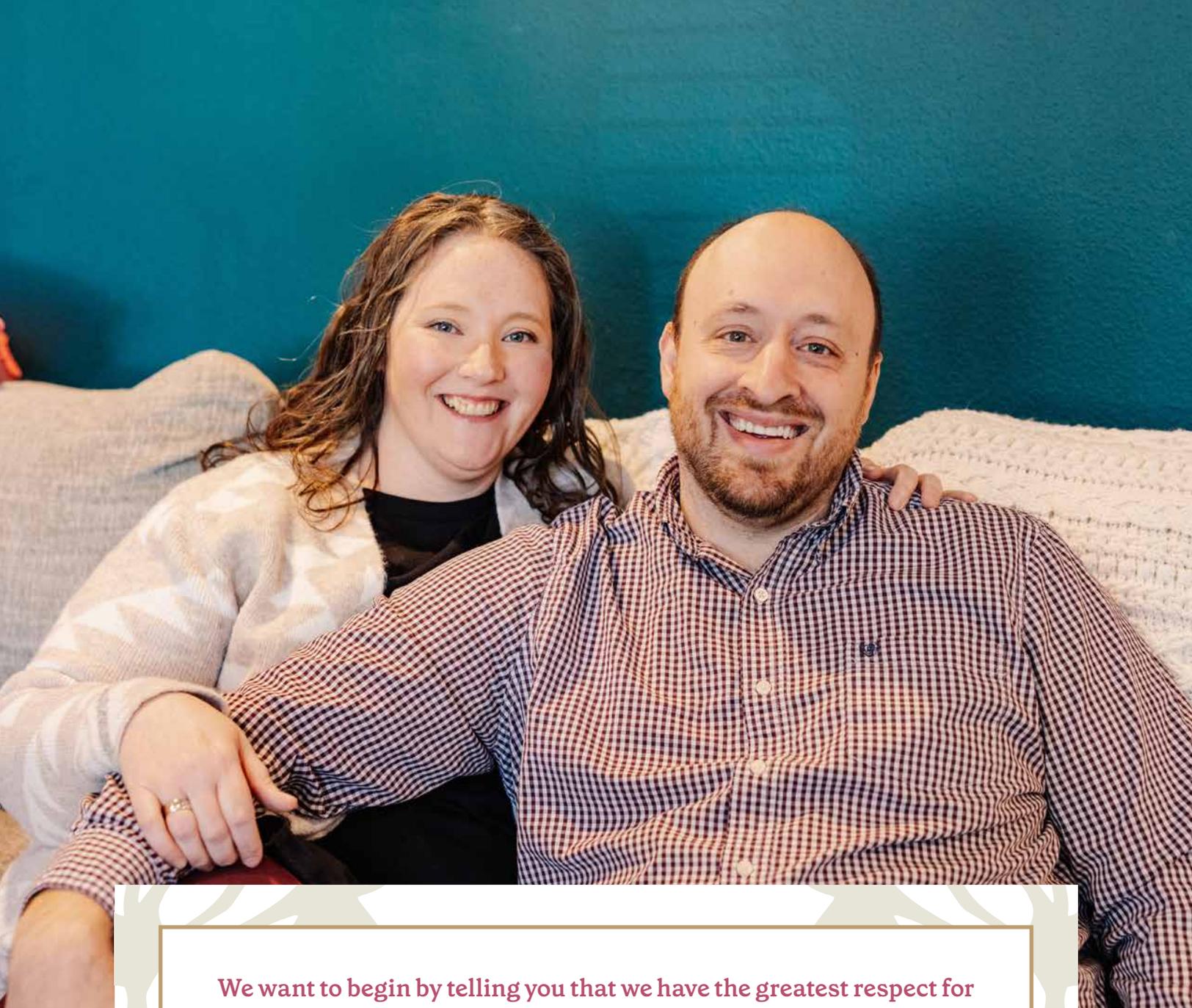




# Ally and Andrew

#2100558



We want to begin by telling you that we have the greatest respect for you. We understand that you are making an incredibly hard decision and we are praying for you to find peace and to come to the right decision for both you and your child. We are committed to ensuring that your child knows and appreciates their story and their heritage.

Sincerely, Andrew and Ally

**We hope that in our profile, you see a family full of joy, nerdiness, and a whole lot of love! We are excited to one day share our lives with a little one.**

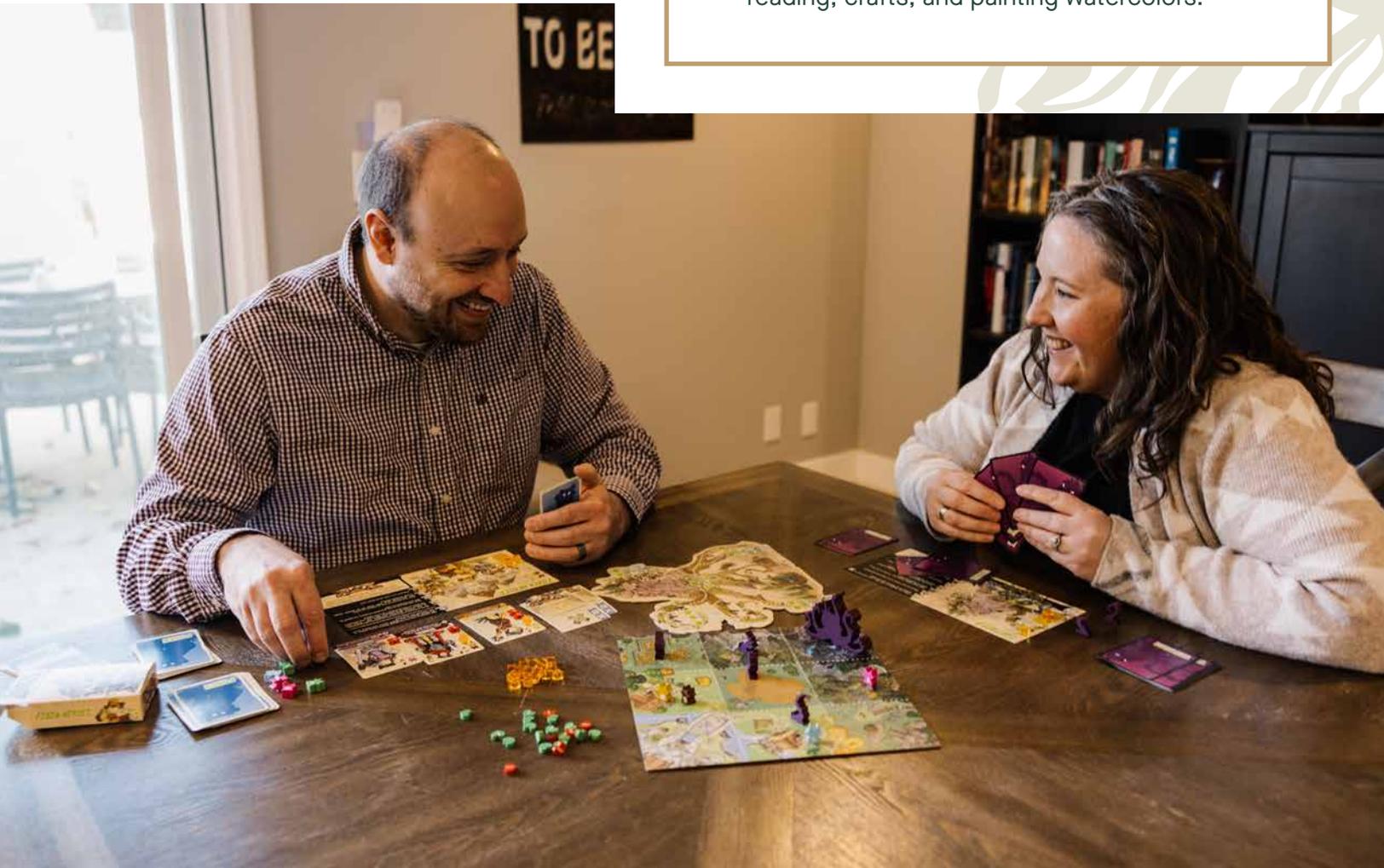
Since we started dating in graduate school we have always been open to adoption as the means to grow our family. We are surrounded with friends and loved ones who have been great examples of how beautiful adoption can be in creating diverse and loving families, so adoption was a natural way to grow our family.



## Our Story

**W**e were friends for four years before we started dating and our love began to blossom around a shared love of learning and art. We went to an Andrew Bird concert and spent the whole time talking about life, music, and science. A few months later we turned what was supposed to be an evening working on our research at Panera into several hours talking about dinosaurs. (We are nerds to the max!) Within a few weeks we were officially dating and planning the next step in our careers around each other. The rest is history!

**Just like those early years, we are always exploring life together. We love to expand our minds together through seeing as much live music, theater, and dance as we can and visiting museums of all kinds!** We also enjoy experiencing nature through hikes and traveling. When we're not out and about, we're spending time together at home playing board games and relaxing through reading, crafts, and painting watercolors.





Cooking together

Surprise 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Andrew



# On Parenting

At the core of parenting is love.  
Love comes in many forms:

Providing a safe,  
stable, and secure  
home

—

Providing  
empathetic guidance

—

Providing meaningful  
experiences

Respecting where  
our child came  
from, who they are,  
and who they are  
becoming

—

Having a  
commitment to  
continue growing  
together as parents

## A Little More About Us

As professors, education is a key part of our lives and we will foster a love for learning and exploration in our home. We are excited to see what new and interesting things our child is into and can help us learn more about!

While being professors may sound stuffy, the truth is we spend most of our time laughing and not taking much seriously. For example, when we go to museums we often spend time taking funny pictures mimicking the art. While we love the symphony, we also love rocking out to a punk show or jamming out to some indie rock.



We get to take students to chemistry conferences



Being silly at a Harry Potter exhibit

Punk concert in Irvine



# Meet Ally

By Andrew



Exploring the San Diego Zoo

**Ally is a chemistry educator and researcher who always motivates students to be the best they can be.**

She is a champion for her students and actively works towards increasing the accessibility of science. She is sought out for her creativity in problem solving and leadership. Ally loves life! She is often mesmerized by the beauty of art and the wonders of nature (especially sea turtles and cows)! Ally is already a beloved aunt who her nieces and nephews seek out for life advice, crochet help, and fun. One day, she will make an amazing mother who will flourish seeing the world through the eyes of our child and being sure their life is filled with childhood magic! **She will provide a nurturing and caring home for our child. At the same time, Ally will patiently help our child grow and develop into a happy, healthy, and well-rounded adult!**





Christmas cookies with niece and nephew, Natalie and Jack

Hiking Slot Canyon in Southern California



Representing the US at a conference in Australia

## Fun Facts + Favorites

I love playing the flute. I love listening to jazz. I hate jazz flute!

My favorite movie is White Christmas.

I'm happiest when our home is full of friends and family!

I've seen every John Mayer tour since I was 16.

Snorkeling with sea turtles in Hawaii is one of my favorite memories.

I'm known for my silly faces!



# Meet Andrew

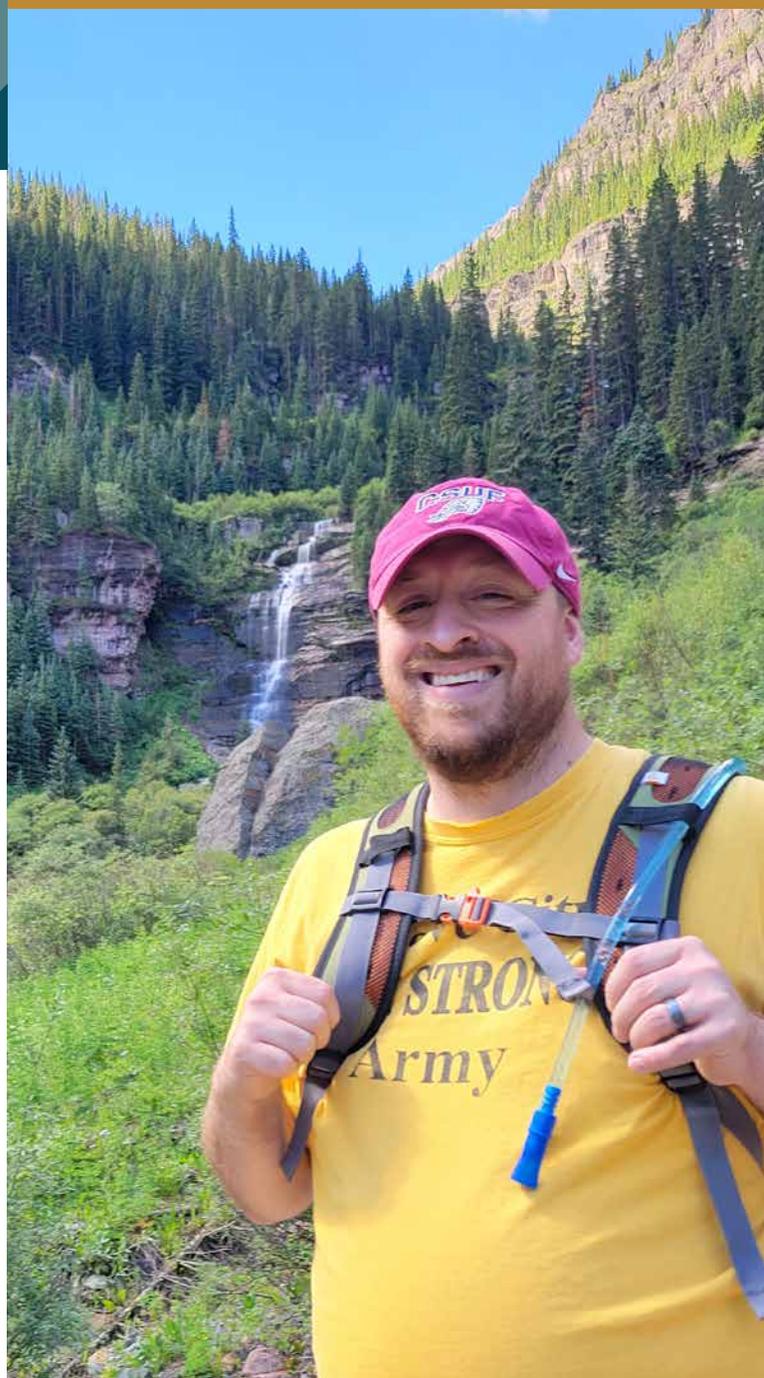
By Ally

Andrew is a chemistry professor who loves to try to understand the chemical world while also giving opportunities to students to develop as scientific researchers and thinkers.

He believes deeply in supporting under-served scientists in reaching their full potential. This deep concern for others hints to why Andrew will be a great father: he loves people relentlessly and always wants to help them reach their goals! As a natural leader he patiently works to solve all problems he faces with a focus on what is best for all involved. He cares deeply about people and helping everyone! **This is also why he is the "fun uncle"**. Our nieces and nephews (blood and by choice) flock to him because he makes them the center of attention and they walk away from time with him with a deep sense of being loved and seen. Plus he is a big goofball and that never hurts with kiddos!



Hiking in Telluride, Colorado





Botanical gardens in Hawaii



Board games on a cruise



Visiting the Edgar Allen Poe statue in Boston



Teaching our nephew's class about chemistry

## Fun Facts + Favorites

I played euphonium (a small tuba) in high school band.

I am an Eagle Scout.

I am fascinated by carnivorous plants!

One of my favorite hikes is to a palm tree oasis in the Southern California desert, surrounded by wildflowers and bighorn sheep.

I enjoy scary movies and books.



Concert at the Hollywood Bowl



One of our favorite hiking spots in California



# Our Home

We moved to Orange County California 10 years ago after growing up in the Midwest and we couldn't be happier!

We live near the ocean and often hike there and in the desert a few hours away. **Living just outside of LA means we have access to all the music and museums that we value so much while still being able to enjoy living in a quiet neighborhood with great school systems.** Our cozy home has plenty of space for our little one to grow and thrive in, not to mention be taught some super fun board games and learn some prized family recipes.

## On Adoption

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**We believe that diversity is what makes our world beautiful! We promise to honor and educate our child about their heritage.** Supporting our child in their future means we will celebrate their past. To do this we will both surround our family with a diverse community and keep connections to our child's birth family. Our child will always know they were adopted, where they came from, and who loved them first. Through a relationship the birth family feels comfortable with, our child will come to appreciate how broad and rich their circle of love is.



## Our Pets

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**We have two sweet cats, Psi and Theta.**

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**Psi and Theta are both 8-years-old. They are either sleeping or exploring their patio by "hunting" leaves - or better yet sleeping on the patio!**





On the set of Friends with Andrew's parents

# Our Family

While we don't live in the same state as many of our family, it means we get to travel to our family all over the US every year, they come visit us (we live where most people want to vacation), and/or we travel to interesting places with them (most recently Memphis, TN). We are open to traveling to see our child's birth family too. Ohio is home to Andrew's family and Ally's family live in Florida - so every winter break we spend time enjoying the snow and the beach with our very active families! Ally's sister and brother-in-law in Florida have a beautifully diverse family that has grown through the adoption of six children after their two biological children left the nest. We are godparents to Andrew's brother and sister-in-law three biological children in Ohio. In total we have been blessed to have fourteen nieces and nephews who we love to spend time with and visit! **Additionally, we have many friends near and far who have become family who are excited to be part of our child's life!**



Outer Banks with Ally's family

Playing games with niece by choice, Evelyn



Loving on our Godsons, the twin sons of Ally's bestie



## Our Values

Rooted in our Christian faith, we cherish a deep love for people. This drives our work at a student-focused university, helping students become scientists. **We aim to teach our child that everyone is precious and that true love means using your gifts to make a difference in others' lives.**



Nieces and nephew time



The cousins at Andrew's family reunion

Extended family at our nephew's wedding



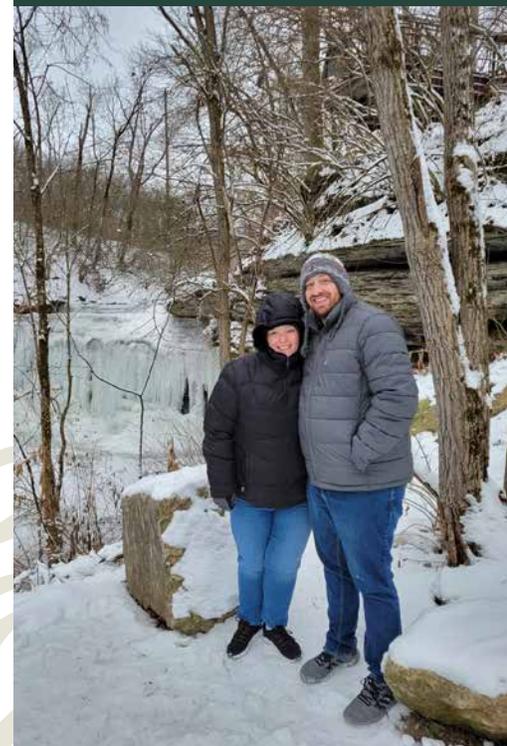


Winter hike in Ohio

## Our Final Thoughts

**Thank you for considering us to be part of you and your child's story! We have enjoyed sharing a glimpse of what a life with us looks like.**

We promise that if chosen, your child will always be honored and loved! They will always know where they came from and that they have always been loved by you!



# Andrew

## OCCUPATION

Chemistry Professor

## EDUCATION

Doctorate in Chemistry

## RELIGION

Protestant

## DATE OF BIRTH

04/13/1984

## HAIR COLOR

Brown

## EYE COLOR

Green

## HEIGHT

5'11"

# Ally

## OCCUPATION

Chemistry Professor

## EDUCATION

Doctorate in Chemistry

## RELIGION

Protestant

## DATE OF BIRTH

06/20/1986

## HAIR COLOR

Brown

## EYE COLOR

Blue

## HEIGHT

5'4"

# Family Information

**Date of marriage:** 04/11/2015

**Interests and hobbies:** We love to do many activities together, including traveling, hiking, playing board games, going to concerts (everything from classical symphonies to indie folk to punk rock), visiting art museums, and exploring new restaurants. Ally also crafts, paints watercolors, and loves trying out new recipes. Andrew enjoys reading and learning more about math and science.

**Home:** We live in a family neighborhood filled with parks and great schools. Our home is perfect for a little one to grow up in as they will have their own room and plenty of space to play.

**Pets:** Psi and Theta, two 8-year-old kitties from the same litter.

**Why are you interested in building your family through adoption?** Even when we were dating, we talked about adoption as being part of our family's story. We've seen first-hand how adoption has positively impacted our extended family on both sides through cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends who are chosen family.

**Openness to birthparent(s):** We hope to have an open relationship with the birth family as we all want what is best for the child. We look forward to pursuing the best openness level for all parties, including visits, calls, pictures, and/or letters. We also acknowledge this is new territory for all of us, and we look forward to learning to navigate that with the birth family.

**Childcare plans:** After initial maternity and paternity leave, our child will be in daycare near the university where we both work. The flexibility of our jobs means that we will also have weekends and summers off to spend time with our child. We can also make our own schedules such that we can be at all important events.

NIGHTLIGHT CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS | (502) 423-5780 | [IMPREGNANT@NIGHTLIGHT.ORG](mailto:IMPREGNANT@NIGHTLIGHT.ORG)

