

OUR JOURNEY TO ADOPTION

christopher + andrew



www.lifelongadoptions.com



about us

We connected through an app and met in January 2016 at a local brewery. On our first date, we discussed goals, one of which was having children. Christopher proposed to Andrew in August 2016, and we were married on St. Patrick's Day of 2018.

Andrew works in IT/web merchandising. He has a passion for data analysis, criminal justice, and news. He enjoys reading, cycling, cooking, comics, video games, food, gardening, and tattoos. He participated in Cub/Boy Scouts. Andrew describes himself as quirky, smart, compassionate, headstrong, loving, and empathetic.

Christopher works in higher education. He is passionate about family, friends, pets, volunteering, and human rights. He enjoys playing the piano and soccer and watching college athletics. Christopher describes himself as Type A, organized, shy until you get to know him, loving, fiercely loyal, and hard-working.

Together, we enjoy traveling, arts events, hiking, and kayaking. We both value education as we both recently completed master's degrees.



our home + pets

The Great Lakes region of the Midwest is where we make our home along with our labs, Claire and Lily, and cat, Bettie. Our home, situated in a quiet and safe subdivision with sidewalks and children of all ages, is a ranch-style house with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Our school district is one of the top-rated in the state. Our community is experiencing a renaissance fueled by young energy. We are the region's economic center with strong job markets in education, healthcare, IT, and manufacturing. Local attractions include regional symphony orchestra and theatre, minor league baseball, and close proximity to the Great Lakes. We are just a short drive from some of the largest cities in the country and their museums, sports, and shopping, and entertainment we can't wait to bring our future child to!



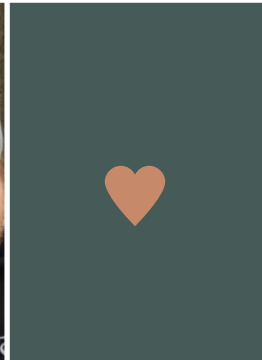
what led us to adoption

Having children has been a dream both of us thought couldn't be a possibility due to being gay. In his 20's, Andrew first started to think about having children. Christopher's mom had a licensed day-care in their home, so he has always enjoyed children and wanted to have his own.

Adoption was discussed on our first date and has been part of our decision-making process ever since. For example, when we got married, we legally merged our two last names in order to create a new name so that our child wouldn't have the challenge of a hyphenated last name.

Many family and friends have adopted. Christopher's aunt was adopted. His cousin adopted two children of a different race than her own. His sister foster-to-adopted three siblings. Andrew's college roommate has also foster-to-adopted two children.

OUR PHOTO ALBUM





christopher

OCCUPATION: Higher Education
EDUCATION: Master of Public Affairs
RACE: Caucasian
RELIGION: Episcopalian (Christian)
SPORT: Soccer, football, basketball, Olympics
FOOD: Pizza, spaghetti, tacos, Snickers
HOBBY: Sports, arts, travel, volunteering
TRADITION: Shamrock shakes, family holidays
MUSICAL GROUP: Coldplay, Whitney Houston, Broadway Musicals
MOVIE: Disney, *Spiderman*, *Rudy*
DREAM VACATION: Traveling Europe
HOLIDAY: Christmas, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day
TV SHOW: ESPN, HGTV, News
SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: Math, music, history
BOOK: *Charlotte's Web*, *Great Expectations*, *A Promised Land*, *Love is the Way*



MORE ABOUT US

OCCUPATION: IT, Merchandising Manager
EDUCATION: Master of Public Affairs
RACE: Caucasian
RELIGION: None
SPORT: Soccer and hurling
FOOD: Pizza, Falafel, Cookies
HOBBY: Cooking, Cycling, Reading, Video Games, Travel
TRADITION: Thanksgiving cooking
MUSICAL GROUP: Muse, Mozart
MOVIE: *Harry Potter*
DREAM VACATION: Rome
HOLIDAY: Halloween
TV SHOW: *Simpsons*
SUBJECT IN SCHOOL: History and science
BOOK: *1984*



andrew



Andrew and his brother grew up in Arizona. His parents divorced when he was fourteen. Through his dad's remarriage, Andrew gained a stepmom and three stepbrothers. Three siblings have married, and he has five nephews and two nieces. While his parents both grew up in the Midwest, Andrew moved here seven years ago for work. His mom's extended family is still in the Midwest and lives a few hours away. We fly to Arizona once or twice a year to visit his family and his parents travel here once or twice a year.

Christopher grew up in Indiana. His parents and sister's family live nearby as well as extended family. Many family traditions involve holidays and college sports. Christmas was a big deal with multiple family celebrations. Christmas continues to be a big tradition as we decorate the house with several Christmas trees and lights. Christopher's great-grandmother always made chicken noodles for holidays, which Andrew now makes. He also grew up making chocolate chip oatmeal cookies and drinking Shamrock shakes with his grandmother and is looking forward to doing the same with his children. Lastly, life still stops when our favorite college football team is playing on Saturdays and everyone gathers to watch.



We are thrilled that you have chosen to read our profile in order to learn a bit more about us as you consider whom you want to raise your child. We know that you are facing a huge decision and probably feel completely overwhelmed. We can't begin to imagine what you are feeling. Thank you for being strong and brave as you discern what you think is best for your child and for yourself.

As you consider us as potential the Papa and Daddy for your child, we will do everything in our power to walk this journey alongside you. You have our commitment that we will strive to raise your child in a way that will honor you and make you proud. It will be obvious from an early age to (y)our child that Papa or Dad didn't give birth to them and we hope to be able to offer as much information as you are comfortable sharing so that the child has a full sense of their earliest history. This could include photos and stories about you, where they were born and more, or less, if you choose.

In closing, thank you again for taking the difficult steps of considering us as prospective adoptive parents of your child. It is an honor that we do not take lightly.

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