



# Derek & Ryan





## about us

We met in New York City in 2018, we locked eyes and recognized each other from a dating app, and our first date was a few days later. We didn't realize we lived just a few blocks from one another, so our chance encounter was a bit serendipitous. We both texted our moms after the date had ended that we had found our person.

We celebrated our wedding in 2021 in St. Augustine, Florida. Derek leads a customer success team for a social services software company, and Ryan works in operations & strategy for a nutraceutical brand. We are goofballs who love a good laugh, spontaneous dance parties, and dream of building a meaningful life. We are also avid foodies, enjoy taking workout classes, and love traveling. We spend most of our time with our beautiful daughter, families and friends, and enjoy a good television series or movie.



## our home

We live in a residential and lively area with a great balance of beautiful architecture, amazing food, and quieter city streets. The community is very close-knit, with folks being here their whole lives and many newcomers as well. We are within walking distance to several playgrounds, as well as a grocery store, gym, etc. Our three-story brick home sits on a cobblestone street and is very spacious with tons of natural light. We both work from home and have plenty of dedicated quiet space and ample square footage. We are also within walking distance to quality elementary schools and minutes away from numerous historical sites and museums. We take pride in the design and cleanliness of our home, but we welcome the fun and chaos of our daughter and mealtime as well!

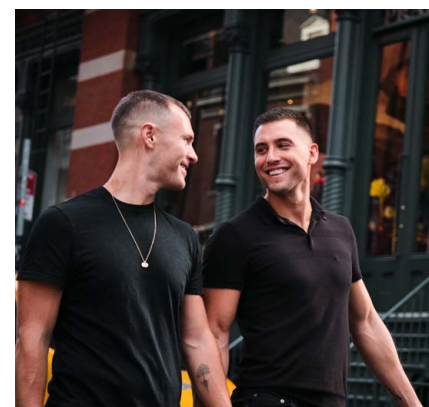
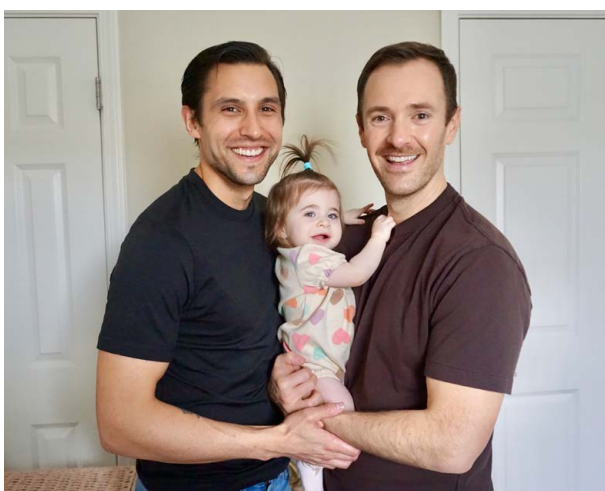
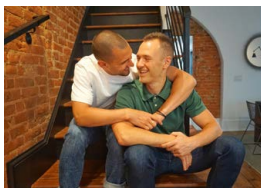


## our adoption story

Above all, we want to provide a safe and loving home for a little one whose mom is looking for the same. If we can raise humans who will make the world a better and brighter place, we would consider that the ultimate test of a meaningful life. We want to teach our children that a father can be soft, strong, kind, and vulnerable. We want our children to know we will care for and guide them to the best of our ability, and witness them for who they are loving them no matter what. Adoption is forged by mutual love from mom to parents, and our concept of family extends beyond blood relation. We knew adopting a child into our family was the choice for us.



PHOTOS OF OUR  
**life together**





# fun facts

GET TO KNOW

## Derek



**Occupation:** Senior Manager of Customer Success

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree

**Race:** Caucasian

**Sport:** Basketball

**Food:** Sushi

**Hobby:** Running / Fitness

**Family Tradition:** March Madness Bracket Challenge

**Musical Group:** Sara Bareilles

**Movie:** *The Parent Trap*

**Dream Vacation:** Italy

**Holiday:** Christmas

**TV Show:** *Schitt's Creek*

**Subject in School:** English

**Book:** *Like Streams to the Ocean*

GET TO KNOW

## Ryan



**Occupation:** Senior Director of Operations Strategy

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree

**Race:** Caucasian

**Religion:** Catholic

**Sport:** Soccer

**Food:** Tacos

**Hobby:** Cooking

**Family Tradition:** Grandma's Backyard Easter Egg Hunt

**Musical Group:** Elton John

**Movie:** *The Lion King*

**Dream Vacation:** Fiji

**Holiday:** Thanksgiving

**TV Show:** *Friends*

**Subject in School:** History

**Book:** *Tuesdays with Morrie*



# our families & traditions

We both have very large extended families, and if you count our friends who feel like home, it's well into the hundreds. We are uncles to seven, soon to be eight, nieces and nephews, who light up our lives every time we see them. Derek has one older sister, and Ryan is the middle child with a younger brother and an older brother. We have three siblings-in-law and over twenty first cousins, and grandparents and great-grandparents waiting to shower a little one with love. Traditions are important to us, so we make sure to spend all holidays, birthdays, and milestones with our families and fill our trips with quality time and joy. More importantly, we go to our extended family for hard times, a timely laugh, and all of life's in-between moments. Some of our traditions include trying new recipes, Christmas movies on repeat, and food scavenger hunts at state fairs.







# loving mother

Dear expectant mother,

We want to thank you, first and foremost, for your courage — the strength and love it requires to get here does not go unnoticed, and we are forever grateful for the opportunity to build the dream we talked about on our first date together.

That opportunity requires both a mutual faith and a dream, from you and from our family, that we both clearly share for a child surrounded by love.

Love is everything in our home, and is the foundation for our beliefs and the basis of our future as a family. As a gay couple, our family was created through authentic and beautiful self-discovery, with an honoring of our family's traditions and the forging of a modern-day definition of love. Your child will feel the love of two dads who commit to each other and choose one another every day, the love of another adopted sibling, the love of our extensive network of friends and family, and the unconditional love because their mom and dads see them and accept them, no matter who they grow to be.

This love and our circle have been cultivated daily through curiosity about the world, an empathetic helping hand to neighbors and strangers, and a joyous belief that life is short and we need to cherish the ones we are with. Your little one will be heard, valued, and have opportunities — to learn in school, to travel the world, play with their sister, and to discover their own love and passions. They will know they are not alone, feel safe, and have space to figure out who they are.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us and helping us realize our dreams of growing our family.

With love,

**Derek & Ryan**



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