

Adam & Joe



Nice to Meet You

We think you are incredibly courageous and selfless for considering adoption. If you choose us, we promise your child will know your decision was made out of unconditional love and care.

Throughout the following pages, we hope you will learn about us, our values, and what life would be like for your child in our family.

We hope this is helpful for you in making an informed decision, and we wish you strength during what must be a very difficult time.



About Us

We share a sense of adventure.

Recently, we rode a 3-wheel go cart around San Francisco. We were on vacation and saw them for rent. We both looked at each other, and said, "We HAVE to do that!" Joe drove us all over the city and Golden Gate Park. Your child will have the freedom to explore their passions and we're up for the ride!



Our family is close by. We are fortunate to have Joe's dad living with us and Adam's mother lives in an apartment attached to our home. Joe's sister lives 10 minutes away. Also, we have over 35 aunts, uncles and first cousins within 20 minutes of our home. **Sunday dinner** is a staple in our family. We take turns hosting the whole family with our cousins.



Adam was born in Portugal and adopted by American parents. His parents raised him to understand and appreciate both his cultural heritage and the love and safety an adoptive family can provide. Adam's parents ensured that he understood and appreciated the courage and selfless choice his birth mother made to provide him the best life possible. Your child would grow up with a **father that shares the common bond of being adopted.**



Stronger Together

Over a decade ago, we met online when Adam was starting college and Joe was starting graduate school. Our first date was a disaster; **both of us crashed our cars on the way to the date!** Luckily no one was hurt in either accident.

About a week later, we had our first “successful” date - driving a moped along the beaches of Martha’s Vineyard Island. We still had one hiccup, as **Joe wore too much cologne** when he picked Adam up for the date. Before we left, Joe met Adam’s father and the smell caused his dad to have an allergy attack! We still laugh about it today. Our families could not have been more supportive, inclusive and loving of our relationship from day one.



Adam grew up on Cape Cod and spent summer weekends camping on a local beach. Joe’s family visited Cape Cod every summer. Now we like to take our little red convertible to spend warm weekends at the beach. We even rent a beach cottage with friends every summer. This vacation often overlaps with the town's Family Week Festival and the Children's Parade. During that week, **same-sex parents march down the main street of town with their children, many adopted**, to show their pride and to support one another. Seeing these families made us excited to participate one day. Your child would grow up with a strong support system that includes other adoptees.



Meet Adam (by Joe)

Growing up, **Adam learned to cook from his adoptive Nana**, who was from the same area in Portugal where Adam was born. Adam always appreciated being able to learn about his heritage through his Nana's cooking. One weekend, we had friends over and Adam baked a delicious casserole with Portuguese sausage. They enjoyed it so much that everyone had seconds!



Adam is a natural teacher in and out of the classroom. He is genuinely curious about almost every topic. I am always impressed by how he can break information down and explain it to others at any age or level. At a barbeque last summer, Adam spent time with our little cousin, Ariana, teaching her some words in Spanish like *te amo*, so she could speak with her grandparents who were visiting from Ecuador.

Adam has a green thumb and loves to garden! As a teacher, he has a lot of free time in the summer which he spends out in the yard growing beautiful flowers and fresh vegetables that he uses in his delicious cooking. Last summer, Adam's cucumber plants were so productive that we became known as the "Cucumber Couple" as we brought cucumbers with us everywhere we went to give away to friends and family. Your child would grow up with a love of the outdoors and an appreciation of nature.



Meet Joe (by Adam)

Joe always puts the needs of his family and friends before his own. Last summer, his sister's softball team was having trouble raising the money for jerseys and league entrance fees. Without being asked, Joe jumped right into action! He hosted a fundraiser at a restaurant and raised the funds needed for the team. Joe's speech was so heartwarming, the restaurant manager agreed to become a team sponsor for future seasons. The team gifted Joe and me our very own jerseys as honorary team members!



Joe is the one who **gets me to try new things** as I tend to be a creature of habit. When we were in New Hampshire recently, he suggested riding snowmobiles and while I was a bit nervous at first, it ended up being so much fun! After exploring the trails with our friends, we ended the day at an ice castle, drinking hot chocolate. Your child would always be encouraged to take on new adventures.



I have always been impressed with how comfortable and fun Joe is around kids. You can always count on him to come up with fun and **creative ways to play with and entertain the kids** at any family function. Recently, Joe was playing a chase game with all his little cousins. After he had been found in his hiding spot, all the kids wanted to ensure he did not escape so they "teamed up" on him.



Free Time

We love live theater, especially musicals.

Last fall, we took Joe's teenage cousin, Viviana, to see *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. All of us shared a love of the original movie growing up and it was nice to see the story as a musical. The Oompa Loompas were our favorite characters! When we got home that night, we had to watch the movie.



We are both interested in cultural exchange.

Adam still stays in touch with his host family, whom he lived with while studying in Paris. Last August, Adam, Joe, and Joe's sister, Antonya, visited and stayed with Jill, Adam's former host mom, at her apartment in Paris. One day, Jill took Adam to a local market to get fresh ingredients for an authentic French meal. Jill is an important part of our lives and would be like another grandmother to your child. Your child would grow up experiencing different cultures and languages.



We try to get outside as much as possible. We often take our dogs for a **walk in a nature reserve near our home** where they can run free off their leashes. The dogs love it, but they get tired out afterwards. After one long walk this past summer, we noticed the dogs were not around when we got home. We found them both fast asleep in the living room! Guess we wore them out!



Nina & Oliver

We both grew up with dogs and were taught at a young age the responsibility of caring for a pet. After buying our first home and finally having a yard for a dog, we knew it was time to add to our family. Nine years ago, we rescued a 10-month-old schnauzer mix and named her after one of our favorite TV characters – Nina Van Horn from *Just Shoot Me*. Nina loves playing in the snow in the winter. She always sticks her snout into the drifts to eat the snow.



About eight years ago, a friend of ours posted on Facebook that she **found a stray dog** that someone abandoned. He was so adorable and we thought Nina could use a friend. Since he was a stray, we named him Oliver after the orphan in the famous musical, *Oliver*.

Both of our dogs LOVE to be around people, especially **children**. At family events, the kids ask if the dogs are coming. We've seen the kids do everything from secretly sharing food with them to reading their bedtime story with them. One afternoon this summer, we were teaching Joe's little cousins how to give Nina and Oliver treats. Oliver got a little extra treat when he snuck a hot dog out of one of the kids' hands when he was not looking. Fortunately, we had plenty of extra hot dogs!



Family

If you choose us, your child would grow up with the love and support of a large family: 4 grandparents, 13 aunts and uncles, and **over 20 cousins**, most being only a 20 minute car ride away.

Our families are diverse and open-minded. We have family of various races, nationalities, and religions. All are welcome and accepted. When we got married, it was at our family's first gay wedding and the entire family showed up to celebrate our special day! Your child would grow up with these same values and would be accepted for whomever they become.



Our family loves to eat! Every weekend, Joe's aunts' houses are like full-service Italian restaurants. Last week, Joe's aunt served a chicken soup. Adam enjoyed it so much that he had seconds but then he realized it was only the first course! By the time the full dinner was over, Adam had to go for a walk around the neighborhood to help digest! Adam often jokes that eating there is like a marathon event!

Almost everyone in the family is pretty laid back – there is **no formality in this family!** Every Easter, we have a huge egg hunt in Joe's aunt's yard. One year, it started pouring rain. Joe's aunt thought quickly and hid the eggs in the basement. Everyone went along with it and still had a great time! It got a little crazy as both the kids and adults were "fighting" for the eggs in cabinets and under cushions.



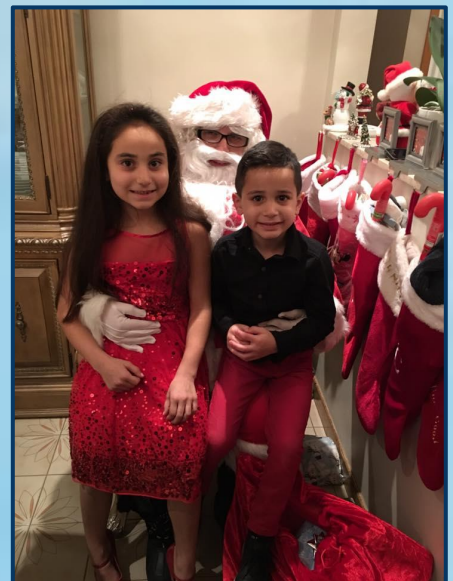
Traditions

Every summer, we host a huge BBQ for all our friends and family. We rent a bouncy house for the kids and spend the evening making s'mores around our fire pit. Last year, the adults took over the kids' bouncy house and the kids got them back when it suddenly deflated! The kids actively schemed to unplug the power just as the adults got in!



In the fall, we go apple picking. In fact, our friends host an **apple picking party** complete with warm cider and almost every apple dessert you can think of. One year, we went late in the season and Joe was shocked to see Adam climb up a huge apple tree to get the last apples hanging at the top!

The big winter event is a traditional Italian Christmas Eve gathering at Joe's aunt's house. After an enormous and wonderful dinner, **Joe dresses up as Santa**, sneaks around the house to ring the doorbell and brings one gift that each child can open on Christmas Eve. Last year, one of the kids wanted to introduce Santa to Joe. The family had to "fib" and tell the kids that Joe was directing traffic so the reindeer would be able to park. We look forward to learning **your traditions** so we can incorporate them in our gatherings for your child.



Our Home

We live in a Cape Cod style home in a small town. From the minute we walked in, we loved it's cozy and warm feel. We especially loved the **huge backyard**. When we saw it, we could picture kids and dogs playing out there. One night last summer, Adam made Joe his very first s'more while we relaxed by the firepit.



Joe's father, Giuseppe, lives with us. He loves to help out around the house. This past summer he helped Adam in the Garden and grew so many tomatoes that he shared them with our neighbor next door. As a native of Italy, Giuseppe speaks Italian. Your child would grow up in a **multigenerational household** while learning Italian.



Adam's mother, Lisa, lives in an in-law suite right next door and would **provide your child with in-home family child care**. Lisa already watches our niece, Zoë, from time to time. Your child would spend quality-time with their cousin at Nana's house.



Our Community



We know our neighbors by name, and we are actively **involved in** many aspects of **the community** from school events to local elections. Last weekend, we held signs to support our town clerk. We are happy to say, she won! Joe is currently a member of the town Planning Board and as an educator, Adam would like to run for School Committee one day.

Because our home is located so close to the town's schools, there are many facilities available including playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, and ball fields. Last week, we took our niece, Zoë, to the playground to play. She loved **pretending to be a pirate on the playground ship** with the other neighborhood kids! Your child would be encouraged to play outdoors and lead an active life.



We live in the small town where Joe grew up. Recently our town started a Peace Flag initiative to promote **unity**. We decided to join the committee to pass out flags at our town hall. The flags can now be seen flying on homes and businesses across the town. Raising a child in a small-town environment is important to us as that's how we both grew up.

Weekdays

Joe works at a software company nearby and has the ability to **work from home** one or two days a week. This amount of **flexibility** will ensure he is available for whatever your child needs.



Adam is a middle school French and Spanish teacher. He is fluent in both languages and we plan to **raise your child speaking multiple languages**. This November, Adam's Spanish class' did a cultural project on "Día de los Muertos." As a teacher, Adam will share the same schedule as your child, allowing him to be home with your child during all holidays and school vacations.

Eating dinner together with no distractions is important to us. We both grew up in homes where this was a value. We sit down at the table, put our cell phones away, and talk about our day. The other day, Adam taught Joe and his dad the word for "burnt" in French (*brûlé*) because **Adam overcooked the casserole and we had to order pizza!**

Family Rule:
No phones at the
dinner table



Thank You

We have profound respect for your decision to consider an adoption plan for your child, and recognize this must be an overwhelming and emotional experience. Please be assured that **maintaining contact** throughout your child's life, within your comfort level, is a priority for us.

We are honored to be considered as adoptive parents for your child and will ensure your child grows up knowing what a selfless act of love it was for you to make this difficult decision.

We look forward to hearing from you and are so grateful there are opportunities for same-sex couples like us to provide a loving and stable home.

Joe & Adam



