



» Jaime & Elise «



Dear expectant parent,

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider us as an adoptive family.

We understand the magnitude of the decision you're making, and, regardless of what you decide to do, please know we respect your decision and admire your courage.

We hope that by the time you're through with this book, you'll get to know us a lot better.

Here's a little about us to kick things off:

Elise is 33 years old and is a preschool teacher and part-time university student, studying early childhood development. Her education has given her insight regarding the emotional, cognitive and social development of children from birth onward. She loves working with children, and has always dreamed of raising a child. Elise is sweet and adventurous, with a great sense of humor, and she can't wait to become a mother.

Jaime is a year younger than Elise and works as a writer and editor at a local university. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism and spent many years reporting for magazines and newspapers. He is earning a second degree in organizational communication, and, recently, wrote a series of articles on topics for families for a magazine website. He has become popular at Elise's preschool, where he fries potato pancakes for the kids during the holiday season. Jaime dreams of becoming a father.

However, due to a medical condition, Elise is unable to give birth.

Upon realizing this, we began exploring options. Through our journey, we completed all pre-service training to become foster care parents. However, we soon realized adoption is the right path for us. Since then, we have educated ourselves in adoption and prepared our home for a newborn child. Adoption feels right in our hearts and souls.

And we have a strong support network backing our decision.

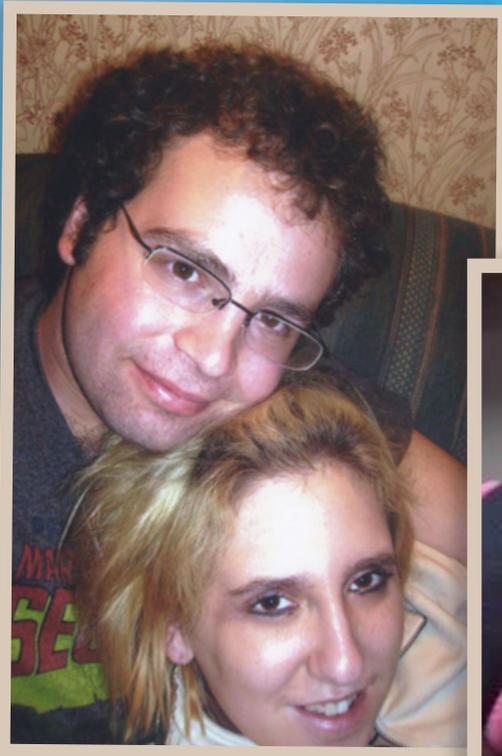
Jaime's father and two of Elise's cousins are adoptees, and we have many close friends who have adopted children or are adoptees themselves.

We are a Jewish family, with extended family from Christian backgrounds, and we surround ourselves with others from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures. We believe in the strength of diversity and inclusion and will raise a child with these values.

Once again, we greatly respect any decision you make, though we hope and pray you will pick us to love, nurture and raise your child to become a confident and caring adult.

With love,
Jaime & Elise





How We Met

We met on a double date at a hockey game, but not with each other.

As Elise arrived to the arena with her friend, she saw two guys waiting for them outside, hoping the one with the brown, curly hair would be her date. Unfortunately, Jaime (the curly haired guy) was on a date with Elise's friend, and her own date was rude and inconsiderate.

Jaime, however, made up for Elise's rude date by showing kindness to both ladies during the game. Later on, Elise told her friend how she wished Jaime were her date instead. Elise's friend told

her that she enjoyed Jaime's company, but wasn't romantically interested in him.

So, Elise swooped in and invited Jaime to see a movie with her and some friends. Jaime accepted and ended that night by asking Elise out to a New Year's Eve event, where they shared a midnight kiss.

We dated for the following four years, falling more in love as time went on. Finally, on the fourth anniversary of that New Year's kiss, Jaime asked Elise to marry him. We have been married for seven years and are still as crazy for one another as we were during that first kiss.

Our Niece & Nephew



Family

We love spending time with our extended family, including parents on both sides who live nearby and plan on spoiling their grandchild. Elise's mother has a quick wit and hosts the best family gatherings, while her father is easygoing and can often be found fishing. Jaime's father cracks endless dad jokes and will go to the ends of the earth to help family, while his mother is caring, loving and definitely the smartest person in the family.

While we do not have any children yet, we love spending time with our niece and nephew. The child we adopt will see and play with them often.

Jaime and Elise also have siblings and sisters-in-law that they see often. We are positive they will all make the best uncles and aunts a child could ask for.



Elise with her mother



Jaime with his brother



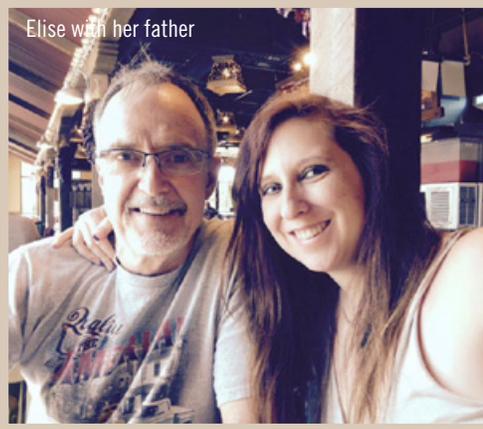
Elise with her brothers and cousins



Elise with her sister-in-law



Jaime with his mother after a 5K



Elise with her father



Elise with her sister-in-law, niece and mother



Elise with her sister-in-law



Jaime with his father



Jaime and Elise with Jaime's cousin

About Elise

Teaching and caring for children is Elise's passion in life, and she wakes up excited to do exactly that in her role as a preschool teacher. For years, though, she has dreamed of caring for a child in another way, as a mother.

And as a mother, she would do anything to ensure the safety, health, prosperity and proper development of her adopted child. She would also be a fun mom, undoubtedly leading her child in song, dance and even yoga.

Her loving heart, however, isn't reserved just for children. Elise cares deeply for her family and friends and shows great concern for their well-being. As a wife, she makes every day better through her strong spirit, positive nature and sense of humor. Elise always shows great perseverance through difficult circumstances and exhibits pride in her accomplishments. Along with being a great mom, she would make an excellent role model.

Aside from her work with children, Elise enjoys reading and has been known to finish several novels in less than a month. In fact, she recently started her own book club with a group of friends. Elise also enjoys music, experimenting with new recipes, shopping, visiting the nail salon and working out. She also recently joined me in learning to speak Japanese.

I'm lucky to have Elise by my side through our adoption journey. I can't wait to meet the child we will raise to become an adult who is ready to make his or her own mark on the world.

Jaime



About Jaime

My husband, Jaime, is patient, kind, forgiving, loving and funny, particularly when it comes to corny dad jokes.

He loves spending time with our niece and nephew, whether it's at a family gathering or gymnastics meet, and has taken them to sports events, arcades, ice cream parlors and more. The kindness he shows them is also found in his interactions with our friends' kids. He always seems happiest when he gets to spend his time with children.

Jaime is also the best husband a woman could ask for. He listens to me, helps me solve my problems, comforts me when I'm sad and knows just how to cheer me up (which is where those corny jokes come in). He speaks with his parents daily and gets along well with my parents, too. He also has an older brother, whom he loves dearly and would do anything for.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that he is a family man, who always puts others before himself. This is how I know he will make a wonderful dad.

When the child arrives, Jaime plans to take paternity leave and provide care: changing diapers, feeding, everything it takes to raise a child. He wants to raise our future child to be strong, smart, have a good sense of right and wrong, and to become a productive member of society.

Jaime's hobbies include reading, collecting comic books, working out, hiking and watching scary movies. I know my husband will make an excellent father, and it is something he looks forward to very much.

Elise



Our Community

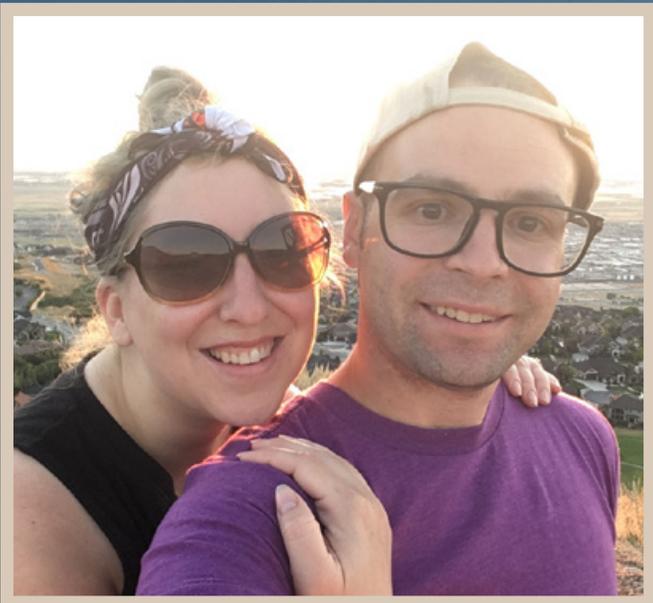
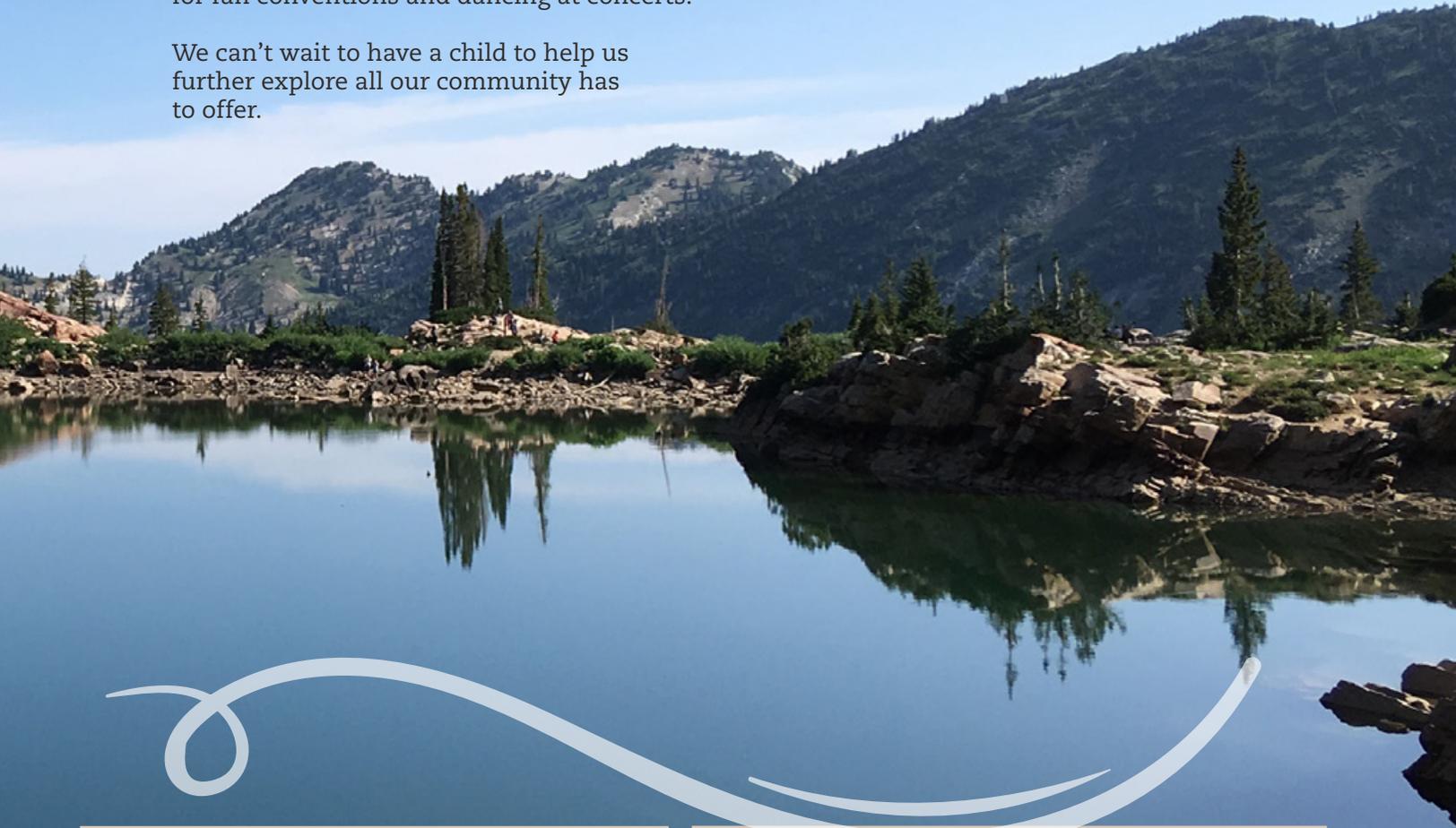
We live in a safe community, where we can often hear children playing outside. Our city offers many family-centered events that we take part in annually, including Fourth of July festivities, Halloween events, fairs, 5K races, holiday light displays and outdoor movies.

We also live within walking distance of a library, where Elise embraces her inner bookworm, and several parks, where you'll find us playing wiffle ball during hot summer days.



We love the outdoors, and our nearby mountains offer stunning hiking trails, areas for fishing and winter sports. Other ways we get out in the community include watching plays, visiting museums, dressing in costumes for fan conventions and dancing at concerts.

We can't wait to have a child to help us further explore all our community has to offer.



Wedding

We were married in 2012,

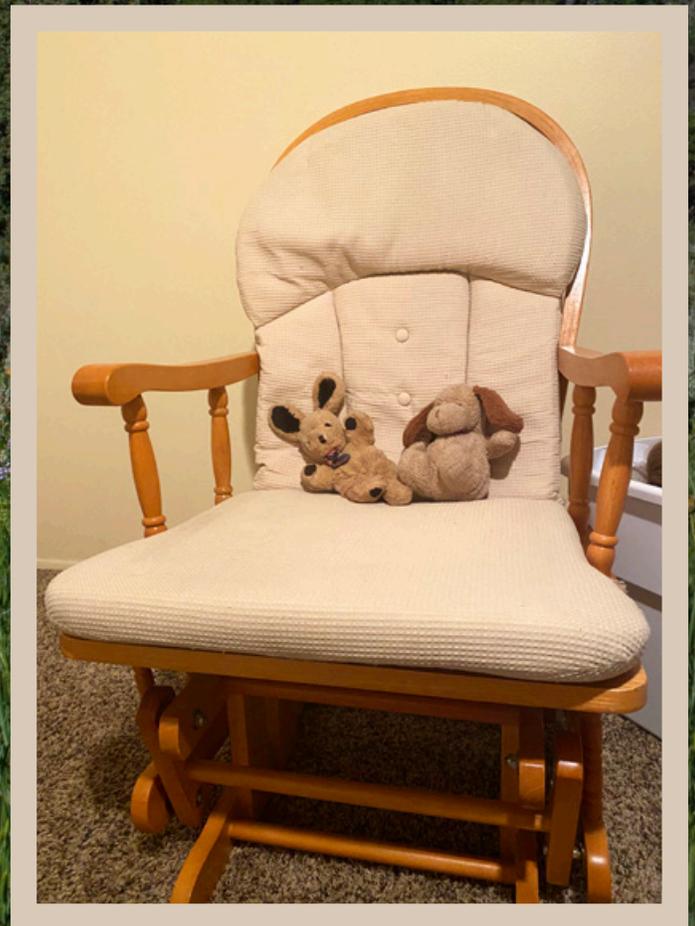


and we're still going strong.



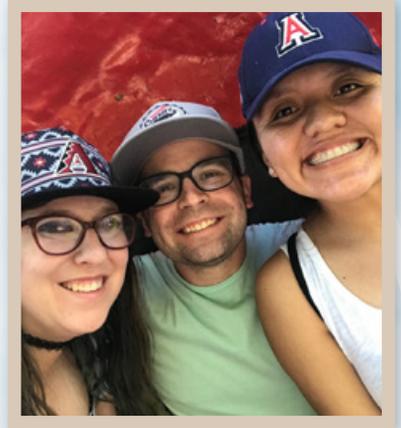
Nursery

We have a nursery ready to go.



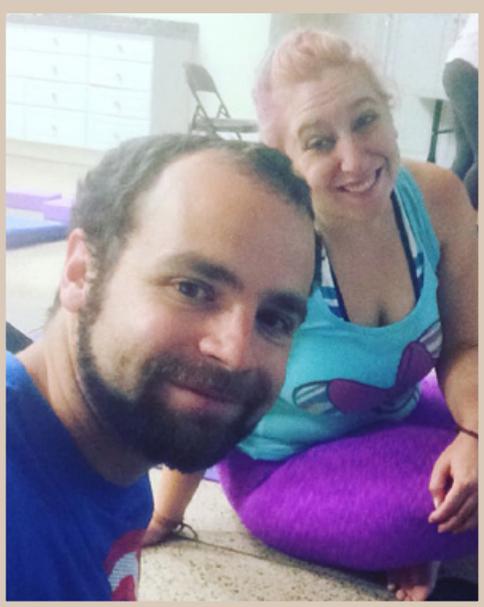


Friends



Along with our niece and nephew, we enjoy spending time with our friends and their kids. These kids have told us they are eager to meet, and become friends with, our adopted child.





We hope this book helped you get to know us and
how adoption will complete our family.

Your courage inspires us.

Sincerely, thank you.
Elise & Jaime

