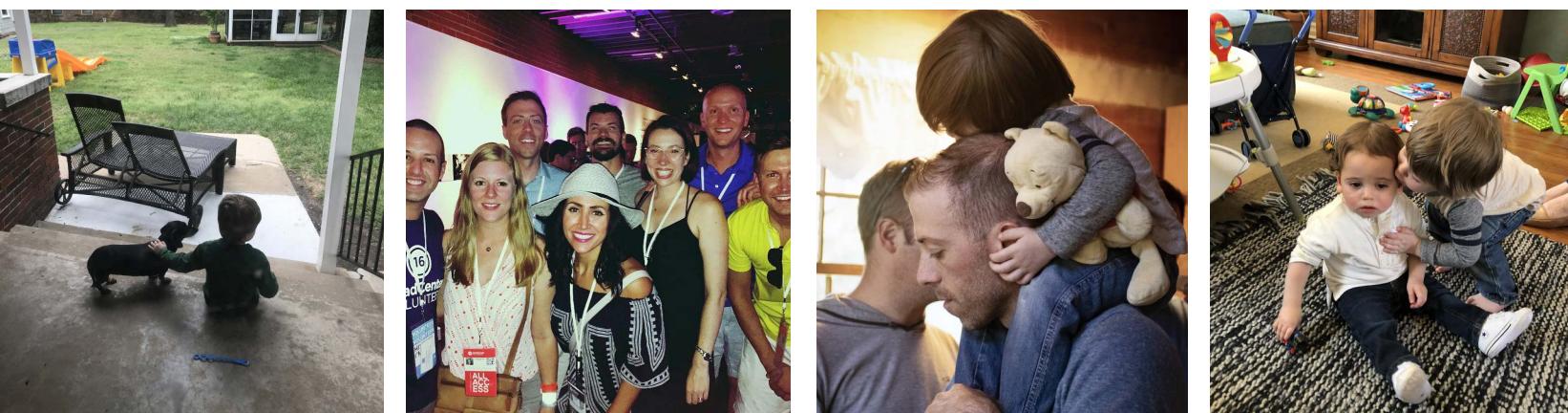




CANDACE & CORY



HELLO.

It's so nice to meet you!

Thank you for taking some time to learn about us. We hope this book offers a glimpse of who we are as a family and helps you start to visualize how your child would be seamlessly integrated into our lives.

We admire your bravery in considering adoption for your child. This consideration requires strength and a considerable amount of love. This is only the beginning of the journey and we are excited about the opportunity to meet and get to know you.

With gratitude,
CANDACE AND CORY



THIS IS OUR STORY

We met at graduate school in Chicago in 2005 studying architecture. Instantly we had a connection. I (Candace) felt like I had finally met someone that I could talk to and be myself whether silly or serious. Everything felt so comfortable like home and we did everything together.

After dating for two years, Cory's mom unexpectedly passed away. All the while Candace's father had been battling cancer for almost 10 years, he too would pass away nine months later. These moments would solidify our bond to each other and made the inevitable quite clear; we were meant to be together through good times and bad. Shortly after the tragedies in our families, we were engaged.

As of July 2020 we will have been together for almost 15 years and married for 11 years. We have an amazing three-year-old boy named Thomas. And Candace's mother, Barbara, lives in our home as well as two dogs Gizmo and Tilley.



WHY WE ARE ADOPTING

We have always dreamed of having a large family as relationships and family are so important to us. Cory is extremely close to his oldest sister and loves the sibling dynamic. Candace is an only child and when she was young would always beg her mom to have more children. We've known for years that we always wanted more than one child. After a difficult delivery, a miscarriage, and a ruptured ectopic pregnancy resulting in emergency surgery, we have decided that adoption is the best option to grow our family. We are so excited to start this journey.

MEET: CANDACE

AGE: **38**

HOMETOWN: **Oklahoma City, OK**

OCCUPATION: **Real Estate Developer**

FAVORITE FOOD: **Mexican and South American**

HOBBIES: **Cooking, Yoga, Travel**

I was born and raised in Oklahoma City. As an only child, I always gravitated towards friends and family outside of our home. Through the years I have had many best friends and cousins who were like brothers and sisters to me; we are still close to this day.

Determined to explore the world, I left my hometown immediately after graduating from college. I have lived in Los Angeles, New Hampshire, and Chicago and have studied abroad in Shanghai. I have been fortunate to visit so many amazing places and meet so many amazing people in our country and abroad.

My parents raised me to be a strong woman and pushed me to pursue any career, even those dominated by men. I work in real estate development and the best part of my job is being active in bringing about change in a community and having the vision to rebuild a blighted building while building up members of the community.

I absolutely love being a mother and had no idea how much it would come to define how I see myself. There is nothing more inspiring than experiencing the world through a child's eyes and encouraging them to explore the things that interest them. It keeps all of us learning and actively engaged in our world.

I also love cooking. I cook mostly from scratch and love experimenting with flavors and recipes from all over the world. Food brings people together and there is nothing more enjoyable than a meal with those we love.



MEET: CORY

AGE: **39**

HOMETOWN: **Bellmore, NY**

OCCUPATION: **Architect**

FAVORITE FOOD: **Italian**

HOBBIES: **Woodworking, Sports**

I was born and raised in Bellmore, NY which is on Long Island. I grew up with my mother and older sister and spent a lot of time with the maternal grandparents. I grew up playing sports with my friends and working hard in and out of school. We now visit Long Island once or twice a year to see my sister and her family, my grandmother, and my friends from high school.

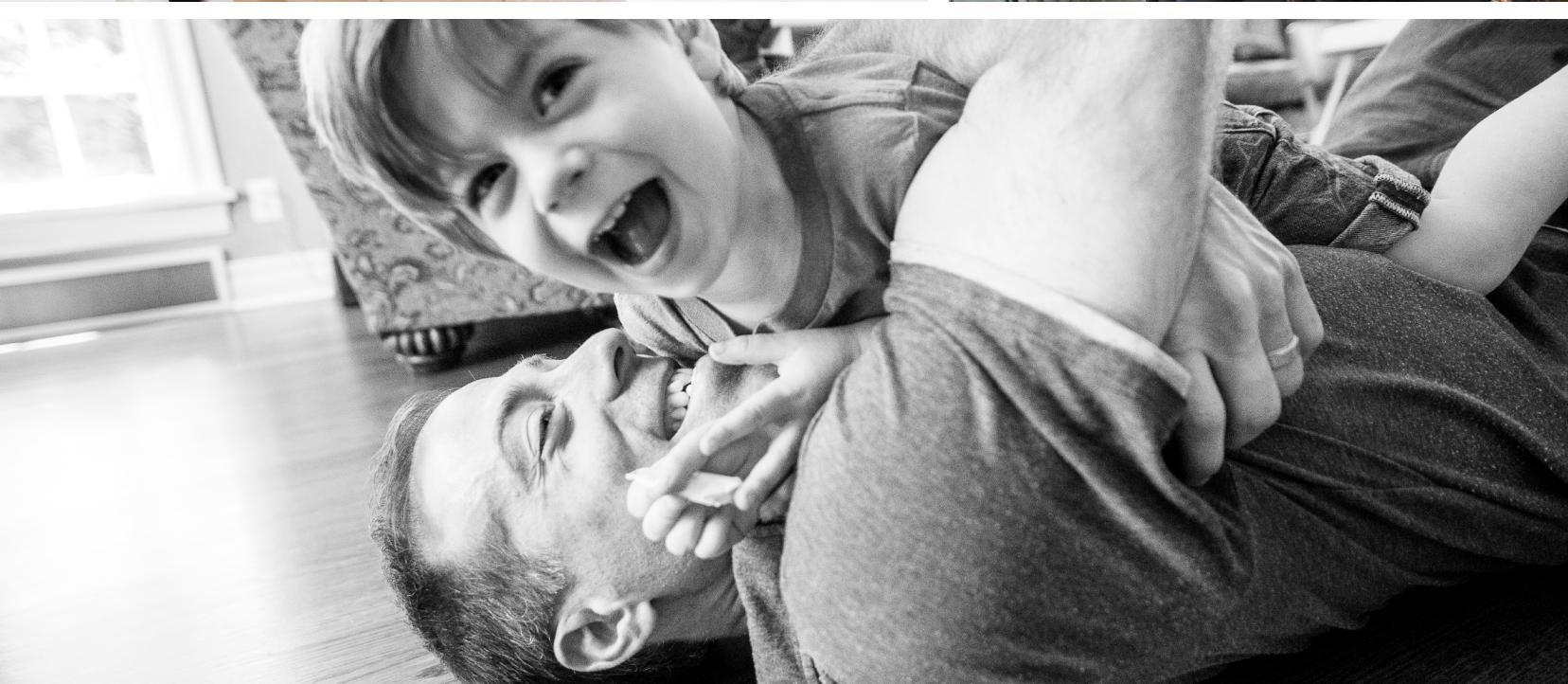
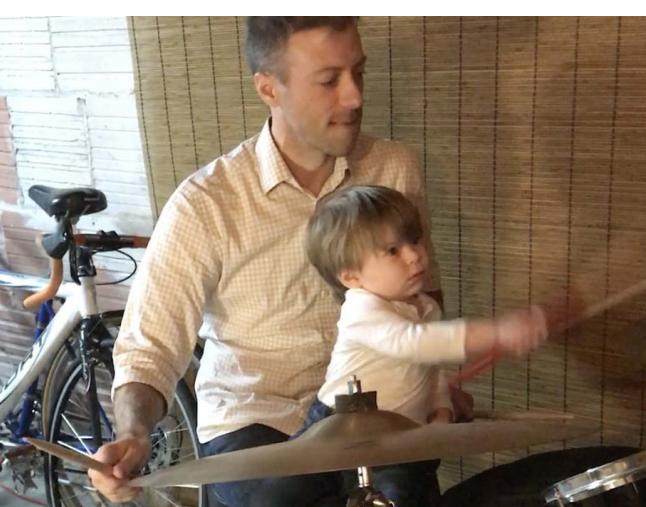
After high school I went to college at RIT in Rochester, NY. I first studied Applied Mathematics, but later switched to Interior Design. After undergrad, I moved to Chicago for graduate school. There, I studied Architecture and met Candace.

I instantly fell in love with her. She is strong, smart, beautiful and funny. We spent every moment together and shared our love for travel, architecture, music, film, and friends. She is my best friend.

In 2012, we moved to Oklahoma City for work and to be closer to Candace's mom, Barbara (who now lives with us). Over the past 8 years, I have practiced locally as an architect and have become a father.

My parents split up and my dad left when I was 2 years old. Over my whole life, I have focused on learning what it was to be a man and awaiting my chance to be the father I didn't have. When we had Thomas, I was overwhelmed with joy. I love being a father. He has made me a better person and I continue to strive to be the best father I can be. I am excited at the chance to father another child.

Aside from work, I enjoy home improvement projects, woodworking, traveling, listening to new music, and following sports.



MEET: THOMAS

AGE: 3

HOMETOWN: Oklahoma City, OK

FAVORITE FOOD: Pizza, Anything Chocolate

FAVORITE MOVIE: Wall-E and Toy Story

FAVORITE ANIMAL: Orca Whales

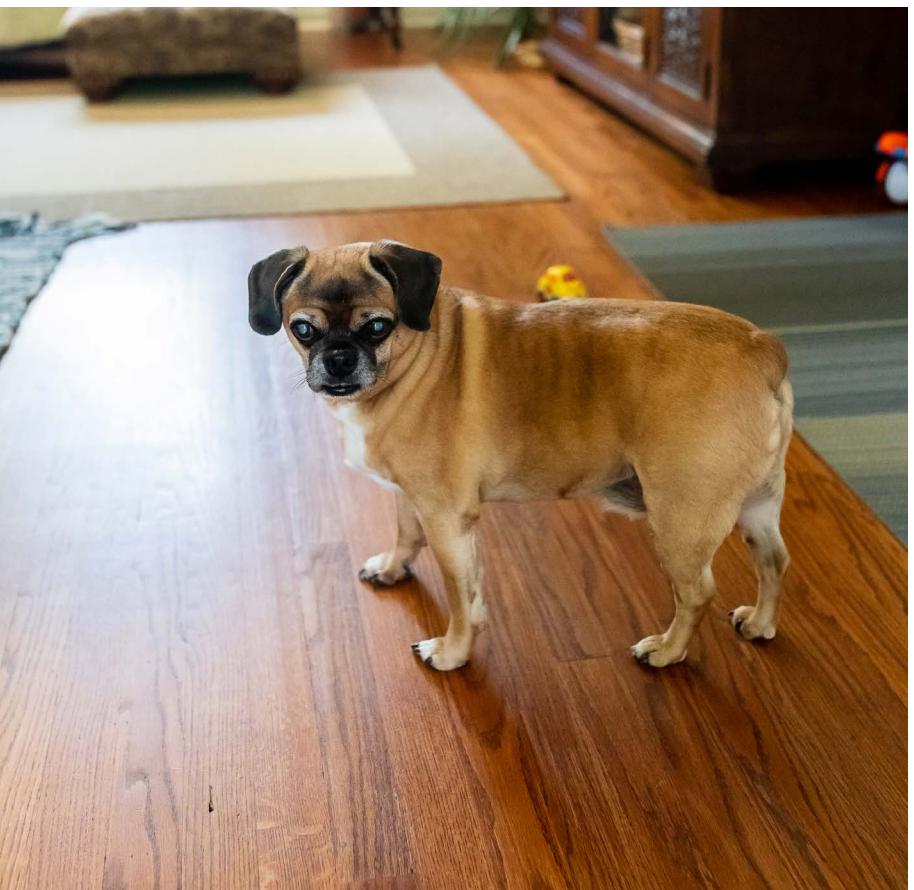
HOBBIES: Puzzles, Reading, Rocket Ships and Space

Thomas is such a busy three-year-old. He's a very analytical thinker who loves to do puzzles, build with his toys, or do crafts. He's also a very loving child who is enamored with other children no matter if they are older or younger. He will try to give kids hugs or hold their hand. He loves his Tilley dog and hugs on her everyday. His favorite stuffed animal since he was a baby is Winnie the Pooh.

One of the most amazing things about being a parent is exploring your child's interest and how we can encourage learning and new experiences as a family. His favorite animal is an Orca Whale which he first saw in the movie Happy Feet. He would ask to see just the Orca scene daily for months. This fascination led our family to a vacation visiting Sea World to see them up close! If this love of whales continues we will most definitely plan to go whale watching one day.

His current interest is rocket ships which also came from a movie, Wall-E. Rocket ships and space led us to start exploring the Mars Rover, other NASA videos and learning about our solar system.





MEET: AMA (BARBARA)

HOMETOWN: **Oklahoma City, OK**

OCCUPATION: **Grandmother, Former Accountant**

FAVORITE FOOD: **Comfort Food like Roast Beef and Mashed Potatoes**

HOBBIES: **Avid reader of murder mystery books.**

I live with my daughter, Candace, my son-in-law, Cory, and grandson, Thomas. I am blessed to be able to see my grandson grow and develop everyday. I cherished being able to rock him everyday when he was a baby. I enjoy reading to him and working puzzles with him. I have loved being present at each stage of his development: learning to crawl, then walk and now talk. He is becoming quite the negotiator always asking for “five more minutes.”

MEET: GIZMO & TILLEY

GIZMO

AGE: **11**

BREED: **Puggle (Pug and Beagle mix)**

LOVES: **Lounging around, wearing clothes, and eating**

TILLEY

AGE: **8**

BREED: **Dachshund**

LOVES: **Playing Fetch, Reading books with Thomas, and chasing squirrels.**

EXPLORING NEW PLACES AND VISITING PEOPLE WE LOVE

We strongly value experiencing the world by visiting new places and diving into the local culture and food. Above all we cherish our relationships with friends and family. We are extremely close with Cory's sister, her husband and two kids and make an effort to visit them in New York twice a year which will usually include a trip to the beach. We have a close group of friends in Denver that we visit every year either in Denver, the mountains, or we all meet somewhere for a group trip. Aside from those trips, we try to take a trip just as a family that is centered around something we are interested in learning more about.





OUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD

We live in a historic neighborhood within a 10-minute drive to downtown and within walking distance to a great public park. Our quiet neighborhood is very active with events held every other month. Young families are moving here regularly.

Our home has 3-bedrooms, 2-1/2 bathrooms, and 2 living rooms one of which is dedicated to play-time and crafts. We have ample space for everyone to spread out and also come together as a family. We have a large backyard with a tree swing, a covered porch, screened gazebo, and ample space for blowing bubbles.





OUR PROMISE

More than anything we want you to know that we will love your child unconditionally. We will nurture his/her emotional and intellectual well being in order for them to grow to be the best version of themselves. We will guide them to explore the things that interest them. But above all, he/she will know that they always will have our love and support without limitations.

We hope to regularly share the growth and milestones of your child as often as you would like in a semi-open setting. We will never hide you, who you are, nor your love from him/her. When the time is right, based on his/her emotional maturity, we would be willing to discuss a more open adoption dialog.

