

MICHAEL AND ERIC



and Tinsley too!

Hello!



Thank you so much for allowing us to share our lives with you. As an adopted child himself, Michael has seen and experienced both the joy and grief that comes with adoption. If you choose us to take this journey with you, your child will never have to feel alone as they grow up as an adoptee; Michael will be able to share his own personal adoption story as your child grows and learns of theirs. If you choose us, please know that we will raise your child in a household with lots of love, laughter, and joy and strive to fulfill all of the hopes and dreams you have for him or her. We think this consideration is a very selfless and courageous act. You will always be honored and respected in our household. Please know that we are wishing you peace and strength during what must be a very difficult time.

About Us



We turn lemons into lemonade. Once, early on in our relationship, we went on a weekend road trip to visit friends. Driving home, we had been so busy talking and singing along to our playlists, we accidentally drove past our exit and added an extra 2 hours to our trip! Making the best of it, we decided to stop in a local town and eat lunch at a local café. It was easily one of the best meals we have ever had! Your child will be raised to always see the positive in a situation!

We love to explore estate sales and antique shops. We are always on the hunt for the next best find! Recently, we were searching for a coffee table and came across one at a yard sale that had seen better days. We took it home, stripped the paint, restained the wood and it is now the focal point of our living room! Nearly every piece of furniture and decor in our home has a story of us rescuing and rehabbing it back to new glory! As they say, “One’s man’s trash is another man’s treasure!”



We are always looking for an adventure! Early on in our relationship, Michael woke Eric up on a Saturday morning at 4am so we could go for a “small hike.” When we arrived to the mountain, Michael insisted he knew where we were going. Our 4 mile hike turned to a 15 mile hike down and back up the mountain, and then back down because of a wrong turn! It ended up being great bonding experience and it forced us to have deep conversations early on about how we problem solve together. Not to mention, we saw a snake and Michael’s fear of them was quickly found out as Eric had to help Michael navigate around it.

About Michael

By Eric



Michael **loves to try new things**. Not a week goes by where Michael is not buying ingredients for a new recipe from a new cookbook, researching the best fertilizer for his garden, or learning the complete history for any town or city we visit. While most recipes are a success, one time, Michael had an epic fail. He found a fun and easy pasta recipe on TikTok and upon serving it, we both were unable to eat it. Somehow what was supposed to be creamy, cheesy pasta turned out to be stale and gritty. We both started laughing at the faces we were making and quickly ordered pizza.



Michael **accomplishes anything he puts his mind to**. A couple years ago he felt that his home office “needed” a bench and decided to build a custom one himself, despite NEVER having built anything besides Legos before. After many hours of reading, watching YouTube videos and a few trips to the hardware store, Michael built and upholstered a bench that now proudly sits in his office. Your child will grow up in a home where curiosity and learning new skills are encouraged!



Michael is the type of friend you want by your side whether you need a laugh, a shoulder to cry on, or great advice. He **always has a smile on his face** and his laugh puts anyone in a good mood. We recently went to an art exhibit with money wallpaper and a gold toilet. Michael had me take a picture of him to send to our friends when we were housesitting for them letting them know we had redecorated their bathroom. Our friends immediately called us from out of the country only to learn it was a practical joke.

About Eric

By Michael

Eric is **creative and is the unofficial party planner in the family**. Recently, he was helping coordinate our community's Spring Carnival. After months of planning, the event was a success, with thousands attended and thousands of dollars raised for the community. On the day of the event, a volunteer was sick so Eric jumped in and lead the prize tables for all the children. His patience and humor with each child was a huge added bonus. Your child will encouraged to freely express their creative endeavors.



Eric **loves to read and is a lifelong learner**. He is currently reading a book a week. Eric started a book club with friends and at a recent meeting, he served treats related to the book of the month and each member walked away with a gift bag full of spy gear since they were reading a mystery book. The whole club thought it was so unique and special that now when any member hosts they too provide some small treats and jokingly take a vote on if it is as good as Eric's original gift.



Eric is **not afraid to be silly and goofy** which easily makes him the "Favorite" uncle in our family! When he walks into the room, he is the first person kids run to for a hug and to tell him about their toys. Your child's cousin recently had a minor surgery. To cheer her up, Eric showed up to an outing wearing a matching outfit, causing her to tell everyone at the restaurant and all of her friends at school the next week that her and her uncle were twins.



Our Story



We met when out with friends and ***literally* bumped into each other**. Michael had recently moved to the area and was eager to meet new friends. After accidentally bumping into each other, we spent the rest of the night chatting and it turned out that although we lived cross-country from one another, we had mutual friends. In fact, one of Eric's childhood friends was Michael's best friend— in college and on the same cross-country team! Quickly realizing our common bonds, we decided to go to dinner the following week.

Because of our mutual friends and common interests, it was as if we had known each other forever. Right before Thanksgiving, Michael brought Eric home to spend time with his family. During that visit, **Michael's mom told Michael she was keeping Eric!** When Eric brought Michael to meet his family, his mom immediately embraced Michael and exclaimed, It feels like you are my other son! After dating for nearly two years, Michael bought a ring to propose to Eric and surprised him when afterwards, we were greeted with close family and friends who had traveled from near and far to celebrate our engagement.



Michael and his brother were both adopted at birth and so it was important to him that when he decided to start a family of his own, adoption would be the route. We talked about kids and the role adoption played in Michael's life on our first date and both agreed it was the route for us when we got married. Your child would grow up with parents and family that directly and personally understands the highs and lows that come along with being an adoptee. We are hopeful to join you on your journey.

Meet Tinsley

Michael grew up surrounded by animals including several dogs, goats and even a horse! **Eric, on the other hand, did not.** From the start of our relationship, Michael had been trying to convince Eric to rescue a dog. After over a year, Eric finally was convinced and decided to surprise Michael for our anniversary/Michael's birthday. We went to a local animal shelter and immediately fell in love with a cute, shy puppy. Every other dog was barking and she was the only dog relaxing in her bed shying away from attention. It was love at first sight and decided that day that she was the perfect match. Eric is a reality TV show junkie so we decided to name her Tinsley after a *Real Housewife!*



Tinsley's shy nature wore off after a few weeks of being with us and she began to trust and love her new home. Most days, you can find Tinsley at our feet when we are working from home. Her favorite activities include sunbathing, sleeping, eating treats, and obsessing over her favorite toy: **her owl.** It **is like her security blanket** and no road trip is complete without it by her side. She carries it from room to room with her to protect it and play with it.

Tinsley loves kids! When we take her on her nightly walk around the neighborhood, we always have to make sure to account for more time because **every kid in the neighborhood loves to pet her.** She loves the attention and is so loving with her 4 human cousins, all under the age of 4. Every week when we facetime with family, all of the cousins demand to see Tinsley and give her kisses and hugs when they see her.



Meet Our Family

If you choose us, your child would be loved and surrounded by 1 great grandfather, 4 grandparents, 12 Aunts and Uncles, and **5 cousins!**



Our family is **very active and very competitive**. Whether going to the beach, going for a hike, waterskiing, or swimming in the pool, our family is always doing something outdoors, but even indoors, we have some friendly competitions among each other. During a recent family gathering, we held a Nintendo 64 tournament in which we all competed to win playing *MarioKart!* After many hours, laughs and accusations of cheating from Eric's brothers, Eric persevered as the winner. It was decided the next tournament would be a different game - Mario Tennis and would be played during Thanksgiving!

Our family loves to cook and eat! **Every family member has a signature dish** and no family gathering is complete without Michael's mom's signature pasta or Eric's mom's famous homemade chicken soup. Both recipes have been passed down for generations! One year during the holidays, we were sick and could not wait for the homemade chicken soup. When we all started eating it, we thought it tasted like a dessert. It turns out, Eric's mom accidentally put cinnamon instead of cumin! We all laugh about it now and call it the Great Soup Dessert of 2022. We would love to learn your family recipes and teach them to your child!



Our family has been built on adoption. Michael and his brother were both adopted at birth so our family understands that family is built on love and not biology. Growing up, Michael and his brother always had a brotherly bond that was built on love. Michael's family talked openly about their adoption stories and celebrated their birth parents. As adults, Michael and his brother were able to meet their respective birth families and create unique bonds with extended family members. Your child will be encouraged to celebrate their own background, having the support and understanding of every family member!



Our Traditions

Every Saturday morning, it is our tradition to get bagels and coffee from our favorite local deli! Not only do we go there for breakfast, but we have them cater every birthday party we have! **We are such regulars, the owners have memorized our orders!** During a recent visit, we told the owners we were celebrating Michael's birthday. Not only did he give us free coffee, but he renamed Michael's favorite meal as "The Michael" for the weekend.



Our family is close by, so every Sunday, 8 of us who live in the same town all take turns hosting and cooking different meals each week. It was during one of these **Sunday family dinners** that we learned that your child was going to have a new cousin! Our brother and sister-in-law were hosting and announced that in the near future, we would have to start preparing an extra seat at the table! The rest of the night was spent congratulating and picking out future names for the new addition!

Every Fall we go **apple picking** with our family and have a **pumpkin decorating contest**. The winner gets homemade apple cookies! During our most recent apple picking adventure, we surprised our niece by showing up after telling her over FaceTime that morning we were out of town and not going to make it. She was so happy for the rest of the day and she told everyone she walked past that her uncles surprised her! We look forward to learning your favorite traditions to include in our gatherings for your child.



Our Hobbies



Michael loves cooking; spending his Sunday preparing homemade sauce, homemade pasta and, if feeling adventurous, homemade bread! He has never met a cookbook he doesn't love! **Michael loves old recipes** so much that as a gift for his birthday, Eric's mom gave him a family recipe book that had been used for generations. Michael was so excited that he tried to make Eric's Grandma's famous brisket for Eric's birthday. Although it was delicious, it was no match to how she made it.



When Michael is cooking, Eric is right beside him, baking. Eric loves dessert and always tries to find the best homemade dessert to compliment Michael's meal. Recently, Eric volunteered to bake for a community fundraiser . We looped in some friends and **spent an entire weekend baking dozens of treats** to be sold at a bake sale. Eric tried a new recipe with cookies stuffed with various jams. We spent hours at our friend's house baking together and after burning the first batch a bit, perfected the recipe for all other batches. It was wonderful to see members of the community not only donating, but loving the recipe! Your child will learn the value of community and giving back.



We love to do home projects. **We like to pretend we are on an HGTV show** and love to restore furniture and art. We are always on YouTube learning new skills. Just recently we learned how to rebrick our fireplace! We realized we made quite the team with Eric measuring and laying the brick and Michael cutting and angling it. We were so happy with the results, we even inspired our friends to brick theirs as well!

Our Neighborhood

We are in live in a suburb of South Carolina. Our town has the small town feel with the allure of the city as we are conveniently located 20 minutes to the heart of the city. From the moment we walked through the front door of our house, we knew it was our home. We love our big backyard and so does Tinsley, as she runs around and plays everyday. Our backyard is full of flowers and shrubs, which Michael keeps immaculate. **Our yard quickly became the talk of our neighborhood**, with several neighbors offering to hire us to landscape and mow their lawns! Michael's vegetable garden even produced so many cucumbers, that we traded them for olives from a neighbor and started a neighborhood wide gardening exchange.



Our neighborhood is full of families with children of all ages. In fact, your child's **cousins live just a few doors down!** Your child's cousins come over and play in our yard and play with Tinsley several times a week. Recently, to celebrate Tinsley's birthday, your child's cousins ran over to our house with a handful of dog treats to give her. We saw them running from their house a couple doors down out our window and as she turned the corner, we let Tinsley out so they could give hugs and kisses to her. Your child will grow up surrounded by a community full of family who loves them and supports them and loves to play.



Our downtown also has a an outdoor amphitheater, which offers **live music every Friday** in the summer, lovingly referred to as Friday Funday in the Freeway! Last summer, we enjoyed a local jazz band covering Fleetwood Mac music. We loved hearing a jazz rendition of one of our favorite songs, *Landslide!* Everyone put their phones/lighters in the air and it was an experience we will never forget! It was great to see the community come together to support local musicians.



Our Weekdays



Eric is a marketing director at a financial technology company. Through his work, he is able to be both creative and analytical. He is known for his Fun Fabric Friday, in which he wears fun patterned shirts. He is the designated party planner and fun captain on his team and is responsible for planning every holiday party and event. His company is fully remote so he is able to **work from home** with **flexible** working hours.



Michael is a financial technology consultant and enjoys a **flexible, work from home** schedule. He is passionate about his work and is very detail-oriented. Through his work is able to help individuals learn about finance and technology. His company allows him to work from home everyday and offers paid **parental leave**, allowing time for him to bond with your child.



Because we both work from home, we take time each day after work to spend quality time together. **We cook together every night and after dinner, we go for a walk** around our neighborhood and take Tinsley to the park. On a recent walk to the park, we were hit with a surprise rain shower! We were running back to our house in the rain when one of our neighbors spotted us in their car and offered to drive us home so Tinsley wouldn't get mud on her paws. Your child will have quality family time each day.

Thank You



Thank you for taking the time to get to know us and allowing us to share our lives with you through these pages. If chosen to be your child's adoptive family we are committed to celebrating and honoring you and the child's adoption from the start. We are dedicated to loving your child unconditionally and will celebrate their individuality, allowing them to grow into the person that they want to be. We will always keep them safe and protected, while still leaving some room to learn and grow from their mistakes. If chosen, please know that your child will grow up in a home surrounded by love and full of laughter.

We hope to build a continuous relationship with you where we can celebrate your child as they grow up.