

Clay
and
Melissa



DEAR FRIEND

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. If you are considering an adoption plan for your child, we are humbled to be considered as prospective parents. This decision is not a light one and we commend you for taking the courageous step to get to this point. We care for you and the level of care you receive bringing life into the world. We respect your choice to parent or consider an adoption plan. We would love to support you and your child in the process as well as come up with a plan for an open adoption, should that be what you desire. We promise to love your child unconditionally and provide a life full of opportunities. Every child deserves a loving home and whether that home is ours or yours we are excited to be a part of the process.

With Love,

elay + melissa






OUR STORY

We were both born and raised in Illinois, attended the same school kindergarten through high school. We always knew of each other but were not friends until later in high school. Then attended our senior prom together and decided to give dating a chance even though each of us had plans of attending colleges 9 hours apart. We continued to date long distance all throughout college years which we attribute to building our depth in friendship. We were married in June 2014 and moved to Colorado to start our life as newlyweds. During our time in Denver our love of exploring the outdoors grew and our faith as well. We moved to Washington in 2021 with a group starting a church. In recent years, we have desired to share our lives with children.

Both of us would love the opportunity to teach children about God's redeeming love. We believe that as humans we are designed for relationship with the God of the universe who created us and Jesus made a way through his perfect life, death and resurrection. Because of God's sacrifice for us and our adoption into His family we believe He is worthy of pursuing all of our days. We trust God for the when and how we will grow our family. God is the reason we know we can love and be equipped for our adoption journey. We trust him to guide us in our marriage and in every parenting decision. We honestly believe we can do nothing apart from him.



"In the exciting, the challenging and mundane, our home is filled with a genuine joy in doing life together."

meet melissa

Melissa has the biggest heart out of anyone I know. She cares so much about people and has dedicated her professional and personal life to helping others. As a physical therapist, she is able to help people in what can be the hardest time of their life. In our church, she leads women and has a desire to watch them grow. Melissa can also be found outside gardening, biking and relaxing by the pool with friends on a sunny day. I cannot picture life without Melissa. She is my number one fan and encourages me in all that I do. Our love grows for each other with every passing year and I cannot wait to see how she will extend that love to a child.

"Melissa is smart and compassionate and I know she will selflessly love our family as it grows in the future."

- Clay

MORE ABOUT MELISSA

AGE: 32

OCCUPATION: Physical Therapist

FAVORITE SHOW: Parks and Recreation

FAVORITE PLACE: Rocky Mountain National Park

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: All 4 seasons

PERFECT DAY: An early start with coffee and a plan to explore a new place outdoors for the day followed by pizza for dinner.



A hike with mom



Merry go round with friends

Meeting a friend's baby

IN MELISSA'S WORDS

meet clay

Clay is my best friend and I'm convinced he is the best person to do life with. He is loyal, a hard worker, and is constantly growing. Clay is a man of many skills and hobbies and is the champion of knowing random facts. In my eyes it seems he can learn how to do anything. As soon as he is done working from home each day, he is ready for a change in activity. He enjoys being in the yard, going for a run, or learning how to work on his car. He enjoys electronics, reading and biking as well. Clay has always desired to adopt and sees it as an opportunity to live out his faith. I know he is excited to become a father and I cannot wait to parent alongside him.

"Clay encourages me and makes me laugh. I feel loved every day and I trust he will do the same for our future children."

-Melissa

Fishing with our nephew



MORE ABOUT CLAY

AGE: 32

OCCUPATION: Design Engineer

FAVORITE MOVIE: Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

FAVORITE PLACE: The Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Learning about something new every day.

PERFECT DAY: Mountain biking in the morning, coming home to work on projects in and around the house in the afternoon.



Our extended families

Melissa's parents have been married for 38 years and live in Illinois. Melissa has one older brother who together with his wife have a 4 year old son. He is excited for more cousins. Together with Melissa's family we spend time in Florida fishing, adventuring and taking in great sunsets.

Clay has one younger brother and his parents have been married for almost 40 years. As a family we enjoy parks and exploring new hiking trails. We typically spend each Christmas with Clay's family. We frequently visit our families or they visit us as we value time together making new memories.



Family and a FL sunset



Melissa's extended family



Family at church on Christmas



Christmas with Clay's grandma

OUR CAT, MIA

Mia is our 6-year-old Bengal cat. She has an above average level of energy and personality for a cat. She is also sweet and gentle with children. Mia could really use some new entertainment around the house to keep her busy

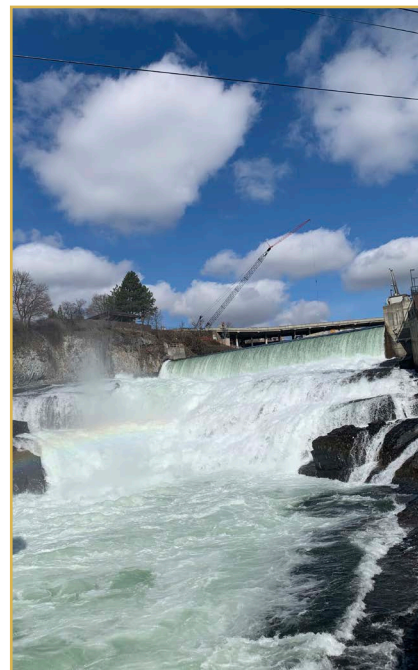


OUR HOME AND COMMUNITY

Our home is located in a medium sized city in Eastern Washington. We have a large yard filled with big trees, growing fruit, a pool and space for a childhood full of great memories. Our community is found in our church. Through this church family we are loved, cared for, prayed for and encouraged in our relationships with God. We are active in each other's lives and enjoy spending time together outside of church on Sundays. We volunteer in the community through our church and attend a weekly small group. We trust our future children will be loved well by this community and have plenty of friends.



Our church community



our friends

Our group of friends in Washington is diverse in age and many of our friends have children ranging from babies to teens. We frequently have dinner together throughout the week, meet up for walks, play games in a nearby park, have weekly pool days in the summer, camp and go for hikes. Outside of Washington we have great friends in Colorado, Illinois and a few other states; typically, we plan annual visits with these friend groups. We frequently stay in touch over Facetime as well.

"Clay and Melissa are faithful and steadfast friends. They are examples of a healthy marriage. They love our whole family with constant encouragement. We cannot wait for them to be in a new role as parents."

- Alex



Exploring the zoo with friends



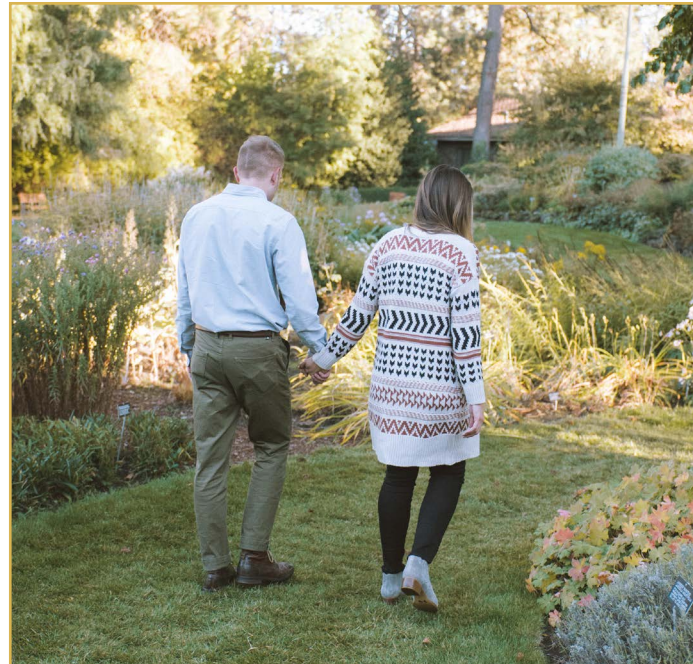
Out to eat



Meeting up with friends in the park

why adoption

Clay has always had the desire to adopt and it was a conversation we discussed prior to getting married. It has been something we have both researched in recent years and are united in starting our family by adopting.



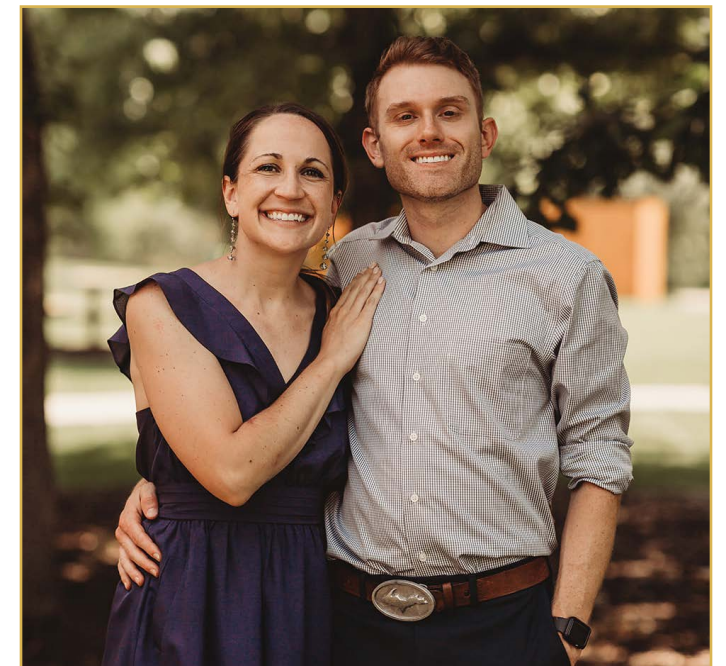
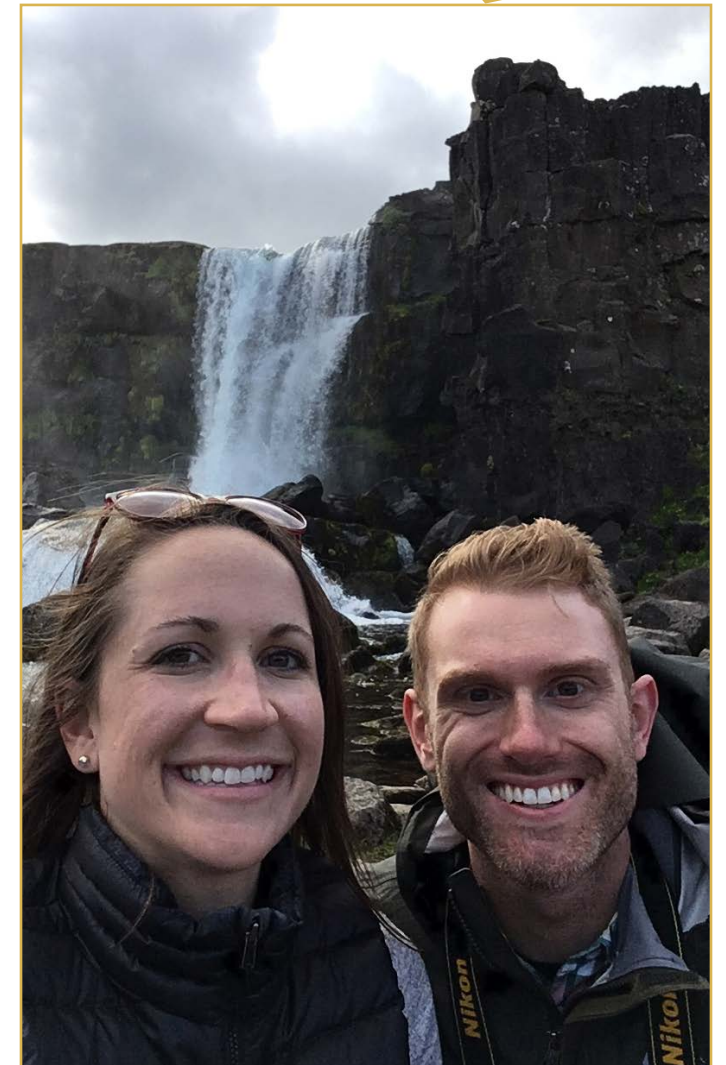
WE PROMISE

- ◆ To love you unconditionally.
- ◆ To encourage you in your gifts and talents.
- ◆ To honor and respect your adoption story.
- ◆ To raise you to know God.
- ◆ To give you great opportunities for education.
- ◆ To be truthful and strive for good communication.

FUN FACTS ABOUT

clay + melissa

- ◆ We love to travel to the National Parks.
- ◆ Clay raced go karts from age 10-20.
- ◆ Melissa speaks Spanish.
- ◆ We share many of the same hobbies: biking, hiking, skiing/snowboarding.
- ◆ We spent our (delayed) honeymoon in Iceland; 3 days mountain biking and then exploring waterfalls.
- ◆ We enjoy trying new restaurants for date night.
- ◆ We have apple, pear and cherry trees in our yard.
- ◆ We chop down our own Christmas tree every year.
- ◆ We love eating donuts together.
- ◆ We like to call each other Boss, as a nickname.





Thank you

Our 14 years together have been filled with adventures, challenges, joys and leaps of faith. "We are ready to share our lives with children and become parents. Thank you for making such a loving choice in considering an adoption plan for your child. We have so much respect for you and are honored you would consider us to be a part of this plan. Know that you are loved and being prayed for in this decision. Thank you for taking the time to read and see a glimpse of our life.

With Love,

clay + melissa