

# Nate & Ben





# Dear Birth Mother

If you're reading our profile, you're likely considering one of the biggest decisions of your life. Although we haven't met yet, please know that you are loved and supported on your journey to finding an answer. We are truly grateful for your willingness to learn about who we are; our life together; and just how much love and laughter we hope to have the opportunity to share with you and your little one.

We believe that everyone has a story. In our own, adoption has always been a guiding theme. From the beginning, we've talked about "our kids" as though they are already a part of our family; and, in many ways, they are. So many aspects of our lives - home, jobs, and community - have been inspired by the dream of one day sharing our joy with children of our own. Ours is a family of mixed ethnicities and backgrounds, and we embrace the beauty in our differences. As a member of our family, your child would be raised in a home filled with adventure and learning; supported and encouraged to become the best version of themselves; and, most importantly, surrounded by the unconditional love of a village of family and friends.

We have a story, and so do you. We hope to learn more about yours - and, perhaps, to write the next chapter together - and wish you peace on the journey.



# Our Story



As two musicians growing up in small, Northeastern farming communities, we spent years crossing paths without formally meeting one another.

Years later - after graduating from the same university music program three years apart - we connected via mutual friends for what was supposed to be a casual day of group shopping. What we *didn't* expect was for all of our friends to bail, leaving us to get acquainted completely on our own! Upon meeting, it was like we'd known each other forever.

Four years later, we were surrounded by loved ones on our wedding day; and now, ten years later, we're ready to share our life and our love with a child.

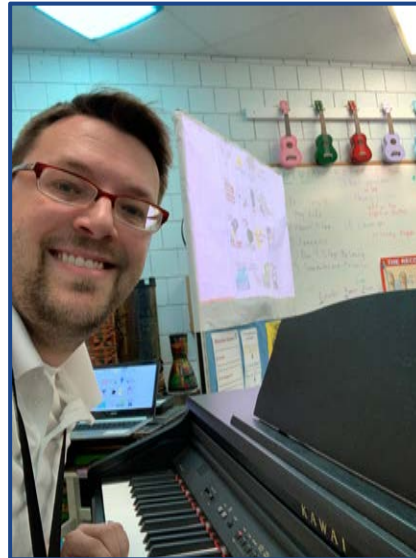
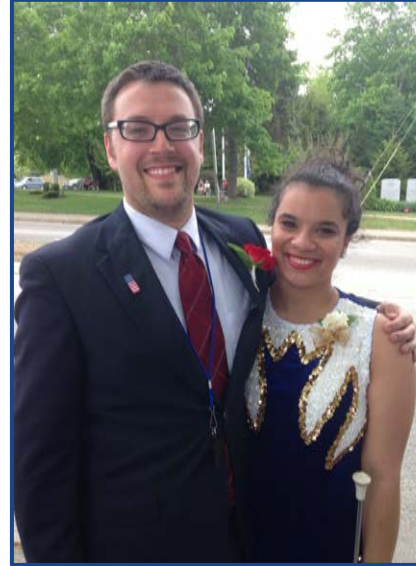


# Ben

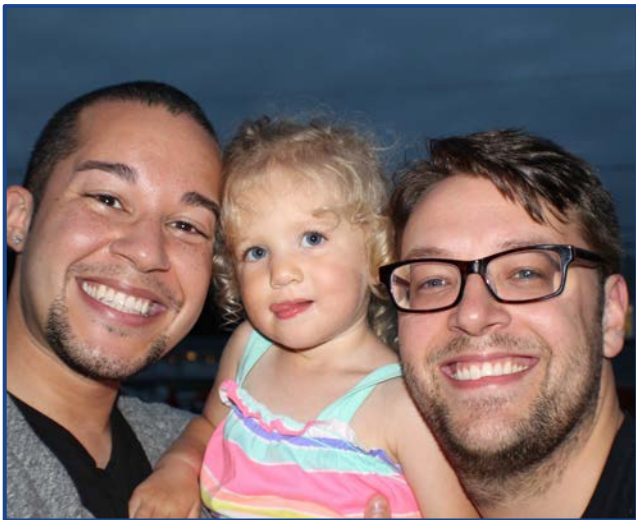
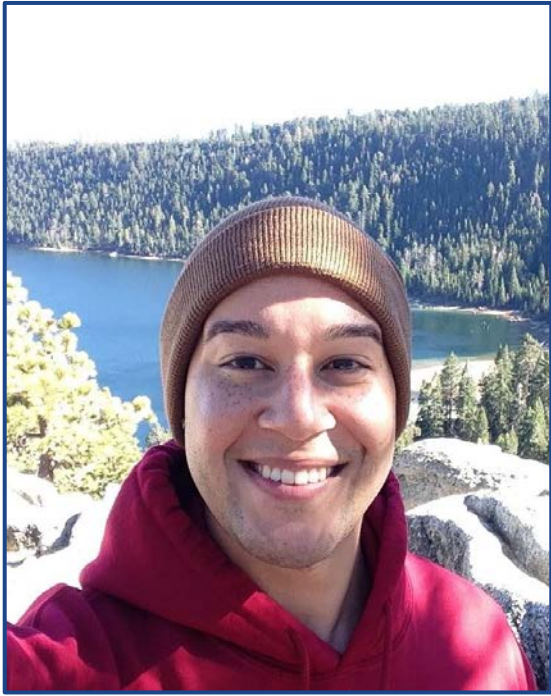
Growing up in rural Maine, Ben and his four siblings spent their childhood tending the garden, putting on family plays, and roaming the great outdoors. With no computer and only three TV stations (one in French!), Ben quickly learned to become creative and resourceful. His dad worked two blue-collar jobs, while his mom had a full plate simply making meals for the family of seven.

Eventually, Ben graduated from music school, earning a master's in music education. With 14 years of teaching experience, he is passionate about working with elementary children as a band, chorus, and general music teacher.

Ben is excited to begin his own family garden, and to help our child develop a green thumb of their own!







# Nate

Raised by a single mother in a rural farming community as the older of two sons, Nate was taught the value of hard work and education at a young age. After graduating as one of 23 students in his class, he moved to the city to study French, music education, and, eventually, to earn a master's degree in education policy. He's now spent more than a decade as a middle and high school choral music teacher, and is inspired by his work with teenagers each day. Between family leave and summer breaks, teaching will allow for ample time at home with our child.

As a classically trained singer who loves every genre of music, Nate frequently performs, and has his list of bedtime lullabies ready to go! He's also excited to share his love of all things French as we aim to become a bilingual household.

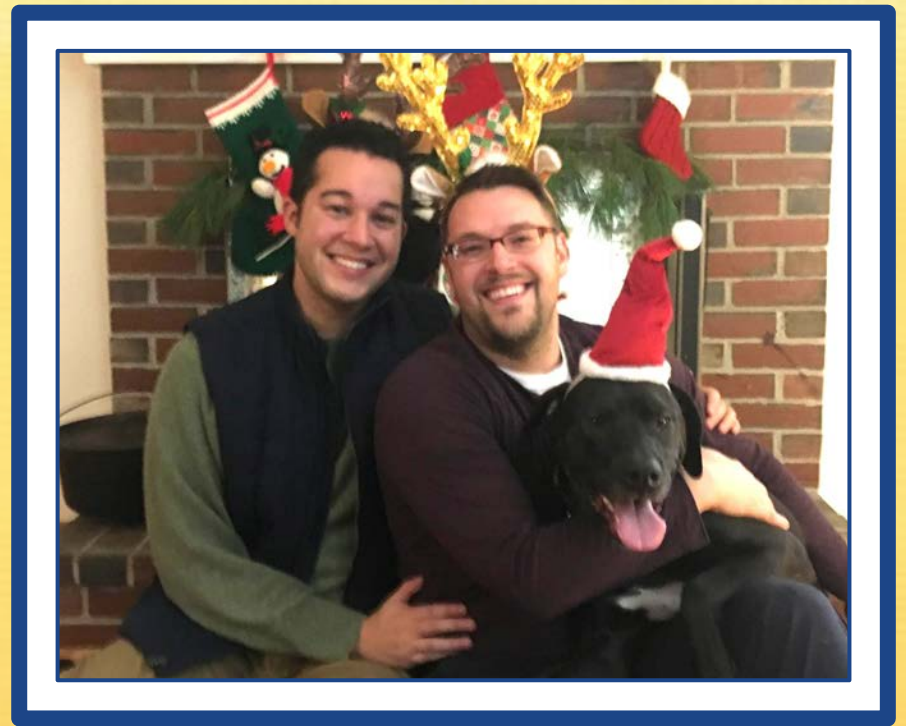


# Toby: Our Furry Friend

Wherever we go, the undisputed star of the show is our lovable, 5-year-old black Lab, Toby!

Adopted into our family as a 5-month-old puppy, Toby loves adventure just as much as his dads. He can often be found by our side, walking through the wooded trail near our home; tagging along for rides in the car; or shamelessly using his charm to snag a treat.

Toby is patient and gentle with kids, and can't wait to be a big brother!





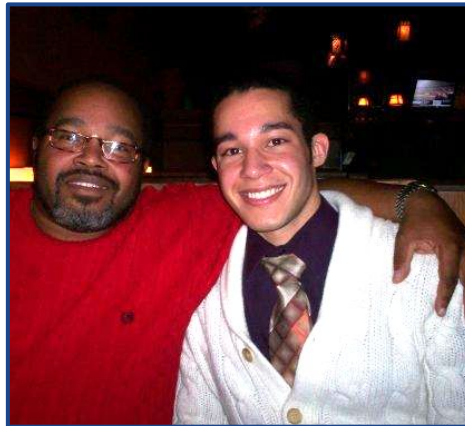
# Family & Friends

If it truly does “take a village to raise a child,” our friends and families are wonderful and supportive parts of our own village.

In many ways, our families are complementary. Nate’s is multiethnic; Ben’s is French-Canadian. Nate’s family is small and relaxed, while Ben’s is large and boisterous. More importantly, though, they are both tightly-knit, full of love, and, just like us, meld together beautifully. They’re also nearby, which is sure to make for frequent adventures!

Additionally, we are blessed to have a diverse group of close friends. Many have young children of their own, and can’t wait to add another sweet kiddo to the play group!

Our loved ones are thrilled to welcome a new addition through adoption, and will be some of our child’s greatest champions and most trusted guides as they discover and grow into their own identity.





# Things We Like To Do



As a couple, we tend to find the greatest joy (and the most fun) in the small things.

Ben is an avid outdoorsman, and has always enjoyed hiking, swimming, camping, keeping our lawn pristine, and digging around in the flower beds. In addition to being a skilled builder and grill master, he's our family's designated catcher of all things creepy-crawly (fortunately for Nate)!



Nate has loved to bake since the age of 9, and can be found rolling cookie dough with our nephew each Christmas. When not curled up with a good book and a cup of hot cocoa (marshmallows, please!), he's serving as our family's resident home decorator and organizer. He's also a pro at finding lost car keys (much to Ben's relief)!

Some of our best days are spent locally - trying new restaurants, catching a show at the local theatre, or exploring one of the many nearby beaches - but we've also caught the travel bug...



# Our Adventures

Traveling has been such an incredible way to learn about the world and its people, whether practicing our Italian skills in Milan; floating down the Seine River in Paris; or singing “The Sound of Music” on-site in Austria.

We’re thankful to have traversed the globe with friends, family, and even our students; but we’re ready for a little travel buddy of our own!

Doha, Qatar



The Swiss Alps



St. Petersburg, FL



London, England



# Where We Live

As much as we love to travel and explore, there really is no place like home. We're situated in a coastal Maine college town, just minutes from several beautiful beaches, a short jaunt to the bustling city of Portland, and home to a thriving school district. Nestled at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, our house is a cozy, four-bedroom colonial whose kitchen is filled with laughing relatives each Thanksgiving; whose deck hosts sunny afternoons of barbecue and friends each summer; and whose large backyard is home to the perfect evergreen for the world's most epic tree house!





# Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to get to know a bit about us. We hope that our paths cross soon so that we can begin to learn about you, too. Whatever you decide, we wish you all the best as this new chapter unfolds.

With love and gratitude,  
*Nate & Ben*

