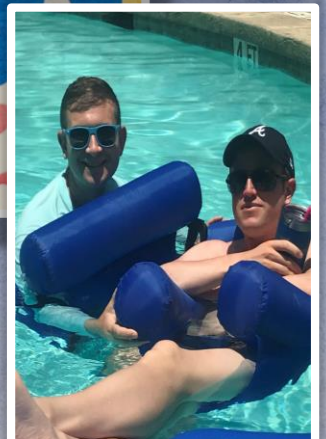
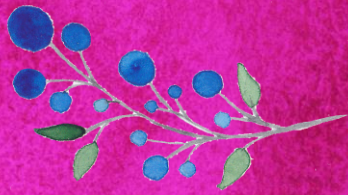


MARK + MICHAEL



AND, RANDY ROO!





HELLO!



We believe “Thank You” are the two most powerful words in the English language. Thank you for allowing us to share our lives with you. If you choose us, please know that we will raise your child with an infinite amount of love, praise and happiness. We will make it our mission to help him or her pursue and fulfill their hopes and dreams. We think this is a very selfless and courageous act and we admire you. You will always be your child’s only mother since they will have two dads. Please know that you’ll be respected and honored in our hearts and home. We wish you peace and endearing strength during this difficult time.



ABOUT US

We love to entertain. We recently hosted our friend, Christy's 50th birthday with a five course meal made by Michael for eight friends. We gave each person their own cake and candle and asked everyone to make a wish for Christy's birthday. We wished for Christy to find love in her life.



We love to experience new cultures. On a trip to Thailand, we saw people standing in line at a fish spa. We were intrigued and had walked a lot that day and our feet needed pampering. We sat for 15 minutes while fish ate the dead skin off our feet. Mark liked the feeling and kept his feet in the whole time and his feet were so smooth afterwards. Michael was so ticklish from the fish that he could only dip his feet until he would crack up laughing. The other patrons in line were laughing hysterically with Michael and that made him laugh even more. Your child will learn the beauty of discovering other cultures.



We love theatre and were both heavily involved in musical theatre growing up. Mark and his mother have a tradition of seeing Cirque du Soleil whenever it's in town and Michael has kept up this tradition with Mark. For Mark's birthday last year, Michael surprised him with front row seats to Cirque du Soleil's Volta. Our favorite part was when the unicycle balancing act started. Mark was surprised and loved the show!



TICKET

ABOUT MARK

BY MICHAEL



Mark loves dogs, especially Randy Roo. When I first met Mark, he said, "I'm part of a package deal." I didn't quite know what that meant but Mark explained, "I have a dog named Randy. If you don't like us both then we can't be together." I'm so glad I took the package deal with Mark and Randy Roo. Because of his love of dogs, Mark even helped me become a dog person. Your child will grow up with a love of animals.



Mark loves running and trains for months to beat his personal best time. Last Spring, Mark was running a 10K to support Ovarian cancer awareness for his friend. When Mark got to the area where I was cheering for him, he ran over to me to tell me that a local animal shelter had adoptable puppies along the route and that he stopped to play with each one along the way. I asked, "what about your personal best time?" Mark said, "Who cares! This is awesome; I get to run *and* play with puppies!"

Mark loves to shop until he drops. Last week, Mark and his best friend Jessica were out shopping together. Mark was shopping for a big beach bag for our pool gear and texted me a picture of the bag he wanted to buy. I asked, "Do you think it could fit 4 towels?" Jessica sent me a picture of Mark inside the bag with a text stating "Look at your husband, he thinks he's a towel!" Knowing it could carry at least 4 towels, Mark bought the bag.



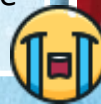
ABOUT MICHAEL

BY MARK

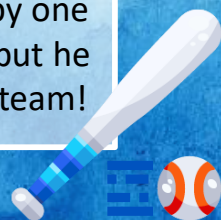


From a very young age, **Michael has loved to cook**. Each Sunday, his “Grand” asked him to help her cook family dinner. Because of her, Michael dreams of competing on Masterchef. He loves cooking so much that he installed a swivel TV so he could turn the TV toward the kitchen and cook along with his favorite chefs. Last week, I came home from work and he was cooking Beef Bourguignon with Julia Child. It was absolutely delicious! Your child will have delicious meals made from scratch.

Michael loves Disney. When Michael was 5 years old, his mom told him that if he loved Disney so much, one day he could work there. When he grew up, he did just that and in college, he worked as a character performer at Disney. This past October, Michael woke me up at 5AM to be the first ones into Magic Kingdom so we could spend as much time as we could in the park. That day, I had to pull Michael out of the park to get him to leave so we could catch our flight. He cried all the way to the airport because he already missed it so much.

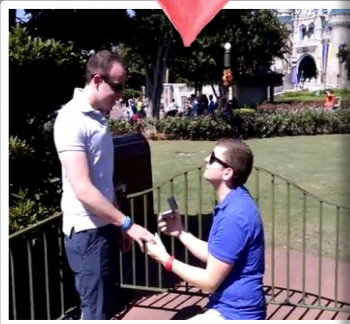


Michael loves to play softball and has been playing since he was 5. More recently, he's been on a recreational team as a pitcher and second baseman. In 2017, his team went to the Softball World Series. Michael hit a homerun and as he was running to home plate, he crashed into the catcher and Michael broke his hand. The catcher dropped the ball and Michael was safe, winning the game by one point. Michael couldn't play the rest of the series but he came home without a voice from cheering for his team!



THE STORY OF US

We met at a Disney training class through work. On our first date, we went to a sushi restaurant and **Mark ate sushi off Michael's plate**. It totally bugged Michael and he considered not going on a second date. Thankfully, he reconsidered. Now, Michael always offers Mark the first bite.



Michael proposed to Mark, in front of Cinderella's Castle in Walt Disney World. Michael pretended to run into an old college friend who would act as the cameraman for the proposal. Michael said "Mark, you are my dream come true and if we can dream it together, we can do it. **I will love you to infinity and beyond**, will you marry me?" Mark was completely surprised and of course, said "Yes!"



We've had our share of trials. In 2018, Michael was diagnosed with stage 3 Cancer. He underwent chemotherapy and always kept a smile on his face even when it was the worst. Mark would ask, "How do you keep up that smile?" to which Michael would say "**I've got a handsome husband and we are meant to be dads so I know it's not my time.**"

Michael has a clean bill of health now with no future concerns. This challenging time in our lives fueled our desire further to become parents and we look forward to joining you on this journey.

RANDY ROO

BY ME (RANDALL)



This is the story of how I chose my human, Mark. Picture it, 84 years ago (well, 12 years in human years), I was eating dinner in a dumpster when a human scooped me up and placed me in a thingy called a Shelter. Then, one day a human named Mark wandered into our Shelter and he stopped in front of my cage, looking at me with sad eyes. He opened the cage door, came in and sat down like he owned the place. I figured if he was that comfortable in my house, I should show him some love, so I walked over to him and sat in his lap. He said, **"I love you, I want to take you home."** My human, Mark, has had other dogs throughout his life and I turned my other human, Michael, into a dog lover.

I love my humans Mark and Michael and we've been through some pretty ruff times together. Forty-two years ago, I was really sick and I had to stay in a hospital for a week. Because of that, **when I walk, it sounds like tink, tink, thud!**



Caution! I'm walking a tiny human here!



My favorite hobby is playing with small humans. For some reason, tiny humans love me and I've been told that **I'm really good with tiny humans.** Last week, I was walking a tiny human named Ollie who lives next door and he gave me five treats after our walk. My dads never give me that many treats at once!

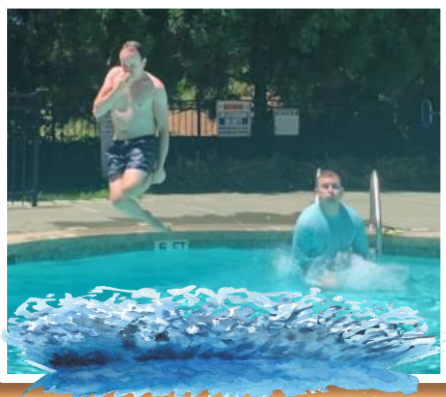


Randy Roo

HOBBIES



We love to have **dance parties in our living room**. Last week, our friend's daughter, Riley, called us and said she wanted to come over and show us a new dance that she just learned. Riley came over and grabbed Mark's hand, dancing to "Baby Shark." Riley even corrected how Mark was dancing to make sure he was doing it right. After Riley left, we had Baby Shark stuck in our heads and couldn't stop dancing. We will encourage your child to dance to the beat of their own drum!



We love swimming and we swim with our neighbors every Saturday. This past weekend, we decided to have our own cannon ball contest and let our neighbors judge. They said that Mark had the bigger splash. Your child will learn to love the water and be a strong swimmer.

We have a flair for drama. For Halloween, our friend Donna hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner. Everyone was sent their character descriptions ahead of time and were encouraged to dress up according to their part. Michael was the doorman of a hotel and Mark was a wealthy businessman.

During the party, we got to question everyone as if they were suspects. Michael had a British accent and Mark drew on a mustache. Neither of us were the killer, but we had a great time playing out the mystery. In the end, both came to different conclusions of who did it and neither of us were correct!



KEEPING ACTIVE

Namaste

Michael has been practicing **yoga** since 2008 and is studying to become a yoga teacher. In 2015, Michael went on a week long retreat to Sedona, AZ where he did yoga on the tops of the red mountains. He got completely sunburned but felt absolutely balanced and focused.



Mark got his **love of gardening** from his dad. Mark's dad grows lemons, roses and many different herbs. When we moved into our house, Mark was so excited to plant some flowers; he ran to the nursery, bought flowers and within a week they died. Mark called his dad who walked him through which flowers needed more sunlight and was able to tend to the flowers. Now, Mark has a thriving garden full of pink petunias and purple impatiens.



Michael likes **Crossfit**. The other day, he achieved a personal best squat of 315 pounds which is 30 pounds more than his previous personal best. He was so proud for beating his previous record that he went for ice cream after working out to treat himself. Michael hopes to compete in the Crossfit Games in 2021. Your child will learn the benefits of an active lifestyle.



FAMILY TIME

Our family loves to swim and have pool parties. On Mother's day, we had a **cannonball contest**. Michael has been the reigning champion, but this year, his nephew, Hunter, won ending Michael's 10 year winning streak. Your child will grow to love swimming and make an awesome splash.



If chosen, your baby will have a large family with 4 grandparents, 13 aunts and uncles and **24 cousins** to play with!



We like to say that **adoption runs in our family**. Michael knows adoption first-hand as his older sister, Christine, was adopted at birth so she **has been a guiding voice about her experience as an adoptee**. Christine wishes she knew her birth parents and has stressed the importance of openness to us. In addition, Michael's cousin Allison adopted two girls as infants, who share the same birth mother. Allison and their birthmother are very close and even took the girls on a trip to the beach together. Allison has also been a guiding voice about **maintaining an open relationship**. We look forward to maintaining an open relationship with you.

Our family loves to gather and eat **food that honors our family heritage**. One way we do this is by hosting **crawfish boils**. We began dating in New Orleans which is where Michael was raised. Michael introduced Mark to his family at a traditional crawfish boil. Mark was so nervous that he didn't know how to eat crawfish but Michael's dad saw that he was struggling and taught him how to peel and eat them. Your child's heritage and roots will be honored and celebrated.



"Mmmm... yum, yum!"



FAMILY TRADITIONS

It's our **tradition** to have red beans and rice on Monday's like Michael did growing up. Red beans and rice is an emblematic dish of Louisiana Creole cuisine traditionally made on Mondays with red beans, spices and pork bones as left over from Sunday dinner, cooked together slowly in a pot and served over rice. Last Saturday, we bought sausage at our local farmer's market where the seller asked what we were going to make with it. We told him red beans and rice. He was from Louisiana and gave us his grandmother's recipe! We look forward to including your traditions in your child's life.



Our **family is very competitive** and every year we have Christmas Family Olympics. Everyone splits into two to four teams, and no significant others/spouses/siblings are on the same team. We play a myriad of games that are Christmas themed. The winner gets a stocking full of gift cards. This past Christmas during a game of charades, Mark's cousin surprised us all with a baby announcement by wearing a "Mama Claus" T-shirt! We decided to end the game and give all the gift cards to her and the new baby.

We love to play games. During Mardi Gras, our family comes from all over the country to go to the parades and afterwards we play a game called "Chicken Foot". It's a fancy version of dominoes. We play twenty games over the course of a few days and whoever wins the most gets the Chicken Foot Trophy with their name engraved on it. This past Mardi Gras, for the first time ever, Mark won the games and the trophy.



OUR FRAMILY

Frām • i • ly
[fram - uh - lee] noun

1. A group of friends who are close like family 2. Friends who become the family we choose for ourselves.



We love going on our **Annual Walt Disney World vacation** with our nieces Peyton and Aria. Since Peyton was a little girl, she would have to sit out while most of us went on the Seven Dwarf's Mine Train Roller Coaster because she wasn't tall enough. This past October, she was finally tall enough to ride with Michael. She looked terrified and had a tight grip on the lap bar, but as soon as we got off, she ran over to her mom and said, "that was amazing! Can I ride again?" Peyton and Michael waited in line again and this time, Peyton put her hands in the air. Your child will be encouraged to seek thrills and face their fears.



We host a bi-weekly **game night** where we play a singing game. Recently, we hosted a game brunch. After our game, we made matching rainbow T-shirts with a Survivor ribbon in honor of Michael beating cancer. We stood in a circle and sang our favorite song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from The Wizard of Oz and all cried together.



We love to celebrate the New Year with a big party. This past New Year's Eve, Liz brought "**The Golden Ball of New Year.**" She had everyone stand with the ball and make a wish for the New Year. Anna wished for her hair to stop turning gray! It is going to be our new framily tradition.

HOME & NEIGHBORHOOD

Our **favorite part of our home is the kitchen** where we cook together. Recently, Mark decided to make oatmeal raisin cookies and he forgot to add the flour. When he took them out of the oven, the cookies looked like brittle. We laughed so hard because the flour was sitting next to the mixing bowl.



QUACK



QUACK

We love our neighborhood park. Last Saturday morning, we took our neighbor, Brayden. He **fed the ducks and played on the playground**. He swang on the swings and rocketed off the swing and stuck his landing screaming "Ta-Da! Beat that Michael!" When we brought him home, his mom texted us and said he fell asleep super quickly from having so much fun!

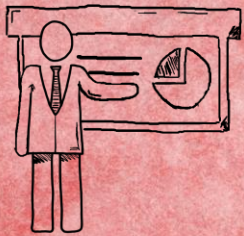
Our community is small enough to get to know everyone. For Memorial Day, we started hosting **movies in our driveway** for our neighbors so we can get to know everyone. We watched *The Devil Wears Prada*, Mark's favorite. Since we love to entertain, we reached out to all of our neighbors who were coming and we got all their favorite movie candy which surprised everyone. We now take turns hosting movies in each other's driveways with neighbors.



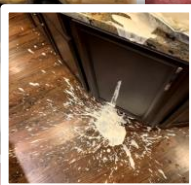
WEEKDAYS



Mark works in Human Resources and his office is 1.5 miles from home. He works predictable weekday hours. **Working so close to home**, Mark can be home in less than 5 minutes.



Michael works in Training and Development and **works from home**. Michael's **flexible** work will allow him to take care of your baby so he or she has home care. Michael makes sure that dinner is ready by the time Mark gets home.



On Sundays, it's our tradition to have spaghetti. **We both grew up having family dinners on Sundays** so this is our way of keeping the tradition alive. We also like to invite our friends over for dinner. This past Sunday, we invited our friend Liz over to learn how to make pasta. All was going well until Michael ran into Liz with a pan of Alfredo sauce and it spilled all over the floor. We laughed so hard and decided to make marinara sauce instead. Your child will enjoy weekday traditions and family time.

THANK YOU



Thank you for taking the time to learn about us and considering us as adoptive parents for your child. We hope that you've gained some insight into our lives and how much love we have to share. Choosing adoption for your child must be incredibly overwhelming, selfless and a difficult decision to make but please know that given the chance, we would make sure that your child is given every opportunity possible to develop into a caring and loving human being.

Please know that if you choose us, we would like to **maintain a level of openness** with you to your comfort. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We send you lots of love.

Mike & Michael

