



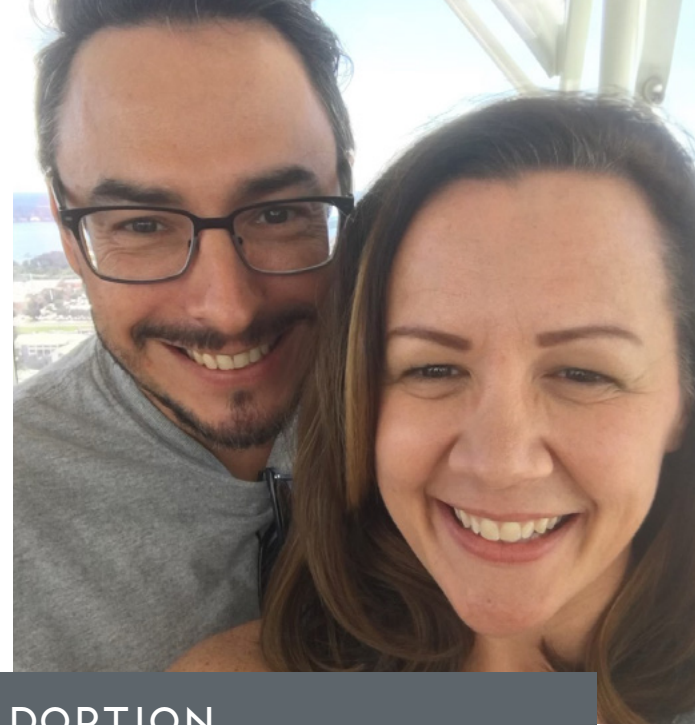
# HELLO!

## WE ARE MIKE *and* JENNIE

We met in physics class when we were 16 and became fast friends. We remained buddies for six years, until one day we realized that our affection was developing into romance. Six years later we married. Ever since, we've enjoyed a strong partnership that has enabled us to pursue career success, endure infertility and loss, and grow together as people. We are both fortunate enough to come from large families and have many nieces and nephews. Our home is full of laughter and love, and it would be a gift to share what we have.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING US TODAY. FOR ALL THE STEPS TO COME ON YOUR PATH, WE WISH YOU ONLY PEACE AND FAITH IN YOURSELF. WHATEVER DECISION YOU MAKE WILL BE THE RIGHT ONE.

*Mike and Jennie*



## OUR JOURNEY TO ADOPTION

When Mike and I married, we planned (after much careful discussion) not to have children. Mike already had a son, Devin, who lived nearby and with whom we had a wonderful relationship. Since Mike and I have been friends since high school, I had the pleasure of knowing Devin his entire life. Mike was a natural as a father, honestly one of the best I've ever seen. ***In fact, observing their connection and relationship over the years helped lead me to the realization that I did want to add more children to our family.***

***Mike emphatically agreed.***

Devin was enthusiastic at our plans, commenting "that kid will take over the world!" We were thrilled with his reaction and couldn't wait to make him a big brother. Shortly afterward, Devin moved a few hours away to attend college. College brought some turbulence for Devin, and he struggled mightily with declining mental health in these years.

In the summer of 2016, we lost Devin to his illness. Our hearts were broken, and we withdrew from the world to mourn. Now, after some time (and with years of therapy), we feel ready and excited to add to our family through the gift of adoption.

**WE CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO HONOR  
DEVIN'S LIFE THAN THROUGH SHARING THE LOVE WE  
HAVE WITH ANOTHER CHILD.**



## MEET JENNIE

### AS TOLD BY MIKE

From the beginning, Jennie had an irresistible spirit and charm that had me hooked. As we spent time together through the years and our friendship flourished into a romantic relationship, I knew Jennie was my person. She is a funny person, very clever. She takes care of me, and of others, doing small things that let us know we are loved (like setting up my coffee pot every night before bed). She's good at balancing sternness with kindness.

Jennie is a caring, supportive, loving, and a true partner. She works hard to understand herself, and she applies the things she learns to improve our happiness and overall mental health. I have adored watching her love, support, and mentor my son Devin, along with our eleven nieces and nephews.

**I TRULY BELIEVE JENNIE IS ALREADY A MOM, JUST WAITING FOR A CHILD WHO NEEDS HER LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE.**

# MEET MIKE

AS TOLD BY JENNIE

Mike is the nicest person I've ever met. We were close friends for several years before we started dating; in that time, I was known to say, "the woman who ends up with Mike will be incredibly lucky." What a wonderful surprise it was when that woman turned out to be me! Mike is sympathetic and gentle, and truly cares whether I am happy. He makes me laugh, and (even better) he laughs at all my jokes and bits.

Mike works hard at his remote job in IT and is a considerate officemate as well as a mindful husband. He is handy around the house and yard, cooks dinner most nights, shares dish duty, and cleans the bathroom. He even leaves the seat down on the toilet—all the time! How many spouses can say that?

I CAN'T IMAGINE A BETTER PARTNER THAN MIKE, AND I AM OVERJOYED AT THE PROSPECT OF RAISING CHILDREN WITH HIM.





## OUR HOME

We have a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home on a tree-lined cul-de-sac, with cats and a pool. We have lived here for 7 years and have fixed it up quite a bit, which is something we enjoy doing. This home was built in the 1970s, and lucky us, we purchased it from the original owners! We spend a lot of time close to home. Our pool is refreshing in the heat, and our neighborhood is green, spacious, and safe. Our area is adjacent to a large lake. We often take walks or ride bicycles to the lake to see birds, turtles, gators, and more (all from a safe distance)! We've taken our nieces on many excursions over the years and look forward to the day we can share these adventures with our own brood.

*Our cats are child-tested and child-approved; they love all of our nieces and neighbors!*

*Jennie's stepmother was an infant swim instructor who taught infants and toddlers pool survival skills for many years.*



While we are frequently found at home or at nearby bodies of water, we do venture out to our city's downtown area to visit restaurants and parks (the largest of which hosts local and cultural festivals throughout the year), or to Orlando to attend events. We are patrons of the performing and visual arts scene, which provide us with a multitude of artistic, scientific, historical, cultural, and social experiences.



*In this family, we...*

RESPECT, ENCOURAGE, AND  
CELEBRATE ONE ANOTHER

LISTEN ACTIVELY

SHOW KINDNESS TO ALL LIVING THINGS

CONSIDER THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS

ACCEPT IMPERFECTIONS



# OUR PROMISES



**We promise to love** your baby fiercely and forever. We understand the great responsibility we've been trusted with, and take that gift seriously.

**We promise** your baby will be raised safely with tender loving care in our home. We believe in attachment parenting, gentle parenting, and respecting children as people.

**We promise to support** your child. While it is our job to shepherd them and shape them, we know that each child is an individual! They innately desire to make their voices heard because they believe in themselves, and we promise you: we will encourage that.

**We promise** you can trust that our solid and diverse family unit will support your child as they grow into a strong and good person. With two huge families and one lifelong career in education, we have a mountain of experience with kids of all ages.

**We promise** to honor you and your story. Your child will understand that we have a duty to you, which is to do our very best for them, all the time. We promise you—and we promise them—that we will.

HOW COULD WE EVEN BEGIN TO ADEQUATELY EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR WHAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING? TO TRUST ANOTHER TO LOVE YOUR BABY, RESPECT THEM, AND NURTURE THEM TO BE A CAPABLE, KIND, INTELLIGENT HUMAN. . . THIS WOULD BE AN IMMESURABLE GIFT. BUT PLEASE TRUST THAT WE WOULD SPEND OUR ENTIRE LIVES THANKING YOU FOR IT!

*Mike and Jennie*





THE FAMILY IS ONE OF  
*nature's masterpieces.*

GEORGE SANTAYANA