

MELISSA & ANNETTE



OUR JOURNEY TO ADOPTION



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OUR HOME & PETS

We live in picturesque Southern California, only 10 minutes from the beach, rivers, and mountains. We have access to numerous cultural, sporting, and family-centered recreational activities, including Disneyland, Santa Monica Pier & the San Diego Zoo. We have many biking, & hiking trails and large parks to explore, and this area is known for the dynamic art, music, theater and cultural scenes. Our home is a ranch-style three-bedroom house with many upgrades, a swimming pool and a garden. The local school district includes both French or Spanish-immersion schools, and there are magnet schools for the arts and STEM with an award-winning robotics team. Before becoming a couple, we adopted a few pets, including cats and a sweet Jack Russell terrier who loves to go to the local dog beach and play with his toys. All our pets get along and enjoy being on our laps whenever possible.

ABOUT US

We are both outgoing, loyal, kind, and loving people. We enjoy spending time with family and friends, hosting parties, and trying out new recipes. Professionally, we are both accomplished in our chosen fields. Annette holds a leadership position as a tax incentives expert, while Melissa is a behavioral health clinician and director. Annette's interests include sports and rooting for her beloved Buffalo Bills and Sabres or riding her bike across California, where she raised money for AIDS support organizations. Melissa has developed a passion for Buffalo sport teams despite growing up in Southern California. In addition, she enjoys giving back to her community and volunteering at her favorite non-profit organizations. We both enjoy traveling, attending concerts, and cooking together. Some daily activities include playing with our pets, walking the dog, and gardening. On a typical Friday evening, we get together with family, friends, and neighbors for a potluck and a game night.



WHAT LED US TO ADOPTION

When we first met, we knew we were well-matched and meant to be together because we both had a lifetime desire to support, nurture, love, and raise happy and healthy children. We want to recreate and share the many wonderful experiences we had as children growing up. We considered the foster-to-adopt option and completed required courses to become foster parents. During the classes, we realized it would be too emotionally challenging for us to return a child after several months or years caring for them, so we decided on a private adoption instead. Additionally, Annette had a wonderful adoption experience having helped raise her deceased partner's son. Also, two of Melissa's closest friends have adopted children and talk regularly about this amazing, life-changing experience.





OUR LIFE
TOGETHER



ANNETTE

Occupation: Corporate tax consultant

Education: Master of Business Administration

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Roman Catholic

Sport: Football, soccer, hockey

Food: Indian, Mexican, Italian

Hobby: Cycling, traveling

Tradition: Christmas with my cousins

Musical Group: Tiesto, Taylor Swift

Movie: *Four Weddings & a Funeral*, *Moonstruck*

Dream Vacation: Rome

Holiday: Thanksgiving

TV Show: *Reservation Dogs*

School Subject: Geography

Book: *A Long Walk to Freedom*



MELISSA

Occupation: Behavioral health division manager & treatment counselor

Education: Master's in public health

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Spiritual

Sport: Volleyball, tennis

Food: Sushi

Hobby: Hiking, traveling, cooking, board games

Tradition: Gingerbread house decorating at Christmas

Musical Group: Taylor Swift, Sia

Movie: *9 to 5*, *Moonstruck*

Dream Vacation: Tahiti

Holiday: Christmas

TV Show: *Ted Lasso*

School Subject: Chemistry

Book: *Unbearable Lightness of Being*





OUR FAMILY & TRADITIONS

Annette is an only child, and her parents are deceased. Annette has an extensive network of cousins she is very close to, including cousins in Palm Springs and Phoenix. Both are visited regularly, especially for holidays. In addition, she visits and stays in contact with her Buffalo family, visiting for events, holidays, and Bills football games. In addition to her blood relatives, Annette maintains an extensive chosen family of friends who support her. They include her two longest tenured friends who live in North Carolina and in San Jose and several others who live in Southern California.

Melissa is the youngest of five and is close to the two sisters who live in California. One sister is married and has two college-aged children. Melissa is also very connected to her sister closest in age. We spend a lot of time with Melissa's local family and get together for holidays, birthdays, and more. Melissa's chosen family is also extensive and includes friends she has had for over 30 years, including her dearest friends, who split their time between the Bay Area and Northern Italy. Melissa is also the godmother of their firstborn daughter.





DEAR EXPECTANT MOM,

We are writing to you with immense gratitude and excitement as prospective adoptive parents for your child. We understand the weight of the decision you are making and want to assure you that we are committed to providing a loving, nurturing home for your baby. First and foremost, we want to express our admiration for your strength, courage, and selflessness in considering adoption. We believe you are making a profound sacrifice for the well-being of your baby, and we are deeply humbled by your decision.

As we embark on this journey, we want to share a little about ourselves. We have always dreamed of becoming parents and have spent countless hours preparing ourselves emotionally, mentally, and physically for this responsibility. We are financially stable and have created a warm and loving home to nurture your baby. We will provide a loving, supportive, and stimulating environment full of diverse experiences and opportunities for them.

We are committed to creating a lifelong bond with you, should you desire it. We believe that maintaining a connection with you is important for your child's sense of identity and understanding of their roots. Please know we hold the deepest respect for you and your decision, are here to support you, and are committed to honoring your wishes throughout the adoption journey.

Thank you for considering us as potential parents for your baby. We are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to welcome them into our hearts and home.

**WITH GRATITUDE AND LOVE,
ANNETTE & MELISSA**



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