



he / him
 Chris & Matthew
he / him





Hi there!

Before we introduce ourselves, we want to take a moment to recognize the immense generosity and kindness we feel it takes to consider adoption for your child. We admire the strength and courage we feel you must have, and we hope, after you get to know us, you'll find comfort in knowing that our love for your child is as great as the love you're showing right now.

We're hopeful to share this journey with you and to bring your child into our home, helping them grow into the amazing human being you wish them to be. Remember, you're not alone in this journey. We're here for you, wishing you strength, peace, hope, and joy in the days ahead.

This Is Us:



With Our Family



At the Opera



Us and Tigger

- 1. Matthew will be a stay-at-home dad,** because family takes priority above all else to us. This decision isn't just about roles and responsibilities; it's about always having someone there for your child, from their first steps to college graduation. Your child will always have a parent nearby, offering guidance, comfort, support, and an abundance of love.
- 2. Creativity runs deep within our family.** With Matthew's background as a playwright, and both of us having delved into the realm of acting and writing for the stage, our bond with the arts is strong. One special memory is when Chris was chosen for a role in a two-person play. A week before the show was set to open, the other actor unexpectedly dropped out. Matthew, wanting to support Chris, swiftly stepped in to help. He quickly memorized his lines, and together, we took to the stage, our real-life bond amplifying our on-stage chemistry for the entire run. Your child will grow up with a family that values the arts, lovingly fostering their imagination and encouraging creativity.
- 3. We have famous friends!** All kidding aside, some of our favorite memories are from the vacations we've taken to Disneyland and Walt Disney World. One special memory is from our honeymoon at Walt Disney World. It might sound silly, but when Winnie the Pooh handed us a "Congratulations" card, it genuinely moved us to tears. Your child will be introduced to a world where every friend, whether from a Disney movie, or from our neighborhood, plays a special role in their story.

About Matthew,

By Chris:

Matthew's really smart, but even more importantly, **Matthew is very humble.** Matthew has been instrumental in the support and growth of the local theater community. While rarely promoting his own work, Matthew's volunteerism and advocacy of others has enabled dozens of playwrights to see their work produced by local theaters. Just as I've learned so much by simply being around him, your child will naturally absorb a wealth of knowledge, enabling your child to engage in enriching conversations, allowing them to connect effortlessly with a diverse range of individuals.



Chris' Graduation

Matthew possesses a truly remarkable gift – **the ability to inspire and motivate.** Soon after we met, he learned of my back-and-forth relationship with higher education and my goal to earn a bachelor's degree. Without hesitation, Matthew stepped in, determined to help me achieve my goal. With his steadfast encouragement, focus, and discipline, he championed me to the finish line, helping me graduate with honors! It was never about ticking off a box that I had finished college; for Matthew, it was about ensuring that I felt proud and confident in myself. With a father like Matthew, your child is guaranteed to have unwavering support and heartfelt encouragement in whatever they might choose to do.



Matthew & Our Nephew, Eydon

Matthew is the voice of reason. As an adult, I'm eating far too little ice cream and cookies for breakfast than ten-year-old me imagined! But at least I'm healthy and in good enough shape to chase after a toddler. More importantly though, Matthew's voice of reason is based on love and care. He cooks our breakfasts, lunches, and dinners from whole ingredients, planning meals to ensure they are balanced, nutritious and the right sized portions. He even hand-mixes a special diet for our dog, Paca, and gets up three or four times a night to let her outside, since she has developed bladder cancer and needs to go out frequently. These qualities of Matthew, centered around profound love and attention to well-being, ensure that your child will be nurtured in an environment full of care, stability, and unwavering dedication.



About Chris,

By Matthew:

Chris loves rocks! No matter where we are, whether it's on a trip to the beach or in our own backyard, he always finds a rock that he can't wait to share with me. His love for rocks extends to rockhounding, attending gem and mineral shows, and sifting through rock collections. Fortunately, one of the nation's premier rock museums, the Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals, is just a short drive from our home. Once, when he was power washing our driveway, Chris discovered garnets in the gravel. He was so excited

that he spent the rest of the day collecting the garnets! Your child will have a life filled with curiosity, exploration, and a never-ending sense of wonder. Chris' enthusiasm will inspire them to discover, learn, and appreciate the beauty in even the smallest details of the world.

Chris is the most resilient person I know. Chris didn't have the best of childhoods. As a child, he was homeless, spent time in foster care, was physically abused, and he wasn't allowed to continue with school past the third grade. He's also dealt with a lot of personal tragedies, but Chris never gives up. A few years ago, he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, and now he owns and operates three successful businesses! Your child will learn the values of perseverance, self-belief, and hard work from Chris, providing

them with the tools to overcome almost any challenges they might face.



Chris and His Crew



At the Beach with Paca

Chris' eagerness to have fun and experience new things ensures that our life is always full of wonder. Whether it's an overseas trip, or a local excursion, his enthusiasm for adventure is infectious. He's great at making the most of every moment. During a spontaneous Fourth of July trip to the beach, he took Paca for a walk in the ocean, and just enjoyed the moment with her at her pace. Memorable moments, like a spontaneous Fourth of July trip to the beach, show how he values making the most of every moment. Your child will live a life filled with exploration, discovery, and learning, cultivating a natural curiosity and appreciation for the world around them.



How We Met:



We first met in Chicago, right after Matthew had moved there to live. Matthew was walking very slowly, and Chris was trying to walk past him, when out of the blue, Matthew asked, **"Are you following me?"** Chris joked back, **"Should I be?"** Then Matthew said, "What do you know that's interesting?" Even after twelve years together, Chris is always coming up with new answers to that question. We clicked instantly and had our first date the very next day.



In our twelve years together, we've lived ALL OVER the United States, from Chicago to San Francisco to Fort Lauderdale, before making it to beautiful Portland, Oregon. When we moved from Florida to Oregon we ran out of gas in the middle of the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. We coasted to a rest stop where Chris hitched a ride with a good Samaritan to the nearest gas station thirty miles away, while Matthew stayed at the car with Paca and Mashed Potatoes. This experience reinforced how well we work together as a couple. Your child will grow in a collaborative household, where everyone comes together to find solutions when problems arise.



Both of us have long had a deep desire to become parents, but we patiently waited, wanting to ensure that we were fully prepared to provide and care for a child. Further cementing our desire to adopt was **Chris' reunion with his adopted half-brother**. Meeting him and his adoptive family for the first time, over two decades after his half-brother was adopted, was an eye-opener. It reinforced the crucial importance of openness and honesty when communicating with a child. Moreover, the reunion **reinforced our belief that the love a parent has for their child is boundless, deep, and forever. This is why we are excited to have you join us in the next chapter of this journey!**

Chris and His Brothers

Best Friends

Our Pets:

We have a deep-rooted love for animals. Matthew hails from a farm in rural North Dakota, where everything from cows to cats to chickens and pigs were a part of daily life. While Chris grew up in various cities throughout the South, he also had his fair share of pets, including Siberian hamsters, several cats, and a dog named Taco. Our pets today, Paca and Mashed Potatoes, hold a special place in our hearts and home. **Chris found Paca seventeen years ago, abandoned in a box next to a dumpster** with a bunch of other puppies. He brought them to an animal rescue shelter, but when he discovered that Paca was still there a week later, he just had to bring her home. **Mashed Potatoes is our kitty that Chris found when she was just a kitten, hiding scared and alone underneath a car in a parking lot** of a shopping mall that he managed. Chris brought her home that night and she's been with us ever since. When she was little, her cream-colored fur looked like mashed potatoes, so that's what we named her: Mashed Potatoes.

Paca has always loved going to the park and **playing with kids**. When she was still a puppy, Chris threw a ball and a frisbee for her to fetch. To his astonishment, Paca brought them both back by placing the ball inside the frisbee! As for Mashed Potatoes, **she loves to cuddle!** When Chris comes home from work, she immediately starts meowing for him to pick her up and snuggle. She's definitely a lap magnet who demands attention from everyone she meets.

While Paca's arthritis keeps her from going to the park as much as she might like, we take her for a walk every day, and her favorite part is getting head rubs from all the neighborhood children. When we're out of town, our neighbors watch our pets and Paca and Mashed Potatoes are always excited when they bring their grand-kids to visit. Paca loves to play fetch with them in the backyard, patiently walking the ball back and waiting for a head pat in exchange for giving it to them. Always ready for cuddles, Mashed Potatoes curls up in our neighbor's granddaughter's lap, making Mashed Potatoes the perfect cuddle buddy for your child when they both want to snuggle.



Cuddle Monster



Playing Fetch



About Us:

Chris loves spending time outdoors and our trip to Sequoia National Forest is one of our favorite memories. Walking amidst the towering ancient sequoias, time seemed to slow, and we found ourselves placing our hands on the rough, ancient bark, feeling the pulse of the earth vibrating through the trees and beneath our feet. **The forest's beauty and silence were a humbling experience**, helping us to value how fortunate we truly are. Your child will appreciate the wonders of mother nature, and develop a deep bond with the earth, understanding the importance of conserving the environment for today and for future generations.

We LOVE going to the theater. On a recent trip to New York, one of our highlights was going to Sesame Street: The Musical. Seeing Elmo come out and talk about acceptance, and hearing Cookie Monster sing "C is for Cookie" was particularly magical. It reminded us of the connection and wonder we create with characters as children and how durable and important these connections are. Your child will grow to appreciate the values of friendship, creativity, and constant learning through the arts.

While Matthew does most of the cooking, Chris is the real chef in the family. One Thanksgiving he cooked a Southern style banquet feast, forgetting that there would only be two of us to celebrate that year. Realizing that we would need to eat a turkey, honey ham, green bean casserole, candied sweet potatoes, collard greens, jambalaya, corn maque choux, and a few other dishes, before going out of town to see family after Thanksgiving, created a real jam! Luckily we were able to get friends and neighbors over to help enjoy the feast! Your child will grow up savoring both the comfort of home-cooked meals and the joy of festive feasts.

Chris in the
Kitchen



At Sequoia National Forest



With Our Pal, Tinkerbell



Family:

Both of us have large extended families, so being part of our family means that your child will have **a lot of cousins, aunts and uncles**. Family gatherings tend to be pretty rowdy affairs, filled with laughter, spirited games of cards, exciting board games, and way, way, way too much food! At the heart of our family gatherings is an appreciation for our roots and traditions. Matthew's parents still live on the family farm in North Dakota, which has been part of our family since his ancestors immigrated from Ukraine in the late 1800's. Being able to spend **summers and holidays on the family farm** means that your child will have a first-hand connection to the earth and the rich traditions of our extended family.

For Chris, family means the acceptance of both the past and new beginnings. A few years ago, Chris took a DNA test and found out that the man he thought was his biological father, actually wasn't. **This led us to make connections with a whole new family that we never knew existed.** Every visit with the new Filipino side of our family is one of fresh discovery. A cherished memory is when we attended our first family gathering and we met over thirty new members of our new extended family. The bond we shared was instantaneous. Your child will be blessed with new stories, music, and dance, truly showcasing the warmth and inclusivity of our large extended family.

Our family believes in the value of sharing the wisdom we learn from our elders. One of the most important people in Matthew's life is his Grandma. Even at 103 years old, Matthew's Grandma continues to be a source of hope and inspiration. Every Friday, Matthew calls her on the phone to find out all the news from North Dakota and hear stories from the past. We are eager to blend our stories with yours, creating new stories for your child that they can share with their children in the future.



Cousins, Aunts and Uncles



Chris and Matthew with Chris' Grandma



Matthew's Grandma at 103!

Traditions:

Every Sunday, regardless of how busy our week has been, we make it a point to go out for dinner and see a movie. It's always a relaxing way to end the week, **a time for us to share our stories about everything that happened throughout the week**, and even more importantly, we can share our stories about all the fun we have in store for the week ahead. Sometimes we even go with movie stars like Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph and Tina Fey. It's these moments that your child will remember and fill their life with joy.



Just Another Night at the Movies...

Most Thanksgivings we head to Blacksburg, Virginia to join Chris' family for a Southern style Thanksgiving feast. The smell of turkey, honey ham, gravy, and collard greens fill the air, but what truly completes the experience is our traditional drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway, allowing us to soak in the majestic fall foliage and reflect on all our blessings we've experienced in the past year. One year, we had two feet of snow and the power went out, so we had to stick the turkey outside while we headed off to enjoy a nice dinner courtesy of Cracker Barrel! We can't wait for your child to be part of our Thanksgiving traditions, where they'll experience the same excitement and warmth that we do, creating lifelong memories of gratitude and togetherness.



A Blacksburg Thanksgiving

Christmas and Easter are spent with our family in North Dakota. Almost eighty members of our extended family gather together to laugh, chat, and eat homemade kuchen. At Easter, the Easter Bunny (Chris) shows up to drop off Easter baskets for Matthew's Grandma and all the kids! We can't wait for your child to be wrapped in the warmth of these family traditions, savoring kuchen, and experiencing the magic of a true white Christmas and an excellent Easter on the plains of North Dakota.



The Easter Bunny (Chris)
and Matthew's Grandma

Our Home:

Nestled in a cul-de-sac, our neighborhood has an extensive tree canopy making it feel like we live in the country, even though we're only fifteen minutes from downtown Portland, Oregon. We love our neighborhood, because we can get to arts venues and amazing restaurants in minutes, but we can also step right out our door and into nature, seeing owls, eagles, deer, rabbit, raccoons and an abundance of other flora and fauna. Your child will grow up with an appreciation for the clean, pine scented air and beautiful old growth forest that surrounds our home.

We had a winter storm a few years ago that coated the trees and streets with ice. While the sight of it was breathtaking, the loss of power was not ideal. Luckily our neighbors across the street have a wood stove and generator. They invited us over for games and snacks! Living in the Pacific Northwest, your child will get to enjoy a floral spring, long summer nights, beautiful fall foliage, and building snowmen in the winter.



Our Home



The Rare Winter Storm

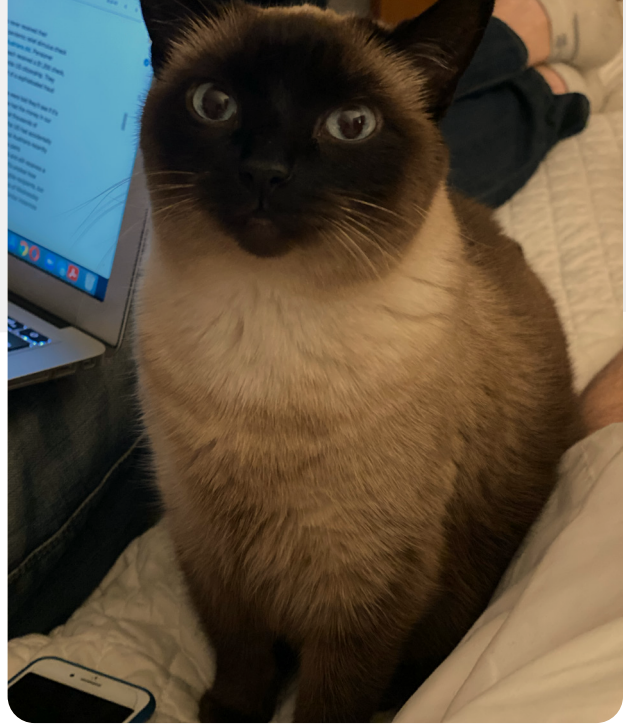


Christmas Dinner!

Beyond its natural beauty, Portland is a city for anyone who loves good food! **There are so many great places to eat**, from pizza to sushi, but one restaurant we love more than all the rest is Yalla. Yalla is a cozy restaurant specializing in Mediterranean food, not too far from our house. We love to stop in on Sunday nights for the prime rib, the baked peaches, the hummus, and the corn ribs. Last Christmas we had reservations to Yalla, but there was a major plumbing event at a local apartment community that Chris needed to respond to. Even though the restaurant was full, the folk at Yalla allowed us to show up late, right before they closed, and shared a beautiful holiday feast with us. Your child will experience first-hand the kindness and generosity of our friends, neighbors and community here in Portland!

Daily Life:

While Matthew will be a **stay-at-home dad** for your child, right now, he spends most of his time writing plays or volunteering in the local theater community. Being able to stay at home ensures that our home will always be filled with warmth and love and your child will have a supportive and nurturing environment where they can grow up to be their best self.



Matthew's Assistant



The Best Plumbers!

Chris owns several small businesses. His day usually starts pretty early, and his office is located **within a fifteen-minute drive from our house**, so he's never too far away if Matthew needs help with something. Chris usually gets home between 3 and 5:30 pm, so we can maximize family time in the evenings and on the weekends. Having a flexible schedule means that both of us can be there for the ordinary and the extraordinary events in your child's life.

No matter how demanding our days might be, one thing remains constant: **our daily walks with Paca**. These daily walks **allow us to connect, reflect, and appreciate the beauty of our community**. Just recently, during one of these walks, we stumbled upon baby bunnies in a nearby park. While Paca could not have been less interested in the bunnies, getting to see such cute little creatures definitely made for an exceptionally memorable evening. It's moments like these that we cherish, serving as a beautiful reminder why we prioritize spending quality time together. We can't wait to share quality family time each and every day with your child.



Ready for a Walk



Finally, Thank You.

We deeply appreciate the time you've taken to get to know us, and we feel that your courage, strength, and love for your child are evident through this selfless act. Our promise to you is to provide a home where your child is loved unconditionally and their individuality and uniqueness is recognized, celebrated, and appreciated.

If you're comfortable, **we hope to maintain this connection with you**, embracing our shared journeys and stories together. We understand the profound significance of this decision, and we're here for you and your child, waiting with open hearts and immense gratitude.

Thank you for letting us share our story.

Warmly,

Chris &

Matthew