

# Aaron + Derek

*building our family*



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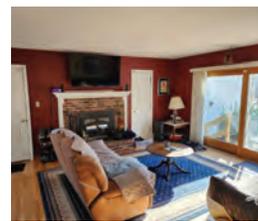


# about us

We met in New York after Aaron transferred from Hawaii for the Navy and Derek returned back to his home state from Oregon. After our first date spent doing what we both love, hiking, we instantly connected and knew this was the start of our lifelong adventure together. With our three dogs, we enjoy traveling and experiencing the outdoors, whether it is hiking, kayaking, or taking the camper out for the weekend. Aaron is a nuclear propulsion mechanic in the U.S. Navy. Derek is in the quality control sector of the food and beverage industry, currently working remotely as a quality manager for a beverage company. After spending some time with Derek's extended family in New York, we have moved to Michigan, where we will be able to spend more time with Aaron's extended family as we hope to create a family of our own.

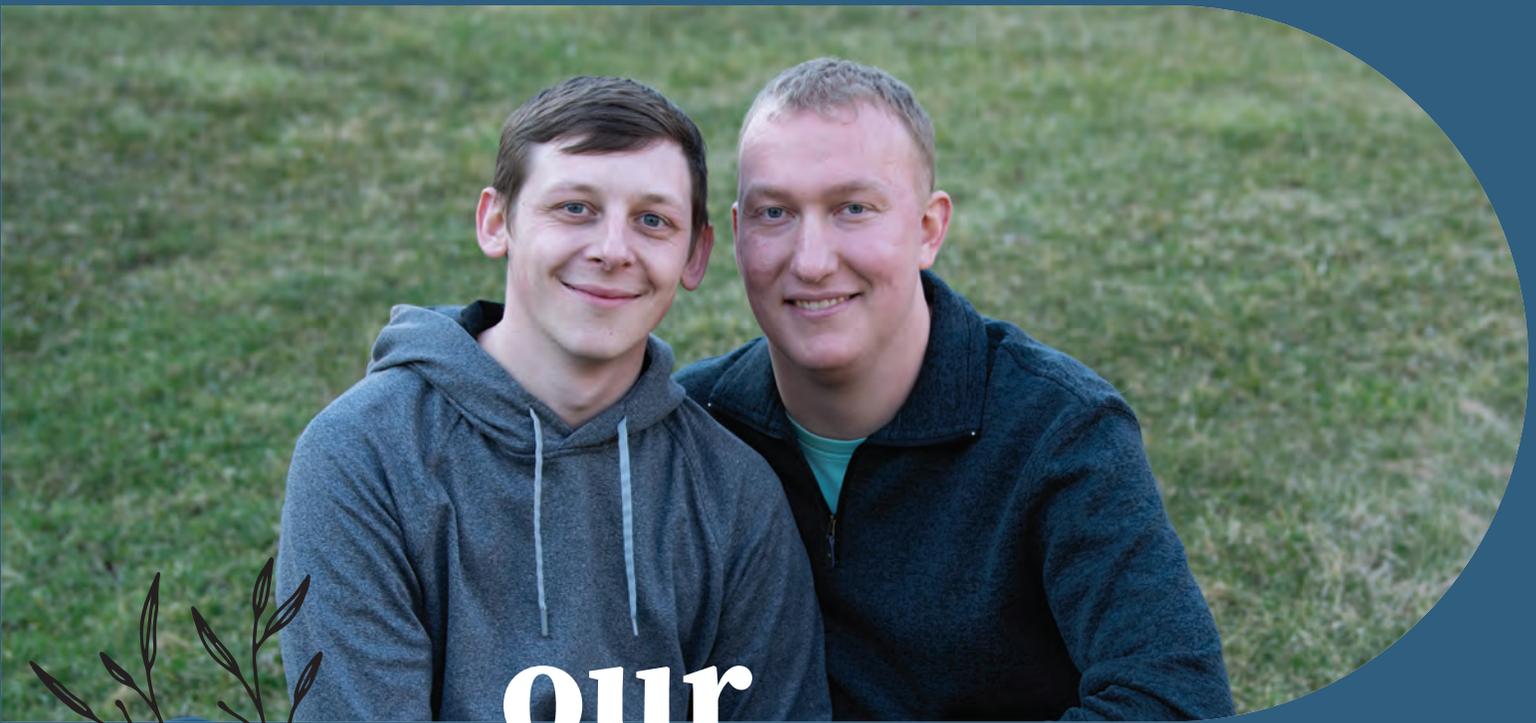
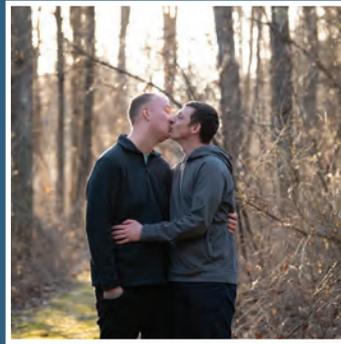
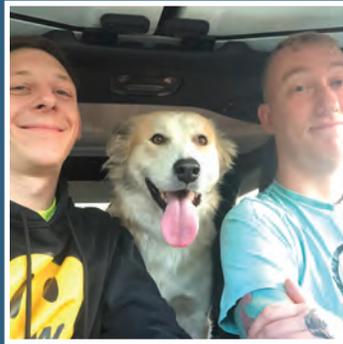
## *our home + pets*

We live in an area that experiences all four seasons and within walking distance of a large lake. It's a small town with a few parks and a playground, but within 20 miles of two large cities for bigger events, like parades, festivals, and the children's museum. We have a three-bedroom house on five acres with plenty of room for a child to explore and grow. Guests are commonly greeted with the smell of fresh bread or a sweet treat when they walk in due to our love for cooking and baking. We have three dogs: two golden retrievers and a border collie/Lab mix. They are the sweetest trio of fur you'll ever meet and are always down for a long walk or a cozy snuggle on the couch.

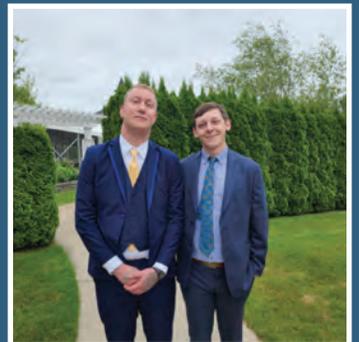


## *what led us to adoption*

We got married in June of 2023, and since that day, we have known we would like to raise a child together. We believe a family is about love, connection, and the shared journey of nurturing a child's growth and happiness. Since we are unable to have kids of our own, we know that through your gift of adoption, we can share our life and love with your precious child.



# our photo album



**Occupation:** Quality manager

**Education:** Bachelor's degree

**Race:** Caucasian

**Religion:** N/A

**Sport:** Bowling

**Food:** Seafood, specifically clams

**Hobby:** Hiking

**Family Tradition:** Easter egg riddles

**Musical Group:** Major Lazer

**Movie:** *Donnie Darko*

**Dream Vacation:** Swiss Alps

**Holiday:** Christmas

**TV Show:** *Myth Busters*

**Subject in School:** Math

**Book:** *A Series of Unfortunate Events*

more about **Derek**



more about **Aaron**



**Occupation:** Military

**Education:** Master's degree

**Race:** Caucasian

**Religion:** Christian

**Sport:** Putt-putt

**Food:** Pasta

**Hobby:** Nature walks

**Family Tradition:** Cookie decorating

**Musical Group:** A Day to Remember

**Movie:** *Apollo 13*

**Dream Vacation:** New Zealand

**Holiday:** 4th of July

**TV Show:** *Master Chef*

**Subject in School:** Science

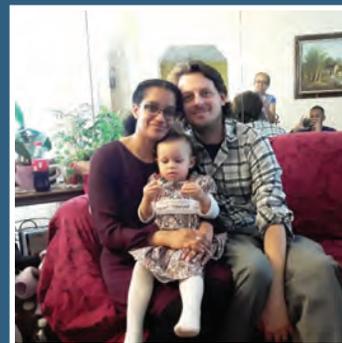
**Book:** *Blind Man's Bluff*



# our families + traditions

The love we've received from our families and the experiences we have shared together are what helped shape us into the people we are today. Aaron comes from a family of six, with a twin sister, an older brother, and an older sister. His family has a tradition of making Christmas ornaments each year for the family tree. Our child will be able to see the creativity of family members going back multiple generations and will have the ability to create their own memories to be cherished by the family. Eventually our child will be able to tell these stories and pass the Christmas ornaments on to their future children, continuing the long-standing tradition.

Derek is from a family of four, with one older brother. Although Derek's father is no longer with us, we try to get together with them weekly to play card games and spend time with our five-year-old niece. Derek's family had a tradition where his parents would create riddles to put inside Easter eggs, with the final riddle leading to a surprise gift. This is a tradition we would love to bring into our future family as well!





# dear expectant mother



We are extremely appreciative and grateful that you are taking the time to consider us as your little one's parents. We know you didn't come to the decision lightly, and we want you to know we will be forever changed by your gift of a child to our family. Your little one will grow up in a home where they are cherished and loved, surrounded by family and friends who want nothing more than for them to be the best possible version of themselves.

We promise to provide your child with the best of everything we can provide them, whether it is picking fresh fruits and vegetables from our garden, collecting eggs from the chicken coop, or experiencing nature and enjoying life to the fullest. They will be able to play fetch with our three loving dogs during the day and cozy up to them and get the best cuddles in the world at night while watching their favorite movie.

We want you to know you will always be a part of your child's life story in whatever capacity you wish. They will always know the selfless and courageous act you did for them by allowing us to adopt them and will understand what true love is because of that.

*Derek + Aaron*



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