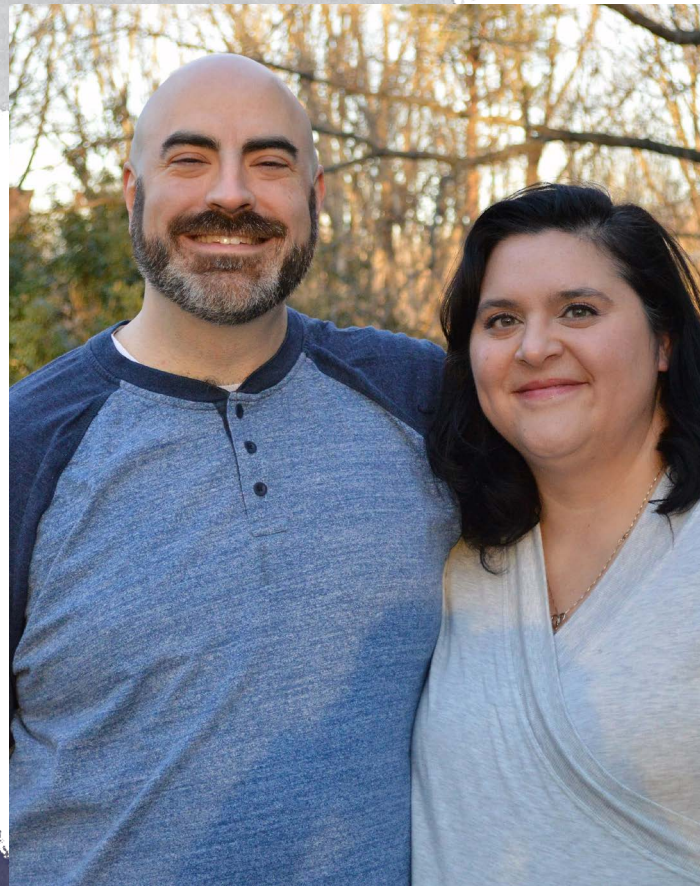


INTRODUCING
Erik + Teresa
WITH GABRIEL & MICHAEL





DEAR FRIEND

We are a fun and loving family from Virginia and we are honored that you chose to look at our profile book. While we don't fully understand what a difficult decision this is for you, we recognize that you are here because of the unconditional love you have for your child. We are here to support you however we can, and we pray that you find peace in your heart during this journey.

We want you to know that we are a family committed to each other. Our family values quality time together; from sharing meals and holding impromptu dance parties to movie nights and vacations. The time we spend together is important to us.

We are a family that will also be committed to you. If you choose us to parent your child, we promise to honor you, to speak openly and respectfully about your child's roots, and maintain any level of openness and contact you want to have. We promise to always put the needs of your child first and pledge that they will always know they are loved by you and by us.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us.

Respectfully,

erik + teresa
and gabriel and michael



"Love makes a family."

HOW WE MET

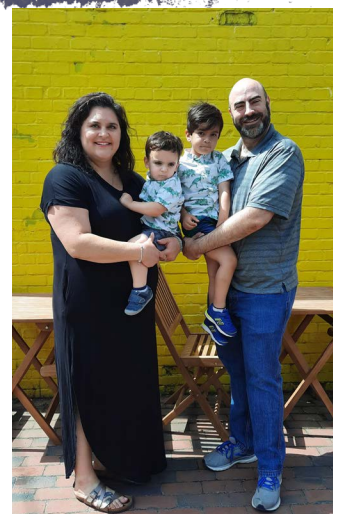
We met over 13 years ago in community band. We were both raised in musical households. Erik plays the French horn and Teresa plays the clarinet. When we met, Teresa was immediately interested in Erik and put on a good flirting game for a few months. Erik was oblivious... so she finally just asked him out one day after rehearsal. After that, Erik got the hint and invited Teresa out on a date to a wonderful dinner and a terrible movie! Three years later, we got married.

We enjoy being with friends and family and like to have planned or impromptu gatherings at our house and at our local parks. We always have a date night once a month, even if it is just to sit out on the deck and talk after the kids go to bed.



FUN FACTS & TRADITIONS

- Every year we have a costume party the weekend of Halloween in the backyard.
- Erik loves to garden, both vegetables and flowers.
- We have traditional Sunday dinner; we love to make Italian and Salvadoran recipes.
- Teresa marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with her college marching band.
- Fridays are family movie night. The kids alternate picking the movie.
- We go to the beach in the summer and rent a house in Chesapeake Bay in the fall. Together we unplug, cook, have s'mores, play games, and relax.
- We go back to the same yellow wall every year and take a photo.
- On Christmas day we open gifts and have a big brunch. In the evening we do a Christmas lights tour or visit the National tree followed by Chinese takeout.



MEET TERESA

by erik

Teresa is a wonderfully caring and strong person. She loves the people in her life with her all, and does whatever she can to make them feel loved. She is an incredible advocate for improving the world. She patiently and diligently cares for her family. She encourages us to express ourselves openly, helping us feel safe when we are vulnerable. She shows us her love with her warm food, kind words, and tight hugs. She helps me experience life to the fullest and supports me in all that I do.

"Teresa is loving and supportive of her family, and works hard to give us every opportunity to do the things we enjoy together."

- Erik



MORE ABOUT TERESA

OCCUPATION: Nurse

FAVORITE MOVIE: Moonstruck

FAVORITE PLACE: My parents' house with my extended family.

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Books and music (and chocolate)!

HER PERFECT DAY: Sleeping in on a crisp fall day, walking the dog, followed by a picnic lunch, and an evening of roasting s'mores while cuddled in blankets.



MEET ERIK

by teresa

Erik is one of the best people I know. He is so kind to everyone, genuinely, honestly kind. He means what he says and he follows through on it. When he arrives at a decision, I know he has thought it through from all angles. He is reliable but still silly (as evidenced by his million dad jokes). He loves unconditionally. I am lucky he is my partner in life.

"Erik is my rock in the storm. Just being around him makes me feel strong, safe, and at peace."

- Teresa



MORE ABOUT ERIK

OCCUPATION: Aerospace Engineer

FAVORITE MOVIE: Ghostbusters

FAVORITE PLACE: On vacation with my family.

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Coffee and airplanes.

HIS PERFECT DAY: A fresh brewed cup of coffee in the morning & then taking the kids to the nearby plane museum, teaching them how they work followed by grilling dinner out in the backyard.



MEET GABRIEL

*Gabriel is... sweet,
thoughtful, energetic,
silly & a feeler*

Gabriel is smart, funny, and full of life. He loves playing outside (perfecting his trampoline routine), reading, playing with cars, listening to music and doing puzzles. He likes to help mommy bake (mostly because he gets to lick the spoon) and his favorite color is rainbow. Gabriel is excited to start kindergarten in a dual language Spanish immersion program in the fall.



MORE ABOUT GABRIEL

AGE: 5

OCCUPATION: Head of Arts and Hospitality

FAVORITE MOVIE: Cars

FAVORITE PLACE: Being snuggled by one of my grandmothers.

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: My blue bunny love.

HIS PERFECT DAY: Morning snuggles with mommy, an outdoor family adventure with a picnic, board games, a lion roaring contest, and a trampoline dance.



MEET MICHAEL

*Michael is... a thinker, fearless,
physically affectionate,
determined & warm*

Michael is a quiet thinker. He loves to try new foods and adores animals. He wants to do everything his brother does. He loves wandering around the backyard exploring different things and looking at all the bugs and flowers. He likes to try to figure out how things work. He enjoys snuggling and showing you his toys. His favorite food is chocolate.



MORE ABOUT MICHAEL

AGE: 2.5

OCCUPATION: CEO of Pushing Limits

FAVORITE BOOK: Goodnight Goodnight Construction Site

FAVORITE PLACE: The zoo.

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: My puppy and cow stuffed animals.

HIS PERFECT DAY: Sleeping in, having a big breakfast, going to see the elephants at the zoo, followed by a snuggly nap, then trying to keep up with my brother outside before dinner.



OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

Our extended family all live within a 90-mile radius of us and we see them regularly. We love to meet at community events and festivals together. We spend most holidays together. We love playing games and we can get very competitive! Teresa's parents, "Mops and Pops", live on 6 acres of land and the kids love to spend time there exploring the outdoors. Erik's mom has a corner of her living room filled with toys and books for when the kids come over.



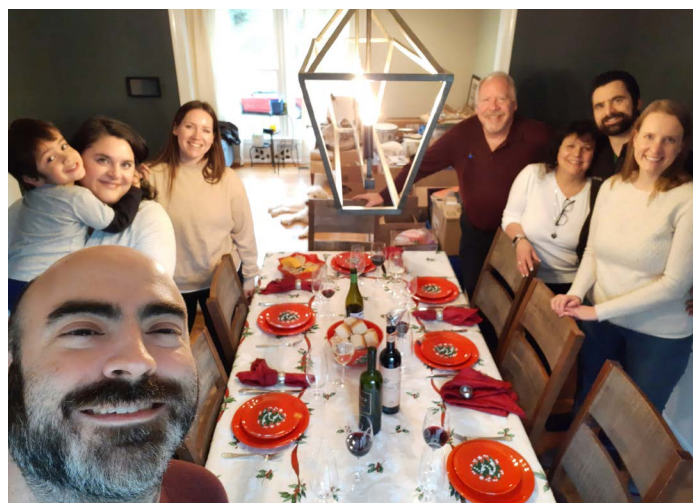
Erik's Parents



Silly with Grandma



Just Like Pops



Christmas Dinner



Outside Fun with Mops

OUR FRIENDS

We are grateful to have a strong village of friends we consider family. They have been so eager and supportive on our path to parenthood. They met Gabriel with open arms and took the time to educate themselves about adoption along our journey. Our friends couldn't be happier for us to continue to build our family and they look forward to another playmate for their children.



Heart Friends



Playset Lunch with Friends



National Tree Traditions



Backyard Birthday Party

*"Here's to the nights that
turned into days with friends
that turned into family."*

OUR HOME & COMMUNITY

We live on the end of a cul-de-sac with a lot of room to run! Our street is quiet and backs up to a county park. We have a playset and trampoline in the backyard and the neighborhood kids all play together. There are beautiful trees in the yard and the boys love to collect leaves and pine cones. Our hill out front is perfect for sledding in the snow. Our neighborhood is in a suburb of Washington, D.C., so we also have easy access to the city with many museums and culturally rich events.



Our Home



Our Backyard



The Perfect Sledding Hill

OUR DOG, LEMON

We have a sweet Goldendoodle named Lemon. We picked her out a of a pile of puppies 9 years ago and have been smitten ever since. She follows the boys around like they are her responsibility to protect. She loves when they read stories to her. She is goofy and energetic and absolutely thinks she is a person.

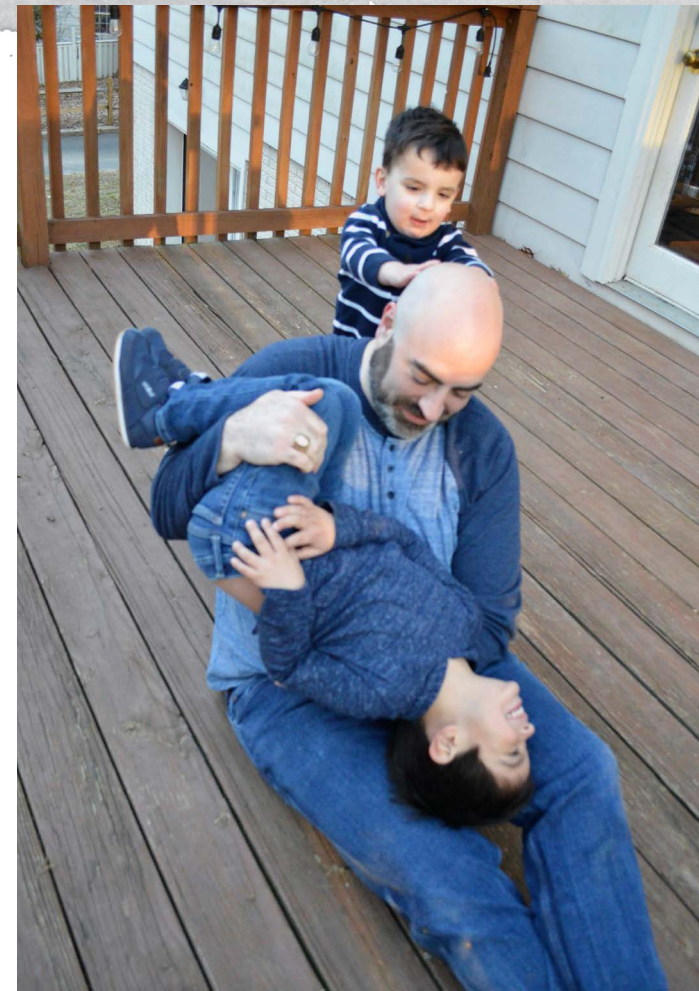


WHY ADOPTION?

Our oldest son, Gabriel, came into our family through adoption and we fell in love with him instantly. We are overwhelmed by the joy he brings to our life and the privilege of being his parents. We talk openly about adoption in our home regularly. We want Gabriel to feel empowered by his story. Our hearts expanded with the addition of Michael. Watching the boys grow has been a joy and honor, but as a family we feel like there is still a missing piece. We are looking for one more dance partner, for the little one to take the last swing on the swing set, for another opinion on movie night, for the one who will fill the last bit of our hearts.

OUR PROMISES TO YOUR CHILD

- To love you no matter what, no exceptions, for always.
- To honor your roots and your history.
- To be as present in the tough parts as we are in the easy parts.
- To always advocate for you and support you as you follow your dreams.
- To teach you to care for others, celebrate differences, and believe in yourself.
- To have at least a little bit of fun every day!





thank you

Although it is impossible to tell you everything about us in a few pages, we value the time you took to look through clips of our story. We want you to know that while we do not understand fully how difficult of a decision this is for you, we do know you are brave and strong, and here because you love your child. We are here to support you however we can with whatever decision you make. Thank you for your vulnerability and trust. If anything sticks with you about us, we hope it is that family is everything and love, in all its forms and decisions surrounding it, makes a family. We would really enjoy the opportunity to talk with you to and get to know you better. We are in your corner, whatever path you choose, and we pray that you find peace.

erik + teresa

