

Sierra +
Ben



hello!

W E A R E S O H O N O R E D

that you have taken the time to learn more about us. We are grateful that you are considering if our family would be a good fit for you and your child.

We hope that you feel supported and loved through this journey. The fact that you are even reading our letter speaks volumes to how strong and incredibly brave we feel you are. We cannot imagine what this journey and decision is like for you, but please know we think so highly of you.

THROUGH THIS BOOK, WE HOPE YOU SEE THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR EACH OTHER, OUR FAMILY, YOU, AND YOUR CHILD IF YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE AN ADOPTION PLAN WITH US.





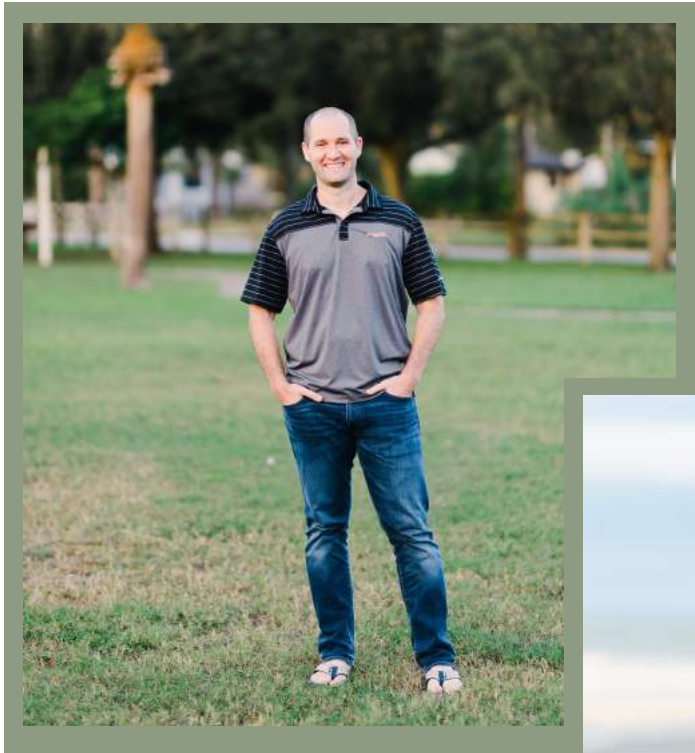
- Color: Peach *fun facts*
- Food: Mashed potatoes
- Hobby: Crafting, I have a Cricut and love to make stickers and decals
- Growing up I wanted to be a veterinarian or nurse
- Career: I manage and oversee primary care offices for large corporations



HELLO,
Sierra
I'M SIERRA

I have lived in 7 states/14 cities since college. From Hawaii to Michigan to Texas to Connecticut. My job after college required traveling to new locations every 3 to 4 months and it was such an amazing opportunity to see different communities and cultures within our country. Hawaii was by far my favorite with all the beaches and Michigan was my least favorite with all the snow! One of my quirks is that I am always 15 minutes early, whether it's meeting someone for dinner or going to an appointment. My mom has always been the same way. My first job (and by far my favorite) was working at an ice cream store in high school. It was a touristy area so I got to meet many people visiting from all over the world, even celebrities! Jerry Springer was a frequent customer. Aside from meeting people, I loved getting to eat all the ice cream and chocolates during lunch break!

I love doing puzzles when I wind down at the end of the day. They have to be 1000 or more pieces though, which generally take a month or two for me to get done. My favorite puzzles are beach scenes or dog pictures. I love Hallmark Christmas movies! Every year around Christmas time, we will get bundled up on the couch to watch predictable yet heartwarming movies. My favorite is "A Royal Christmas."



- Color: Teal *fun facts*
- Food: Tacos (of all flavors)
- Hobby: Soccer
- Growing up I wanted to be a soccer player
- Career: I am an actuary, working for a healthcare company doing data analytics

HELLO,
BEN
I'M BEN



The furthest I have lived from where I grew up was when I lived in Hawaii. All the sunshine, sand, and freckles anyone could ask for. My one regret was not trying surfing while I was out there. I did get to do some skydiving though. I can't begin to describe the rush of adrenaline when jumping out of a plane from that high up!

I've gone to two separate world cups! The first was in Cape Town, South Africa, and the other was in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We went to a national preserve and got to see 4 of the "big 5": giraffes, zebra, rhinos, and lions. Fun fact - South Africa has penguins. We actually went to a beach and got to swim with them (well, near them). A few of them were pretty curious. But none of that will trump swimming with the sharks! We took a little boat out to Gansbaai island, where we went down in a little cage and watched great white sharks chasing seals all around the island. Thankfully, none of the seals were caught that day, but we saw over a dozen sharks and hundreds of seals enjoying the great weather. It was surreal seeing such ferocious creatures in their natural habitat, and the metal cage did not feel thick enough. Brazil was just as fun but had quite a different atmosphere. We spent our time in Rio, eating all sorts of fun foods and dancing the days away. With soccer on every TV, there was always someone enjoying the World Cup and cheering on a team or a goal. We got to see the amazing Selaron's stairs, a giant mosaic staircase. We went to SugarLoaf Mountain and enjoyed an amazing sunset view of the city. We even made it to see the grand statue Christ Redeemer, a truly wondrous statue to behold. My buddies and I had an absolute blast and would love to go to another World Cup in the future.

Snapple fact of the day: I'm the least handy person you'll ever meet. I'm terrible with a saw and if you give me a hammer, I'm more likely to put a hole in the wall than hit a nail. I've managed to even be dangerous with screwdrivers at times. My redeeming quality is that I was upfront with Sierra about that and she got a kick out of it. Thankfully, she is the exact opposite and has adopted the strategy of having me "hold this here" while she does what home repairs are needed. At least I'm somewhat useful. I have lived in 5 separate cities in Florida. What can I say, I love the beach (and the humidity, lol, although my wife might disagree)! I've spent countless hours grilling by the pool or lounging at the beach. Florida has fantastical weather for all sorts of fun outdoor activities as well. Whether it's the trampoline and slip-n-slide outback or the bike paths around the neighborhood, we are always out and about while soaking up the sun. I'm a huge FSU fan. I actually grew up in Tallahassee and went to FSU. I have so many fond memories of my time there, and we make it a point to visit at least once a year.

What I find amazing about Sierra is her capacity for kindness. She always sees the best in people. She is genuinely one of the sweetest people I have ever met! Her compassion and kindness make her an amazing wife and mother. It also makes her easy to be around, which is good seeing as we are together 24/7. We are the lame couple that goes everywhere together, tickling each other, and having water fights with the hose. She's an amazing and happy person that helps me take myself a little less seriously. You can never have too much kindness or happiness in the world, something Sierra reminds me of every single day!

love, Ben

I knew Ben was the one from the day I met him. He is the most patient person I've ever met and he keeps me grounded. He is my best friend, soulmate, and biggest cheerleader. He always supports me in the decisions I make or the crazy ideas I have when it comes to new building projects or crafts. He is truly the best partner anyone could ask for!

love, Sierra





WE MET IN COLLEGE BUT DID NOT START DATING UNTIL 6 YEARS LATER WHEN WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER AT A HOLIDAY PARADE.

We dated long-distance for a year while Sierra was traveling for work and Ben was in Hawaii on a new work assignment. We both decided to move in together and settle down in Florida. About a year after living together, we got engaged on a trip to NYC. We got married at a Costa Rica ceremony in 2015 with our family and closest friends. Shortly after we married, we purchased our first home in Tampa.

We always knew we wanted children. We decided after 3 years of marriage that we would expand our family through adoption. In August of 2020, we were blessed and our beautiful baby girl was born after we matched with a courageous woman. In 2022, Sierra's 16-year-old niece, Mya, moved in with us for her final few years of high school. She has been amazing to have around as well and keeps us up to date on all the teen slang.

More about us..

- We met at FSU and are die-hard Seminole football fans. We go to at least one game a year. We love FSU so much that we named one of our dogs Renegade after the FSU horse mascot.
- A few times a month, we spend our weekend mornings walking the beach looking for shells and shark teeth.
- We love to travel! We try to explore new tropical locations each year. Last year we took a cruise to the Bahamas, which was Mya's first time going. We had a blast playing at the beaches and exploring the towns.
- We love amusement parks and roller coasters! Every summer for the last several years we have taken Mya and her brother, Darien, to Universal Studios to get Butterbeer and ride the Escape from Gringotts roller coaster. Now we try to go to Disney as often as we can so Aubrey can see her favorite characters like Minnie Mouse and Moana.
- For our first date, we went to dinner at Chili's. Ben knew Sierra was the one when she reached over and took a spoonful of his mashed potatoes. That's when we realized that mashed potatoes were both of our favorite foods and it has been a running joke for us. Now Ben always orders an extra side of mashed potatoes when we go out to eat.



WE RECENTLY FINISHED BUILDING OUR FOREVER HOME.

It is 4 bedroom, 4 bath with an office and playroom. We fell in love with the floor plan and location because it was perfect for 3 kids and has a large, oversized backyard for a playset or even soccer goals! Our neighborhood is a new development in the top school district in the state. The schools are just a short golf cart ride away and all A-rated. We also love that the neighborhood has multiple pools and a fun splash pad for the kids to play in. We spend most of our weekends at the splash pad. We live around the corner from downtown Saint Augustine which is an amazing, historic community with local shops, restaurants, live music, and one of the most amazing Christmas light shows during the holidays.

We have 2 dogs, Kona and Renegade, that we got before we were married. Kona is a mini husky and the queen of the house. She is the perfect guard dog and loves to give Aubrey kisses. Renegade is an oversized goldendoodle that thinks he is a lap dog. Renegade and Aubrey are best friends and love to snuggle on the couch.





THIS IS
Aubrey + Nya





Aubrey

Aubrey loves all animals but especially our 2 dogs and our neighbor's cats. Whenever we go outside, Aubrey runs over to the neighbors to say hi to their cats. She also loves to share her snacks with our dogs and she makes it a point to split the snacks 50/50 with each dog so they don't miss out.

Aubrey is very active and enjoys running around at the park or playing in the neighborhood splash pad. She absolutely will be an outdoorsy ball of energy for years to come! Aubrey's favorite hobby is painting, specifically finger painting. It's not uncommon for her to get more paint on her shirt and hands than it is for her to get paint on the paper, but that's what makes it fun!



Mya

Mya is our niece that plays a big role in our lives. She lived with us for a year and is now spending her senior year with her friends preparing for college.

While Mya is now too cool to admit this out loud, her favorite book(s) is the Twilight series. She's read all the books at least twice and has watched all the movies way more than that. Mya grew up on a farm and has a love for all animals. She's been riding horses and raising chickens since she was 6 but her favorite of all the animals were the barn cats. While most barn cats live in the barn, Mya would sneak them into her room to snuggle.

When Mya is not at school or working, she loves to play dress up with Aubrey. They are the best of friends and it's really amazing to watch the bond they have.



A D O P T I O N H A S A L W A Y S
B E E N A P A R T O F S I E R R A ' S F A M I L Y .

Sierra's sister was unable to care for her children without help. Sierra's sister's first daughter was placed for adoption when Sierra was 13. We were strongly considering adopting her niece (Mya) and nephew (Darien) when Sierra's parents made the decision to raise them. Sierra's sister still remains a special part of their lives. As a result, we have witnessed firsthand just how beneficial it is for them to have their mother in their lives. We have always envisioned having 2-3 children and are looking to expand our family with a sibling for Aubrey.

AUBREY'S ADOPTION WAS TRULY A
"MEANT TO BE" MOMENT.

Ben was catching up with an old friend on the phone that he hadn't spoken to in over a year. Ben mentioned that we were pursuing adoption and his friend remembered that his wife's, coworkers, sister was pregnant and looking to create an adoption plan. We were able to meet Mama J one weekend and it was such an amazing experience. Mama J wanted us to pick out the first name and she was going to pick out the middle name for the baby. It was a perfect match when she picked the middle name we had always dreamed about if we were to have a daughter. It just so happens to also be Mama J's middle name. Aubrey was born at the height of COVID and Mama J wanted Sierra to be with her in the hospital for the birth.

S H E I S S U C H A K I N D A N D T H O U G H T F U L W O M A N ;
W E A R E T R U L Y L U C K Y T O H A V E H E R I N O U R L I V E S .



our family

BY SIERRA

"Ben's dad grew up in Hawaii and brings that aloha spirit with him every time he visits. He's retired now and we see him every few weeks. When he visits, he loves to bring Hawaiian food and a fun gift for Aubrey. He really enjoys going to baseball games, so we make it a point to go to a local baseball game as well. Ben's mom is a year away from retirement and visits when she can. For every holiday, she sends each of us a fun card! The Halloween cards are Aubrey's favorite, they usually have a fun decorative element that Aubrey likes to display in her room. Ben has twin sisters that are just a few years younger than him. Suzannah is an incredibly talented architect that lives in Washington. She has a pet cat and hilarious levels of snark. She's my videogame buddy as we always chat about various games on the Nintendo Switch. I've already let her know the next World Cup is hosting games near her and we are coming to visit. My other sister is Tessa. She is quite the trailblazer as she works for Federal parks, doing everything from controlled burns to herding bison. One day we will travel out to Wyoming for a visit and join her on the bunny slopes for some skiing.



I have a small family and they are all within a short driving distance. My mom is my best friend and she comes to visit every few weekends. Our nightly routine includes facetimeing "Nana" so Aubrey can tell her all about her day and the fun adventures she had. While my relationship with my sister was strained growing up, it has improved these last few years as the health of our father declined. We frequently have facetime sessions with 'Auntie Hara.'"

SINCE WE BOTH TRAVELED A GREAT DEAL FOR WORK AFTER COLLEGE, WE HAVE FRIENDS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS SEVERAL FRIENDS THAT HAVE SETTLED NEAR US IN THE LAST FEW YEARS



Our friends Kristen and Brian have been a big part of our lives despite living a few states away. We have an annual vacation together to fun places like the Florida Keys or Louisiana. They have 3 children and we love getting them all together each year. We also have several friends with kids around Aubrey's age that live nearby. We love to meet them on the weekends at the neighborhood pool for the kids to play together on the water slides and at the splash pad. Ben's friend from elementary school, Kyle, shares a passion for growing fruit trees and watching football. He has a daughter just a year younger than Aubrey. Aubrey and Avery love sneaking into the pantry for snacks when they come over to visit!

our traditions

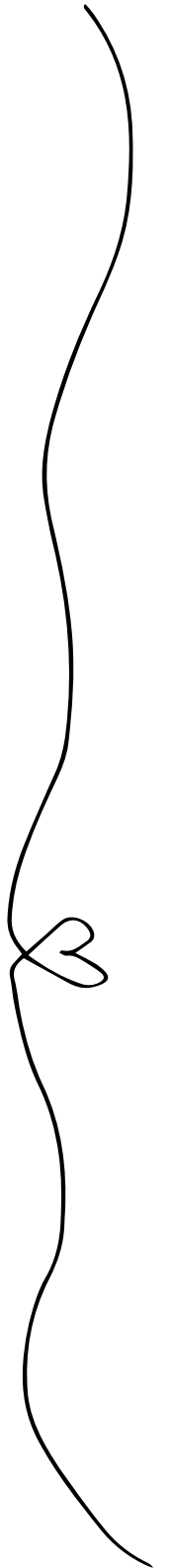
Board games during the holidays - We get a little competitive when it comes to game night with the family. Whenever we get together, our evenings after dinner are spent around the table playing uno, monopoly, or apples to apples.

After enjoying way too much food and pie on Thanksgiving at one of our parent's houses we head to the rivalry FSU vs UF football game to cheer on the Noles.

During our Spring Break/Easter week, we have an annual vacation with our friends Kristen and Brian (and their 3 little ones) to somewhere beachy.

The week of July 4th is a big week for our family. We love to celebrate the 4th of July, but it is also special as it is Mya's birthday on the 2nd and Ben's birthday on the 3rd! We enjoy grilling out and playing at the pool or beach.

We make hand-made Christmas ornaments for each of our family members every year. There is nothing more meaningful than a handmade present, it's always the thought that counts. This year Sierra made a snowflake ornament, layered with each person's name on it. Sierra had to design the snowflakes, cut them out with a wood laser cutter, and hand-paint each one.





we love to travel

so much so that we got married in Costa Rica! This is by far one of our favorite places we have gone to and it was so great to have our family there to experience the pura vida lifestyle. We love going to different theme parks as well. Aubrey's first trip to Disney included Grandpa and her discovery of bubble wands. She would just run in circles chasing the bubbles coming from her wand. Our annual trip this year with our friends Kristen and Brian was during Easter week. The kiddos had a blast searching for Easter eggs and playing in the pool. We are truly blessed to have such good friends and their girls absolutely adore Aubrey.







Thank you for allowing us to share our lives with you.

We believe this is likely a difficult decision for you, but please know we keep you in our thoughts. If you decide to choose us to be adoptive parents of your child, we look forward to sending you updates and photos as you feel comfortable.

We want you to feel loved and comforted as we figure this journey out together.

love, Sierra + Ben

MADE WITH LOVE BY
Luna *evermore*
DESIGNS CO. ADOPTION CONSULTANTS