

*Matt & Andrea*





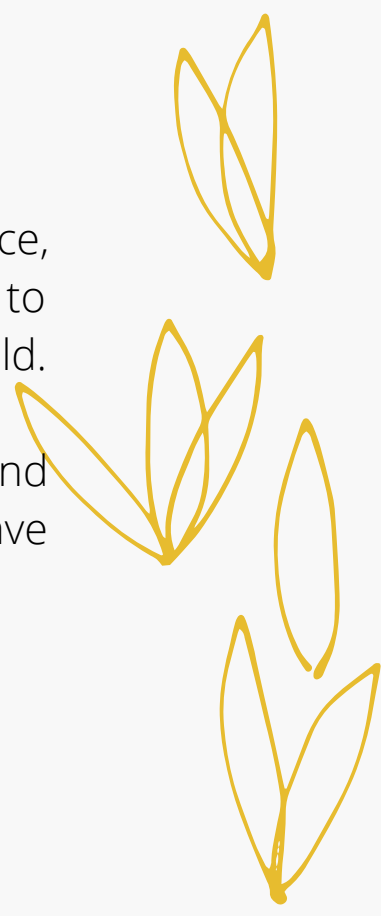
# *Hey amazing mama!*

We are so, so excited to meet you!

Before we tell you about ourselves, we want you to know how much we respect you and the difficult decision you're making. You are brave, and you will make the right choice -- whether you give us the joy of parenting your baby, or chose another couple. You got this!

Our names are Matt and Andrea, and adoption is our first choice to complete our family. Matt is a teacher who spent a year and a half volunteering in a home for at-risk kids in Mexico. Ever since that experience, he has always known he wants to adopt. Andrea is an attorney who loves to hike, camp, and whose heart filled with love when we adopted our first child.

We'll tell you more about ourselves, our family, our awesome dog Duke, and our home in this book. Thank you for considering us, and for being so brave and strong. You will always be a hero in our eyes.



*Matt & Andrea*



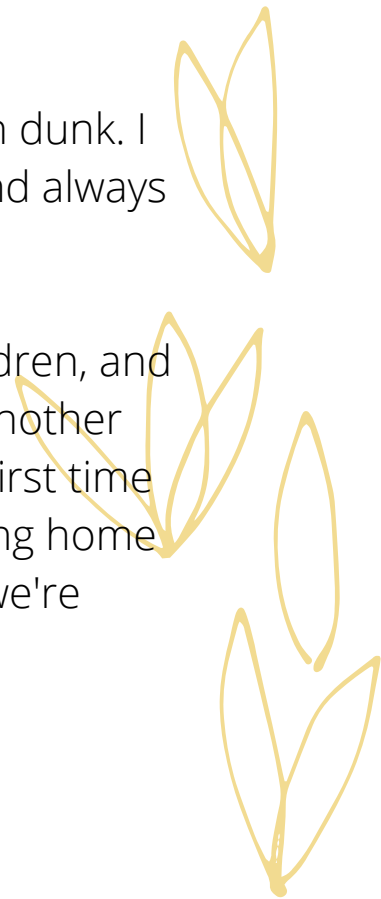
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# Matt



**Hi, I'm Matt!** I grew up riding my bike around my neighborhood in Wisconsin with my Mom Kathleen, my Dad Kurt, and my three sisters -- who I still love to hang out with today. I graduated from Marquette University and then spent a year and half volunteering at a home for kids in Mexico. The connections I made with those amazing kids made me sure I wanted to adopt. Now, I teach middle school in a bilingual program with kids who speak English and Spanish. I love to camp and backpack, and can't wait to take our kids on hiking trips when they are old enough.

**Fun fact:** I'm very, very tall - 6' 10". Yes, I can dunk. I also love being outside, but I hate spiders, and always make Andrea take care of them!

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**On being a dad:** I've always wanted two children, and can't wait to complete our family through another adoption. The day we held our son for the first time was the most amazing day of my life. Bringing home another child and knowing -- that's it -- we're complete now, will be incredible.



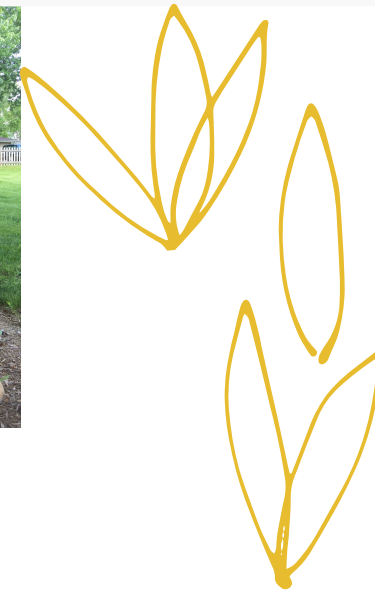
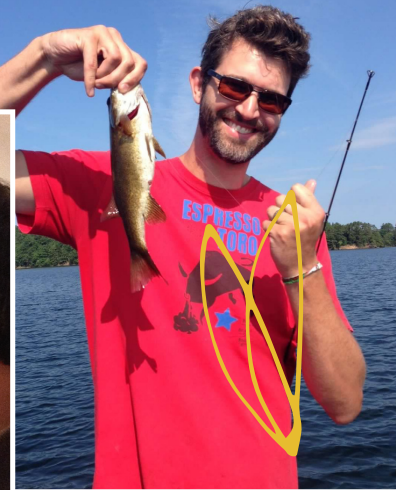
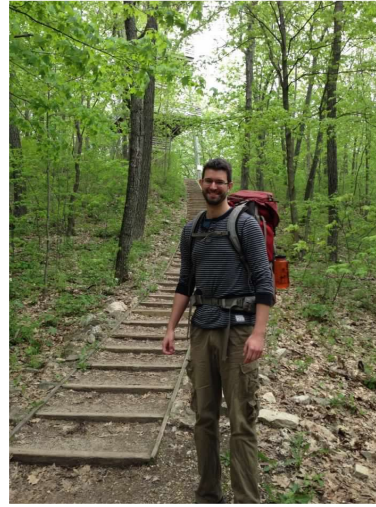
## What Andrea says about Matt...

Matt is one of the kindest people I have ever met in my life, and he also has a wicked sense of humor.

He is my best friend. He truly admires and cares for every one of his students, and works so hard to help each of them succeed. His students call him the “weird, cool, and goofy teacher,” and love being in his class.

I know that in our family, Matt will always be there with unconditional love, support and strength. He is an amazing husband, and it's been a joy watching him become a father.

I know he will cherish our future child with the same ferocity that he loves our son.







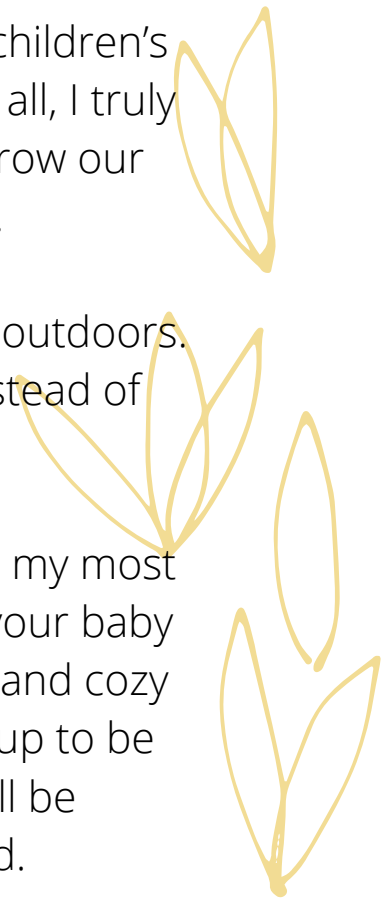
# Andrea



**Hi, I'm Andrea!** I grew up in a little house in Wisconsin with my mom, Susie, and my dad, Jim. I truly could not have had better parents. They encouraged me to be kind, smart, and honest. When I fell down -- which I did, a lot! -- they picked me back up, brushed me off, and encouraged me to get back out there. I graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a masters in stream ecology (I love fish!) and a law degree. Now, I work for a local city doing what I love and trying to make our corner of the world a better place. You'll find me kayaking down the river, goofing around with our son, hanging out with Matt and our awesome dog, Duke, and writing children's books about kids and science. But most of all, I truly love being a mother, and would love to grow our family of three into a family of four.

**Fun fact:** I love fish, bugs, lakes, and being outdoors. I will always catch and release spiders instead of swatting them!

**On being the best Mom I can be:** By far, my most important job is Mama. I promise to give your baby love, support, the chance to go to college, and cozy family time. I will help your baby to grow up to be whoever they want to be, and they will be unconditionally loved and cherished.





## What Matt says about Andrea...

One of the first things that struck me about Andrea was her compassion and kindness.

As a mother, a lawyer, a wife, and a best friend, she is constantly motivated by her desire to do well by others.

I knew these qualities would make her a good mother, but it's honestly been humbling for me to see how Andrea loves, cares for, and nurtures our son and family.

I knew being parents would change us, but I never knew how much of a transformation it would be. Now that we're fully into parenthood, I feel so much gratitude when I reflect on the simple fact that I get to spend the rest of my life with her.





# Our Relationship

## **We both almost backed out of our first date!**

Thankfully, we both showed up, and it was the best first date of our lives! In fact, Matt texted Andrea as soon as he got in his car to see when he could see her again.

After that first date, we pretty much knew that was it! We dated for two years, got married, and adopted our son a year later. It's been an amazing journey together - lots of good jokes, bad jokes, and happiness.

Our relationship is extremely strong, and gets better every year. We have an amazing family with lots of kids that lives close by, and a close group of friends supporting us.









# Jacob

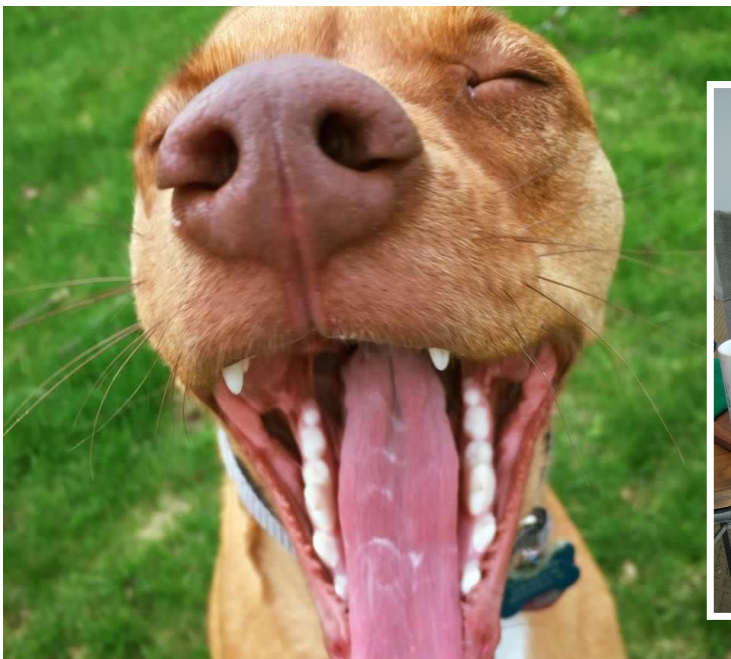
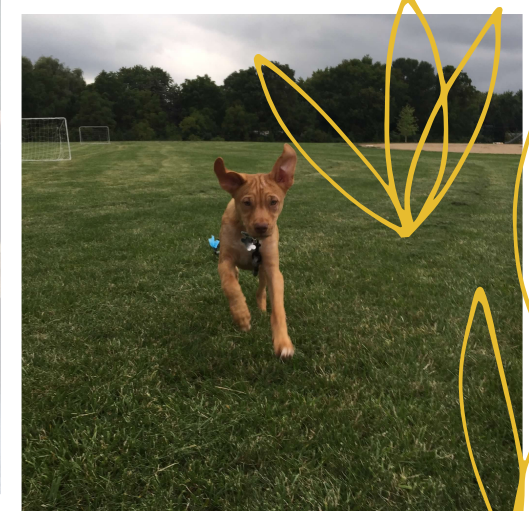
Jacob became our son through adoption! He loves playing outside with our dog so much that sometimes we can't get him to come inside, rain or shine! We can't imagine our lives without him. He is kind and playful, and will take great care of his little brother or sister.





# Duke

Duke the Dog absolutely loves his people, and especially loves kids. He's really gentle with Jacob and every other kid he meets - though sometimes he gives too many kisses :) He loves to go on walks with his family, eat food Matt and Andrea have dropped, and chase squirrels in the yard. He's looking forward to having a new baby around to nap with.





# Home

We live in a beautiful, safe neighborhood with lots of kids and incredibly good schools. Our home is warm and friendly.

We have a big fenced backyard with plenty of room to play, and a garden full of flowers. A beautiful park with a playground, baseball diamond, and soccer field is only two blocks away. We can't wait to teach our child how to ride a bike on our quiet street!

But most importantly, our home is filled with joy, love, the smell of baking, and the sound of laughter.





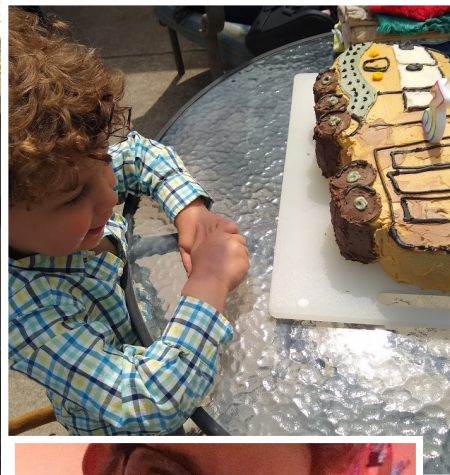




# Family Traditions

Christmas is cozy in our house, and Thanksgivings are full of family. Matt grills a crazy good Thanksgiving turkey, and Andrea always bakes Christmas cookies with our son, just like she did with her mom as a little girl. Grandparents, nieces and nephews come over after we celebrate as a family, and sit by the fire late into the night on Christmas day.

Andrea loves to make everyone a special birthday cake, and Christmas stockings. Jacob specifically asked for a giraffe, a hairy brown cow, a tiger and a pig!





# Travel

## Lake House and Florida!

We have lots of family in Florida, and we consider Florida our second home! Andrea has spent lots of time in Florida since she was a little girl, and now we bring our son. We love staying in Florida every year and plan to keep doing that in the future.

In the summer, you'll find us "up north" at our lake house. The beach is right out our front door, so you'll find us going for swims, boating, hanging out down at the beach, and eating fudge at the local shop.







# Why Adoption?

We have known we wanted to adopt since before we got married! Matt decided adoption was right for him when he spent time working with kids in Mexico, and Andrea knew she wanted to adopt after a college sports injury would have made pregnancy difficult. We have never felt that adoption was a “lesser” choice or a loss -- it’s always been our first choice!

Adopting our first son was the most important experience of our lives. We can't wait to welcome his brother or sister.

Our family of four will be complete.



# Open Adoption



We feel very strongly that as your baby's birth mother, **you choose what type of relationship you'd like with your baby, and with us.** If you'd like visits, we'll happily make that happen. If you'd like photos and letters, we'll be happy to send you lots. We have a wonderful relationship with our first son's birthmother, and we've always been guided by her wishes.

We would really love to share your story with your baby as they grow up. But most importantly, **we'd love to hear what you'd like.**

You are also always going to be the hero of your baby's adoption story, and when we talk about you -- which we will do, often! -- we will always make your baby know how much you love them, and what a wonderful person you are.



# Thank You!

Before closing, we'd just like to thank you one more time for reading about us, and considering us as a family for your baby. We are so excited to have a second child, and we know that doing so will complete our family. We know this is a very difficult process for you -- one that takes a great deal of love and trust and hope.

*We promise you honesty and respect, absolute love for your child.*







*You are amazing  
and  
you've got this!*

