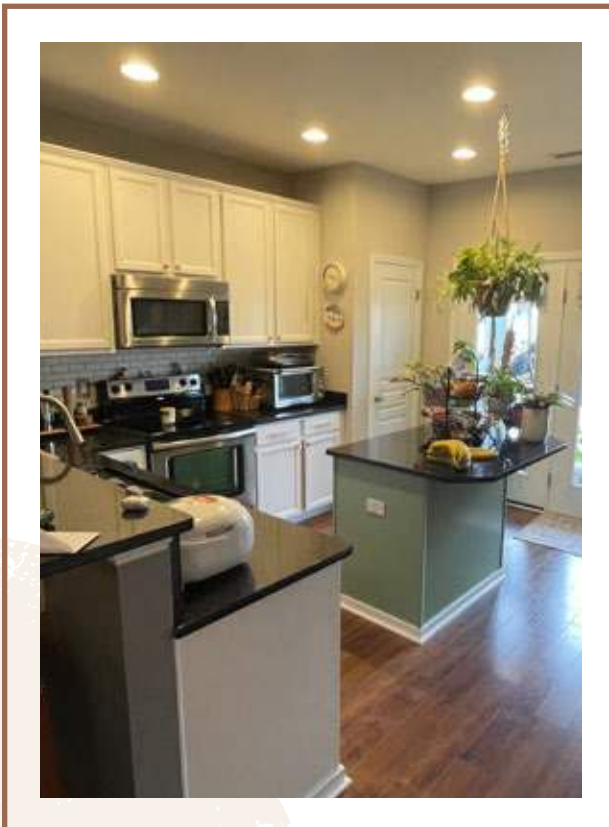
HOME



We live in North Carolina in a city that is continually ranked as one of the top 20 safest large cities nationally! We would describe our four-bedroom home as urban. We love that we can walk to several state-of-the-art parks, restaurants, and stores. Our home is green and full of life (with over 50 houseplants!). Jennifer's grandmother has painted hundreds of landscapes and her paintings decorate our home, bringing it life as well. We have put a lot of work into making it comfortable and homey, while also being clean and organized. We love cozying up on the couch and talking or playing a game together. **Our other favorite spot to relax is our back porch, which is tree-lined and full of plants. When hosting, Marty loves to cook friends a nice meal followed by playing a board game.**



Though it is a townhome, we have community green space and amazing parks within walking distance that include playgrounds for kids, splash pads, and trails. We love the community and how safe our neighborhood is, as well as how kid- and pedestrian-friendly it is. There are so many children who live here! We are close to five elementary schools that are all walkable from our home, and we plan on walking our future child to and from school each day. Our city is also very diverse with 19 percent of townspeople being born in another country.



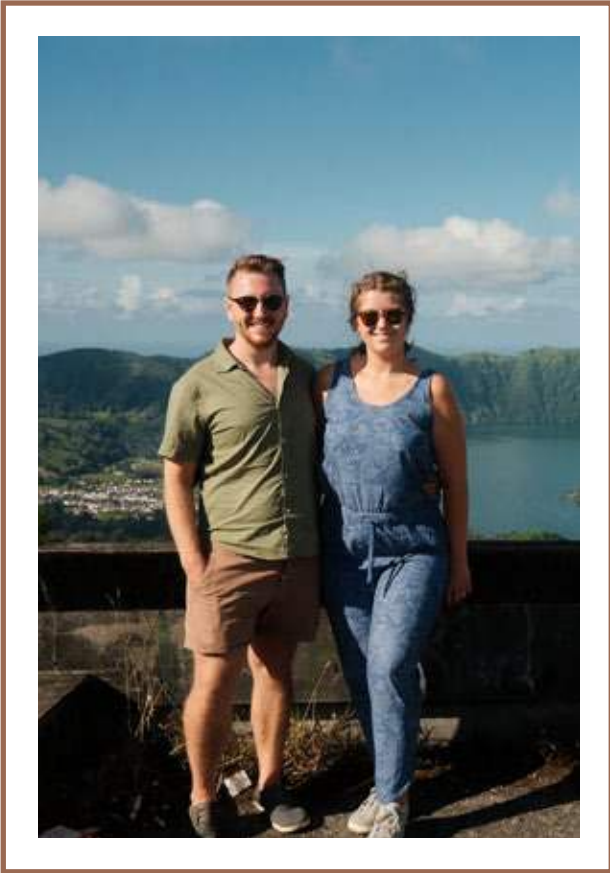
OUR INTERESTS AND ADVENTURES

We look back on our lives and see how we were able to overcome adversity to pursue higher education, launch successful careers, and give back to our community. Marty serves on the Public Arts Advisory Board, working with local officials to beautify our town. Jennifer volunteers at the local hospital, where she served during the pandemic, and tutors at-risk youth in college prep, writing, and science.

We also love all kinds of music and always have it on in our home. We have been to countless concerts and love going to music festivals together. Jennifer grew up in a musical household, learning piano from her grandmother, and has also started learning how to play string instruments this year!

A global perspective is something that is very important in our home. We are avid travelers and have been to over 20 countries across multiple continents. **You gain great perspectives, empathy, and understanding from seeing the world, and this is definitely something we plan to do with our child from an early age.**

We like to say that our friends are the family that we choose, and they are a huge part of our lives. They are the people we can count on to celebrate our successes and support us through our challenges. They are the ones who make us laugh until our sides hurt and listen to us vent when we need to. **We feel so loved and supported by our friends, and we know they will extend that love and support to our child.**



OUR FAMILIES

JENNIFER'S FAMILY:

My mom is my best friend and we talk many times a week! She is kind, warm, funny, and always there to listen. My aunt (mom's sister) is basically like my second mother and played a huge role in raising me. They both live in my hometown in the Appalachian Mountains, and we love to visit that beautiful area and spend time with them. We are also very close to my uncle (my mom's twin brother!) and his wife, who live 10 minutes from us. We usually see them multiple times a month, and they will be core support for us. **My family is so excited and are already antsy for however they can help with the baby.** My father passed away when I was a senior in high school, and though I miss him everyday, I have so many fond memories with him that always put a big smile on my face. I have two half brothers and four nieces in total, who all live far away.





MARTY'S FAMILY:

My parents still live together in my Texas hometown and we get together several times a year. Their eccentric, fun-loving, day-to-day outlook on life inspires me. They're enjoying retirement on their land with their new pug puppies, whom they jokingly call my siblings. We often visit my 93-year-old Oma (grandma) in California any chance we get. She is an inspirational woman who lives life to the fullest. She is known around her retirement community for taking her cat out on daily walks on a leash. I'm confident our future little one will make many trips to San Diego to visit her. **Though our family is small, I consider our wonderful local friends to be extensions of it.** I'm excited for them to play a big role in our child's life.



IN OUR FAMILY...

WE PLAY.

WE PRIORITIZE RELATIONSHIPS.

WE EXPLORE.

WE LIVE LIFE TO ITS FULLEST.



BEFORE YOU GO

Thank you again for taking the time to learn more about us. We hope this book gave you a better understanding of who we are as people and who we aspire to be as adoptive parents.

We wanted to take this last note to share with you several specific commitments we can make to you and your child if you should choose us:

- **Fun:** our goal is to fill our child's belly with laughter through our playful nature
- **Education:** we commit to fostering a culture of continuous learning. For our child, this means providing the best education we can through our home, school, and travel. To set a good example, we also promise to stay up-to-date on the best practices of raising an adopted child. We know that so much has changed in the last 10 years with adoption and we will be prepared for the next 10+ years
- **Growth:** we will empower our child to grow into the person they want to be, not any preconceived vision we have for them. Our hope for them is to be self-sufficient, fulfilled, and happy
- **Exploration:** our future child will have the space to explore and be curious. This applies to nature, education, and the world. Importantly, this also applies to being curious about their biological history, heritage, and background. We will always support this curiosity and how they may apply those customs into their everyday life
- **Love:** The family and support system we have includes both our biological family, but also our friends who are very involved in our lives. Everyone has so much love to give and is so excited for our future child, and we have no doubt they will be immensely loved and supported

We believe that family comes in many different shapes and sizes, and if you decide to move forward with adoption, and an adoption with us, we are committed to being your advocate and partner in this journey. **We want to have thoughtful discussions on what this looks like post-adoption and foster a comfortable environment in which we can communicate.** We want to honor your wishes here, but if you are willing and able to be involved in our family, we welcome you with open arms and warmth.

Jennifer and Marty

