



INTRODUCING

*mark,  
brandon  
& olivia*

*"We want to teach our children to be responsible and compassionate people who celebrate diversity, respect the natural world around them, and choose love over hate."*



**DEAR FRIEND,**

It is very hard to express our feelings of gratitude for your commitment to your baby's health, happiness, and future. We cannot even imagine the hard decisions you are preparing to make but want to support you. We want you to know how dedicated and passionate we are about helping you provide a safe, loving, and happy life and home for your child.

The sound of children giggling makes us smile and fills us with joy. Having a child has been the best and most rewarding part of our lives. We adopted Olivia and have wanted to do so again since we brought her home from the hospital. We are financially and emotionally ready to grow our family one more time. We are eager to provide a warm, loving, and supportive home for your baby.

We pledge to you that we will do everything in our power to raise this child with unlimited love, support, and devotion, and will immerse them in the best educational opportunities possible. For this child, we will continue to fill our home with laughter, love, healthy food, family and friends, opportunities for knowledge and continued curiosity, and so much more.

*mark, brandon  
and olivia*



## ABOUT US

We have been together since 2002 – happily married since 2009. We are both professors and are so lucky to be able to collaborate in life and in work, which allows us to travel the world. Mark is a marine paleontologist who studies fossils to tell the history of life on Earth. Brandon is a digital designer and artist. He teaches graphic design and is most interested in motion graphics and street art. We adopted Olivia 3 years ago. She is a very spirited and active learner. Olivia is so excited to be a big sister.

We believe that some of the best learning comes from experiences. We all love to travel, cook, entertain, hang out with friends and family, hike, bike, snow sledding, ski, watch movies, have spontaneous dance parties, and read. We have been able to take Olivia on many big trips and plan to continue to immerse our children in different cultures.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT

# mark, brandon and olivia



We love to travel. Mark's dream trip is to visit a safari in East Africa. Brandon's dream trip is a cruise around the world.

One of our favorite hobbies is hiking.

*"Our home is made complete with the laughter of happy children."*



Olivia enjoys outdoor activities.

Mark loves to collect dinosaurs and play with them with Olivia. Brandon loves to visit art museums.

Brandon enjoys skiing. Mark enjoys gardening and swimming.



WRITTEN BY BRANDON

## meet mark

Mark is my soulmate. He treats Olivia and me with respect and love. He helps me to slow down and appreciate what is most important. He treats animals and strangers with the same amount of respect and courtesy. He is so humble and genuine.

The first time I saw Mark, I realized that he was smart, charming, and handsome. There was an immediate attraction that still exists. Here we are now, 20 years later in love with each other and with our amazing daughter. Olivia is growing to be a thoughtful, engaged, and loving person, in great part because of Mark. He is such a positive influence, and so unwaveringly loving. Mark is our family's biggest cheerleader.

### MORE ABOUT MARK

**Occupation:** Professor and scientist

**Favorite Movie:** Jurassic Park

**Favorite Place:** New Zealand

**Can't Live Without:** Coffee, dinosaurs, and family

**My Perfect Day:** Spending the day in bed reading with Brandon, Olivia, and our dogs.

*"Mark is the best father and partner. He is a sensitive soul."  
-Brandon*



WRITTEN BY MARK

## meet brandon

Brandon is big-hearted, always puts others first, and is lots of fun. I appreciate that he pushes me out of my comfort zone at times. Brandon will always have my back and I support him without question. He is my true love and partner in everything we do.

When I first met Brandon, he had an energy that just drew me in, and he has managed to keep that energy going ever since. I knew early on that Brandon would make an excellent father, and I see this every day when he is with Olivia. There's no limit to the love he has for our daughter and that boundless energy he showed when I first met him has been focused on ensuring the happiness and security of our family.

### MORE ABOUT BRANDON

**Occupation:** Professor and designer

**Favorite Movie:** Clueless

**Favorite Place:** A sunny, quiet beach

**Can't Live Without:** Ice cream and my family

**My Perfect Day:** Spending the day on a sunny, quiet beach with my family.

*"There is no one in this world who has a bigger heart than Brandon. He is the best partner/parent I could have wished for."  
-Mark*



WRITTEN BY MARK & BRANDON

# meet olivia

Olivia is the center of our universe. With her boundless curiosity, she never ceases to amaze us and constantly keeps us guessing what path she may choose when she grows up. Somedays, we imagine she'll be an engineer, when she's taking apart one of her toys to figure out how it works, or a scientist when she's carefully watching bugs with a magnifying lens in the yard. Other days, she's going to be an artist because she's painting patterns on the walls in the house (preferably with water-soluble paints) or a singer because she's belting out songs from "Encanto" for the 13th time. She is so excited and will be an amazing big sister.

## MORE ABOUT OLIVIA

**Age:** 3

**Occupation:** Lover of all things pink and purple

**Favorite Movie:** Anything Frozen

**Favorite Place:** Her backyard and the park

**Can't Live Without:** Cupcakes, princess dresses, and Pink Bunny

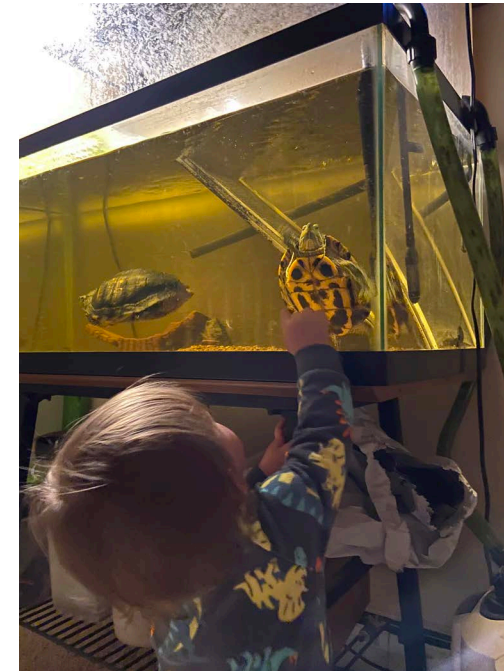
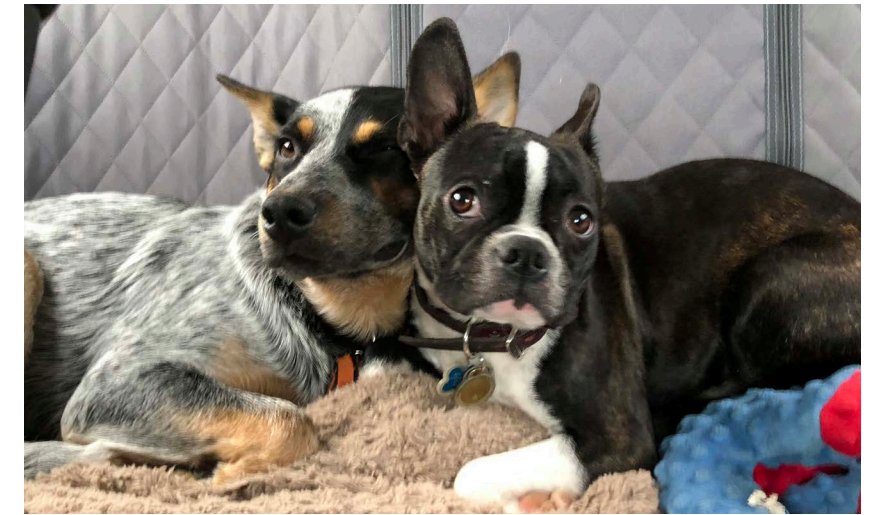
**My Perfect Day:** Reading books, playing at the park, and eating cupcakes.

*"Olivia is so brave; she impresses us each and every day."*



## OUR PETS

We have two wonderful dogs: Greyson, a Blue Heeler and Cole, a Boston Terrier. We also have 2 turtles: Brutus and Rudy. Our pets are a huge part of the family and are all great with children. Greyson and Cole love Olivia and follow her everywhere she goes.



Olivia and friends with their sidekick



# our extended family

**Mark was raised** in a large family with 4 siblings who are all married and now have their own children – Olivia has 4 aunts, 4 uncles, and 10 cousins. They all live within a 20-mile radius of the home in which they grew up. Mark’s whole family loves Olivia so much. Mark was raised in a small-farm community where we spend a lot of time enjoying each other’s company, good food, BBQs, movies, and family traditions, like celebrating the Fourth of July, ebelskivers (little Danish pancakes) on Christmas, and small-town festivals.

Princesses Olivia & Marley



**Brandon’s family** is smaller and very close. Olivia has 1 uncle on Brandon’s side, a young cousin, and several adult cousins who all dote over her. We spend a lot of time together as a family, going to the dog park and beaches, visiting friends, visiting museums, and enjoying the diverse foods and events that the city offers. With his family, we celebrate Hanukkah, and numerous other Jewish family celebrations, farmer’s markets, & outdoor events.

Papa & Olivia



Meeting Aunt Jackie & cousins



Double cousin trouble



With Cousin Salma & Uncle Nate



Grandma with granddaughters



Olivia & Bubbie



Uncle Asher & Olivia



## OUR FRIENDS

We spend a lot of time with our friends and their children. Olivia's preschool values developing each child's spirit, voice, and confidence as much as traditional learning. Olivia has a strong friend group of 5 close friends and their families. We have a large and positive support network of friends with their own children that we love to spend time with.



Fun with Ian



Newborn Olivia with friends



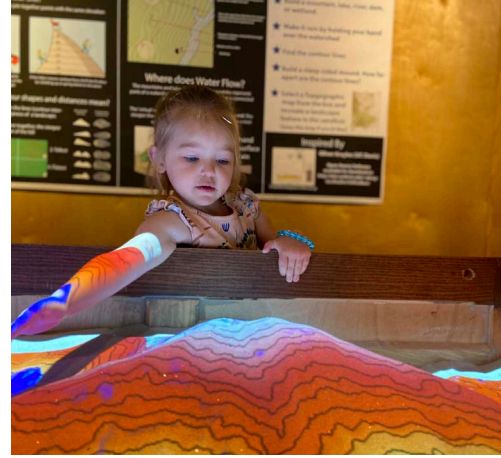
<< Italy with Aunt Barbara



Olivia & Ian picking strawberries



Olivia and Averil sledding



Cupcake cuties

## OUR HOME AND COMMUNITY

We live in a historic home with four bedrooms, a children's playroom, and a very private backyard. We have a wonderful neighborhood full of families with young children and pets, and several retired couples, who are known as the neighborhood grandparents. We live within walking distance of parks, restaurants, friends, libraries, shops, and multiple museums on the University campus where we work.



# why adoption

We have so much happiness and love to share. We adopted our daughter, Olivia at birth and know that adoption is the right path for us again. We have friends who were adopted, and others who have adopted children of their own. We believe that family is who you choose to have in your life, not just those who you are related to.

*"We know adoption is a blessing and has been the right choice for our family."*

Adoption Day! Woohoo!



## WE PROMISE TO

- ◆ Do everything in our power to raise this child with unlimited love, support, and devotion.
- ◆ Immerse them into the best educational opportunities possible.
- ◆ Continue to fill our home with laughter, love, healthy food, family and friends, and opportunities for knowledge and continued curiosity.
- ◆ Give this child the roots they need to know where they come from and the wings that they'll use to discover who they'll ultimately become.
- ◆ Offer every opportunity within our power and many more that we may need to fight for.
- ◆ Help this child see and experience the world.







*thank you*

Thank you for considering us, we are here for you and this child, and we really hope to meet you soon.

*mark,  
brandon  
& olivia*