

building our family

Billy + JD



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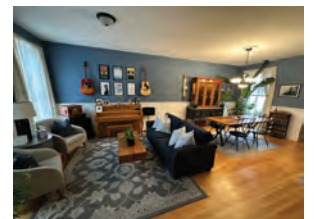


about us

Just as the world was slowly adjusting to life post-lockdown, we swiped right on each other on a dating app, and by our second date, we felt so comfortable with each other that we began sharing our favorite baby names! Our mutual love for all things yummy, wanderlust-filled destinations, giving back to the community, and supporting the arts and our ultimate goal of becoming parents made us certain we had found our other half. Billy's all about building community through theater and music, sharing his passion for the arts as a music teacher for a Montessori school, drama director for his alma mater, and private vocal coach. Meanwhile, JD's on a quest to save the world through non-profit work, focusing on building partnerships through creating and sharing community resources. Billy proposed to JD in 2022 at the Chicago Pride Parade, surrounded by our loving, supportive tribe of family and friends.

our home + pets

Our home is a delightful three-story condo just a skip away from the lively riverfront that often hosts summer concerts, community festivals, and a weekly farmers market. Nestled in a charming four-unit complex, our home proudly belongs to the historic society—crafted with care and bursting with character. Each room of our home is thoughtfully arranged for making memories with family and friends while radiating warmth and comfort. Our senior rescue dog, Kane, added joy for three wonderful years before crossing the rainbow bridge. Billy's mom recently moved in and brought with her three feline friends! Our school district is the largest in the state and offers specialized education opportunities for students interested in pursuing specific occupations.



what led us to adoption

We decided to pause our wedding plans to focus on what we consider our ultimate goal as a couple: starting our family. Billy grew up in a family that fostered many children and has two adopted sisters, which gave him insight into the adoption process. JD got familiar with LifeLong Adoptions through his involvement with gay rights advocacy groups in San Diego. It's a meaningful way to expand our family, and we are committed to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for a child to thrive in. While adoption demands a lot of love, patience, and dedication, the joy and fulfillment it brings are immeasurable.



Our photo album



more about JD

Occupation: Director of Program Services for a local non-profit

Education: BA Political Science & Business Administration

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Methodist

Sport: Kayaking, biking

Food: Mexican (TACOS!)

Hobby: Cooking, travel

Family Tradition: Board/card games

Musical Group: Kenny Chesney

Movie: *Death Becomes Her*

Dream Vacation: Greek Isles, Hawaii

Holiday: Christmas

TV Show: *Friends*, *Will & Grace*

Subject in School: History, political science

Book: *The Aaron Ralston Story*



more about Billy

Occupation: Music teacher, theater director, vocal coach

Education: BA Theatre

Race: Caucasian

Religion: Lutheran

Sport: Baseball, hiking

Food: Pizza, sushi

Hobby: Graphic design, performing, travel

Family Tradition: Going to Disney World!

Musical Group: Sara Bareilles, Carrie Underwood, musicals!

Movie: *Dirty Dancing*, *Disney movies*

Dream Vacation: Greek Isles, Hawaii

Holiday: Halloween

TV Show: *Friends*, *Schitt's Creek*, *Buffy*

Subject in School: English, choir

Book: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*





our families + traditions

Billy's immediate family includes his mother, two sisters, and a nephew. Sadly, Billy's father has passed away, though his legacy of living life to the fullest remains with us. Billy has a large extended family: nine aunts and uncles, twelve cousins, twenty second cousins, and a great aunt. They enjoy taking family vacations; love hosting annual holiday parties complete with games, music, and good food; and share an appreciation for the performing arts, often seeing live performances and collaborating on community theater productions.

Although he's part of a large blended family, JD has been raised to treat each member of that family as if they were blood relatives. On both his mother's and father's sides, there is a collection of full, half-, and step-parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins. JD's family's most cherished pastime is getting together to share meals, card games, and random adventures. JD's favorite tradition is visiting his family's cabin in the mountains of West Virginia. There, they cook over an open fire, fish and kayak in the rivers and streams, bike the river trail, and visit local attractions.

We love quick weekend getaways, experiencing the great outdoors, and visiting theme parks across the nation!





dear expectant mother



In this profound moment, we recognize the immense sacrifice and selflessness tied to the decision you are making. Your act is nothing short of extraordinary, and we want to assure you that your precious baby will be embraced with boundless love and care.

We pledge to nurture your little one into becoming a person filled with openness and love, encouraging them to blossom into their truest, most authentic self. Your act of compassion is truly an inspiration to us, and we are honored you are considering us to be a part of your baby's life. We promise to do all that we can to inspire and instill that same compassion in your child, creating a home filled with warmth, acceptance, and love. Our families have eagerly awaited the fulfillment of our dreams almost as much as we have, and your generosity is the key that unlocks that cherished opportunity.

Your baby will be raised in an environment that celebrates creativity, open-mindedness, the beauty of diversity, and reverence for all living things. The gratitude within our hearts knows no bounds, and we promise we will devote every ounce of our strength to ensuring your baby feels safe, cherished, and supported.

Your gift will be treasured, and your love will be woven into the fabric of our family's story. Your baby will grow up knowing the incredible love and sacrifice that helped shape our journey, and we'll be forever grateful for the beautiful soul who made our family whole.

JD + Billy



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