

*Alyssa & Matt*





*Hi there!*

*My name is Alyssa*

*My name is Matt*

*We are glad to share some information about ourselves and want to start off with a deep, heartfelt acknowledgement of you and what reading this book means.*

*From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank you for considering adoption for your child and for considering us as your child's adoptive family. Choosing this path is an incredible act of love and we understand that it is a choice that takes physical and emotional tolls. More than anything, we want you to know that we are here to support you however and whenever we can. Regardless of anyone else helping to raise your child, you will always be important to them; not only as a mother but as an individual with your own unique story.*

*We hope that sharing some of our stories might help you imagine a bright world of possibilities for your child. We hope that you will be able to feel some of the endless love that we have to share.*



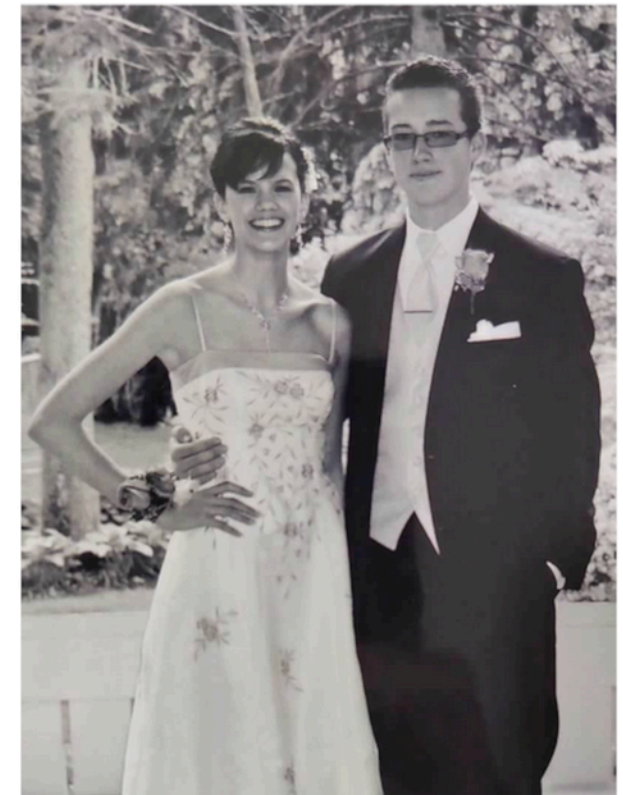
*Above - Visiting our home while under construction in northern Michigan*

*Left - Hiking Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre in Morrison, CO at an elevation of 6,450 feet*

*We chose adoption because we have the love and the means to provide a stable and supportive home to any child who needs it. We want to honor the wishes, the culture, the traditions, and the people of the families that brought them into this world. We want to provide a loving and supportive home to all of our children, and help them to become their very best selves. We want to raise them with the core values of giving back to the community that helped to raise them and to be kinder than necessary to all those they encounter.*



*High school prom, 2011*



### *About Us...*

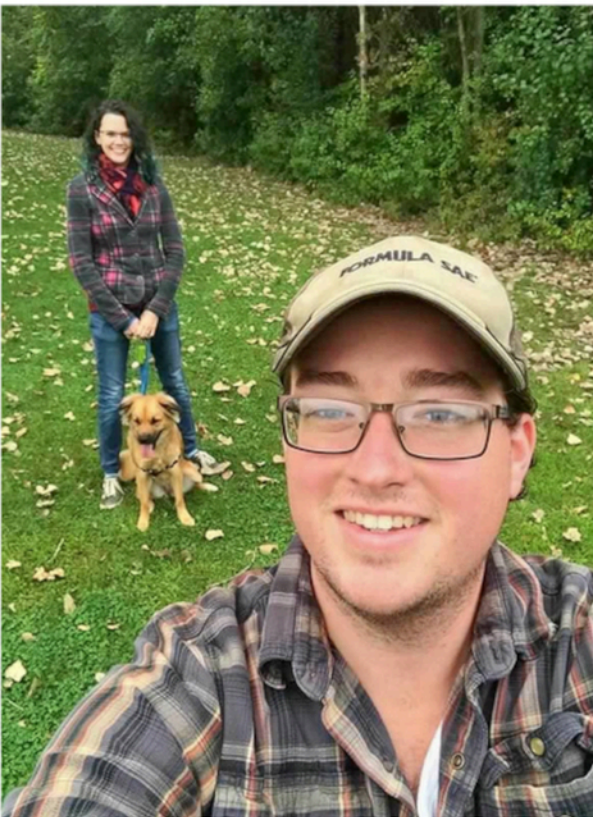
*We met in high school on the debate team, and started dating 2 years later. We got engaged after graduating college, and married the year after. We have been together for 15 years now, through years of long distance, changing life goals, adopting our dog Ada, a pandemic, college (a second time), moving to northern Michigan, and now the adoption process. Alyssa is now a software engineer working in security and privacy, and Matt is an acoustic systems and integration engineer who works on experimental audio technology in the automotive industry.*



*Matt is a very kind and introspective person. and a wonderful partner to go through life with. He is my rock who grounds me through any emotional or physical struggles I've been dealt.*

*He pushes me to chase my dreams even when taking the first step is hard or scary. He challenges me to keep growing, evolving, and self-actualizing. Our children will have a father who is a steady hand to guide them through all the ups and downs of life*

*He is very giving, considerate, and empathetic. He thinks long and hard before he takes action, and I find him most days in a quiet corner drawing, reading, or just enjoying the breeze and the sounds of the forest outside.*





*Matt here. Alyssa is one-of-a-kind. She is smart, loving and her passion for life is inspiring. I wake up every morning with the delight of knowing that I am spending another day with her and that, even if the rest of my day is a mess, I felt the peace and contentment of holding her in my arms.*

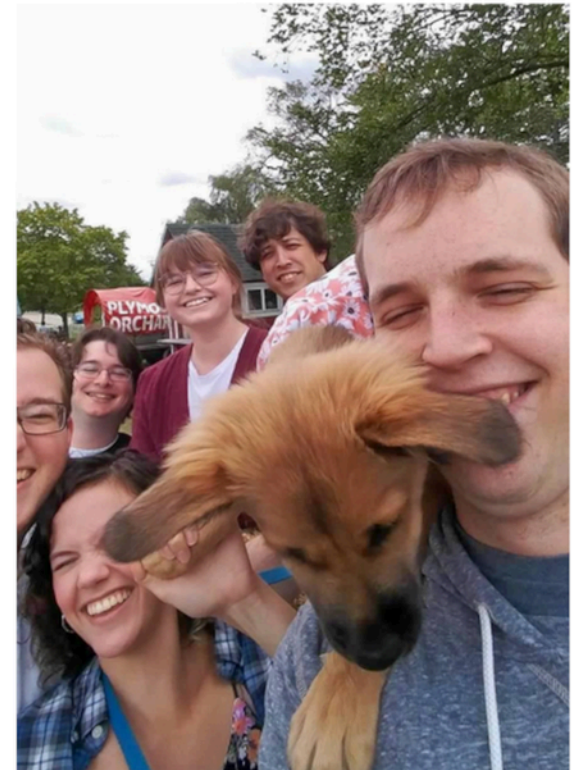
*I am excited for any children we adopt to know that warmth and that love because no other feeling in this world can match it. Alyssa is your best friend and your support when you are feeling down. She is your guardian when the world is unfair. She is a light of creativity and spirit when everything is grey.*

*She is how I know that love can be infinite and that means we'll always have enough to share.*



## Meet Alyssa!

*I come from a relatively small family from southeast Michigan. One set of grandparents moved here from Kentucky after WW2, and the other immigrated from Ukraine around the same time. I only had three sets of aunts and uncles, and a scant handful of cousins growing up with large age gaps between us. I spent most of my time with my parents, my siblings (Nick and Sheila), and my Auntie Barbara and Uncle John. I am still very close with my brother and his family, as well as my aunt and uncle. The group of us has had family trips to northern Michigan every year since pandemic restrictions first lifted. My aunt and uncle are like a second set of parents to me, and I talk with them every week.*



*Top Left - Auntie Barbara, Uncle John, me, Matt, Nick, Nick's wife Sarah, and their three kids  
Bottom Left - Auntie Barbara, Sarah, Sara's sister Andrea, me, and Sarah and Andrea's kids  
Middle - Me, Nick, Matt, and Nick's kids hiking through our property  
Right - Me and Matt with our closest friends on our first anniversary*



*Top row - Me with my friends Jackie, Kelly, Lauren, and Mel  
Middle row - Group ski trip to Boyne Highlands; me with my friend Jess  
Bottom row - Our closest friends and family at our wedding*



*Because of how small my family was growing up, I am a big proponent of found families. I love to be with friends for holidays, vacations, or just to see each other. My best friend Lauren is like a sister to me, and I've known her almost as long! There's always space in our home for a friend in need, even if all they need is some homemade pierogies when they're going through tough times.*

## Meet Matt!

*I come from a split family but both sides have made it clear that they can't wait to meet a new member of the family.*

*My dad acts like a stoic but I know he can't wait to hold a grandchild. Barely holding back tears, he asks us about name ideas, how often he will be able to visit, what is the timeline for adoption and other practical things. He is the kind of person that wants to hide how excited he is before spending all day playing on the floor with a little one and asking, "Are you sure you don't want to spend the night? We don't mind."*

*My mom on the other hand is an open book when it comes to emotions. When she eventually meets a new grandchild, I expect that she will cry tears of happiness off-and-on all day. Being there for us as kids and now being there for future grandchildren is her passion and her deep desire. I joke that my concern is just to make sure that she doesn't spoil her grandchildren too much.*

*Left - Waiting for "Phantom of the Opera" to start with Alyssa and my sisters  
Bottom left - Alyssa, my sisters, my dad and I before a wedding  
Bottom middle - Our dog, Ada, peering over the couch cushions  
Bottom right - Us with my mother's side of the family at my sister's white coat ceremony; it's a blessing to have a doctor in the family*



*The age gap between my sisters and I (not to mention that they always had each other; twins) meant we didn't really forge a strong relationship until we all became adults. Now, we still play Dungeons & Dragons together whenever we can find the time to get together. Our latest game has been going for almost a decade now!*

*Our longtime friends complete our family. Caring, honest and kind, any child that we raise will have many aunts and uncles to be played with and learned from.*

*Right - Making new friends on a hike in Scotland; we discovered an ancient and undocumented Roman border stone that day!  
Below - My groomsmen and I posing for the most iconic photo we've ever taken*



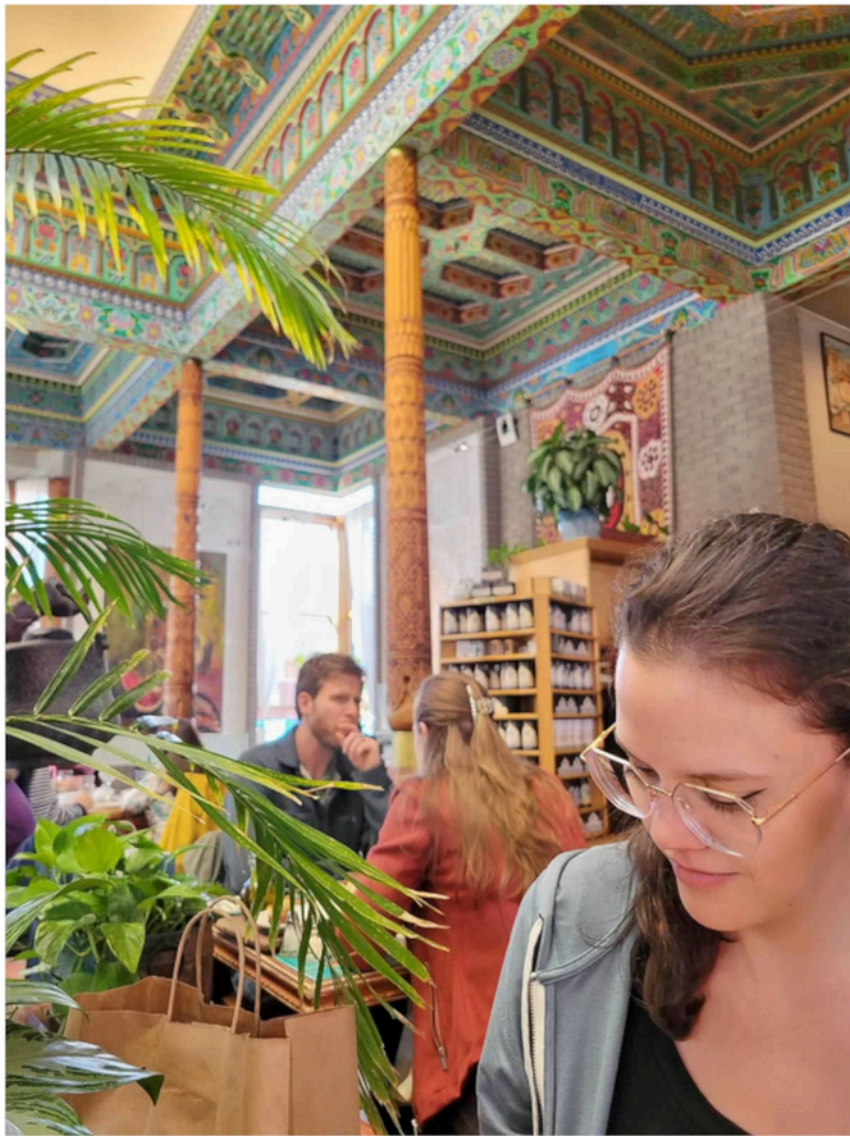
*Matt and Alyssa are both creatives, and Alyssa's chosen creative field is all things fibercrafting. She is a self-taught seamstress and crocheter, and she makes almost all of her own clothing (within reason)!*

*Right - Crocheting enough 'granny squares' to tile over a sleeping Ada (snoot excluded, of course)*

*Bottom left - Both of us at a charity event dressed in Alyssa's handywork*

*Bottom right - Alyssa made a patchwork "Sally (Nightmare Before Christmas)" costume*



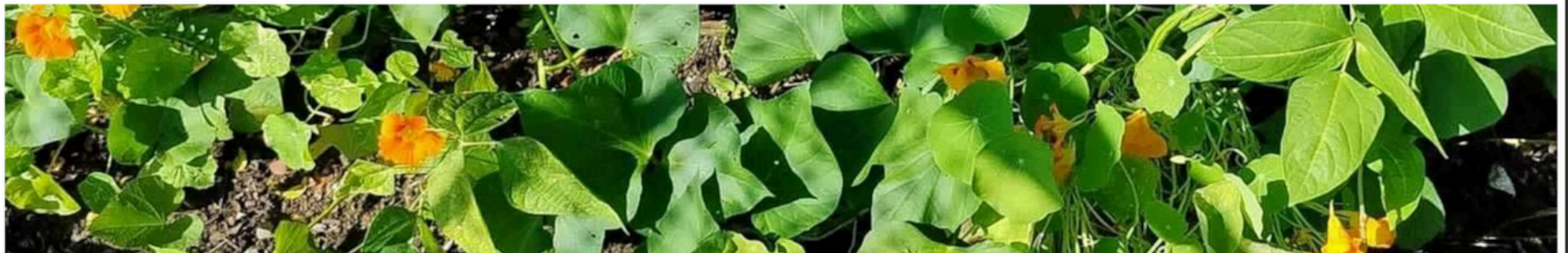


*Alyssa is also passionate about teaching, and has her masters in Computer Science and a CTE teaching certificate in order to facilitate an eventual career switch into the teaching field.*

*Outside of winter, she is an avid gardener with big plans to make a native plant food forest in our new home. She also has an extensive tea and mug collection that requires multiple cupboards to accommodate.*



*Far left - Alyssa at a Tajikistani tea house in Boulder, CO  
Left - The garden bed filled with 3 sisters (sunflower, beans, and squash/pumpkins)  
Bottom - Nasturtium and Beans in the garden*



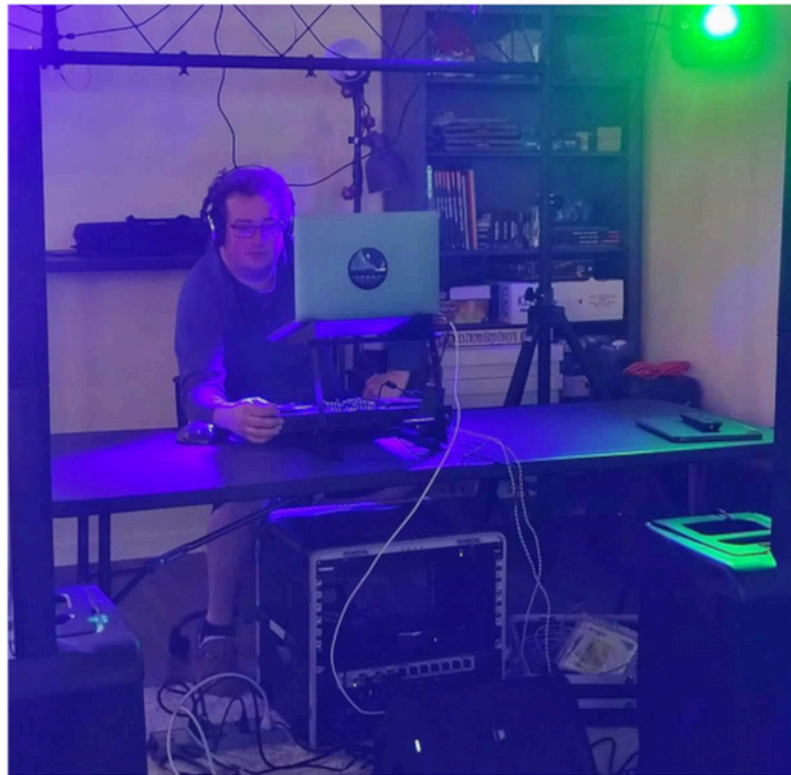


*Matt is a tinkerer who loves music. His favorite activities all blend together music and working with his hands. As an engineer who specializes in sound, he gets to play around with electronics, software and instruments and he loves pulling together fun and weird projects. He takes so much pleasure and joy from all the things that make life beautiful.*

*Top left - Matt sitting in the woods by the fire and reading*

*Bottom left - Matt DJ'ing for a get-together with friends*

*Below - Matt's most notable sound design project with Ford Racing, Ready To Race, and T-Pain (you can scan the QR code below to watch the documentary)*



Mustang Mach-E 1400: A No Rules, All-Electric Power Project | Ford Performance

Ford Racing 502K subscribers

Subscribe

1.3K

Share

Ask

Save

*Matt's never stopped being a photographer since briefly working as one as a teenager and he loves reading and writing (especially poetry). He believes that one of the greatest things a person can do is create and share beauty, love, joy and all the other virtues of life. He's just happy to be a part of that in his own way.*



*Right - Our last visit to the Smokey Mountains searching for beautiful vistas on the Blue Ridge Parkway  
Below - A beautiful sunset in the Grand Traverse Bay*



## Our Home

*We will be living in a Victorian-and-1920s-inspired home tucked away in the sandy woods of northern Michigan. Our house is surrounded by trees, deer, turkeys, chipmunks, and an endless array of birds and other forest critters. We designed our home to be as eco-friendly as possible and fully accessible to accommodate the changing needs of any children, aging family members, and eventually our aging selves. The living room space will be a large, open, multi-use area that will be perfect for the changing needs of a growing family and growing children.*



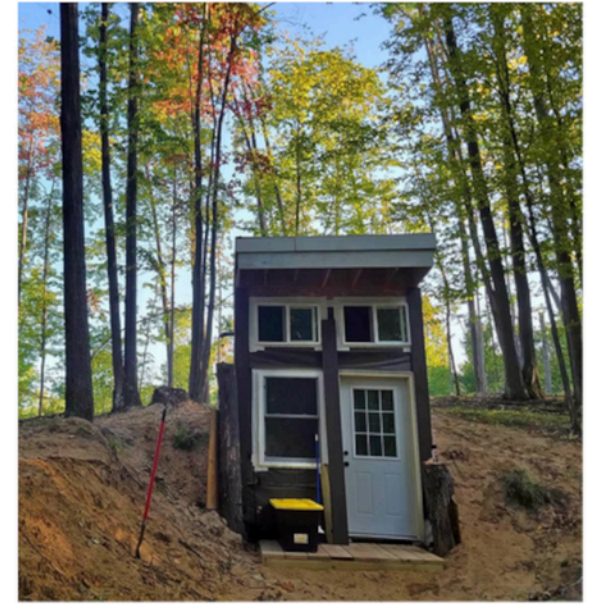
*Top Left - Our house under construction (first floor)*

*Above - The driveway up into the woods in the fall*

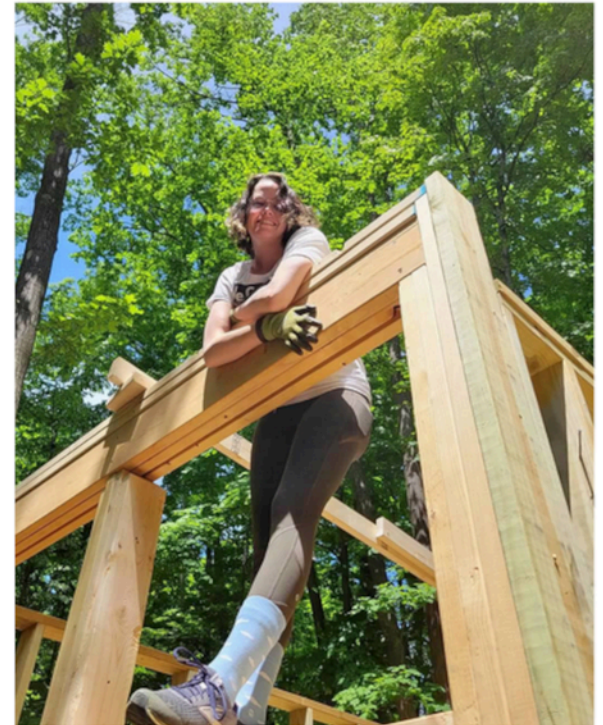
*Bottom Left - 3D Rendering of our future home*



*It is cozy and peaceful in the woods, with many tucked away corners for reading, crafting, gaming, playing, or whatever else is needed to recharge our batteries. We have also built a little sugar shack for making homemade maple syrup!*



*Left side - The woods in the summer  
Bottom - The woods in the winter  
Right side - The sugar shack under construction*



## Our Community

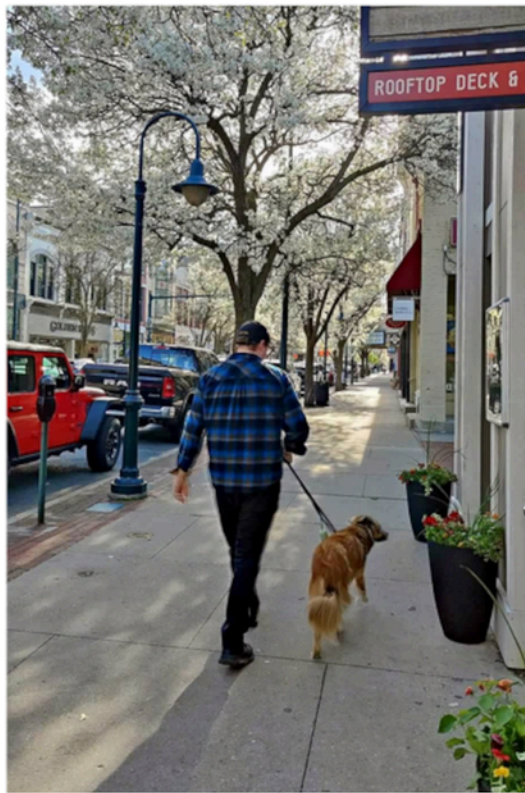
*The community we live in is vibrant and welcoming to all who wish to experience the joys that northern Michigan has to offer. Since moving here, we have been constantly surprised by how kind and inclusive every interaction has been with new acquaintances and friends.*



*Top Left - Matt and Alyssa on a family trip to an apple orchard in northern Michigan*

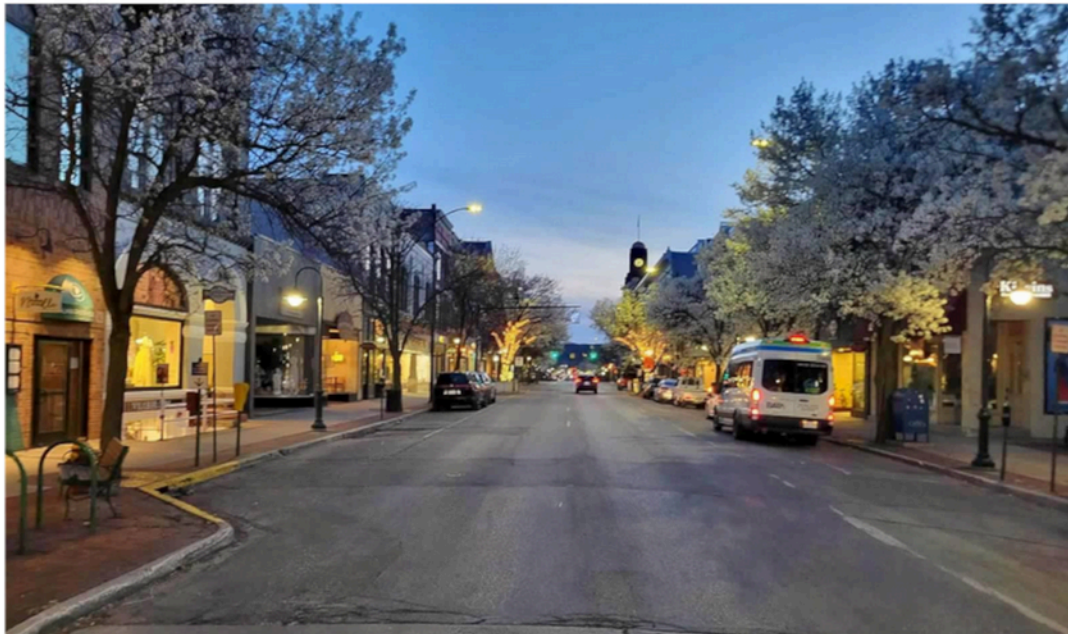
*Bottom Left - Matt and Alyssa at the top of the first dune climb at Sleeping Bear Dunes*

*Top - The neighborhoods of downtown where we go on family walks almost every day*

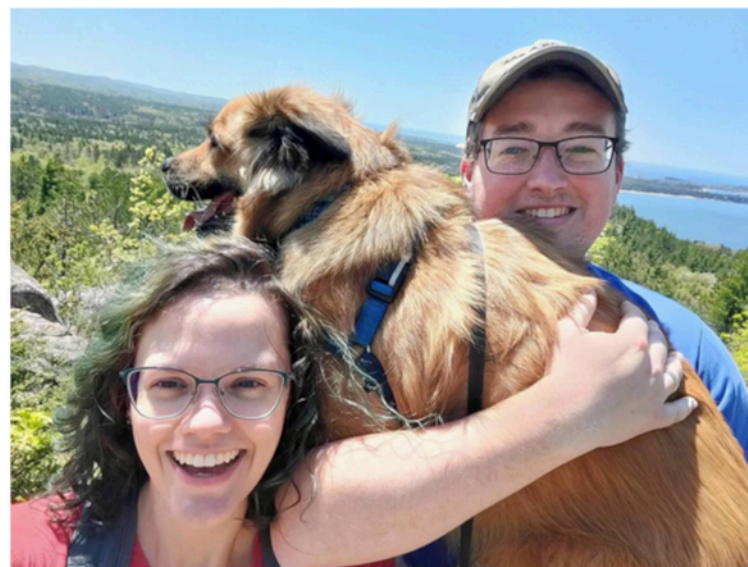


*Our chosen community is the embodiment of what it means to be a midwesterner in all the best ways.*

*Left - Matt and Ada walking in downtown  
Right - Visiting our favorite local bookstore  
Bottom Left - A lively downtown at dusk  
Bottom Right - Alyssa walking along a bay lookout*



*Our shared goal in life is to make the world we live in just a little bit better than we found it. We both want to be good stewards of the forest we own, and active in the vibrant community that we've chosen to become a part of. We hope to be able to instill our children, nieces, and nephews with the same values so they can continue the tradition of giving back to the Earth and the communities they find themselves in over the course of their lives.*



*Top Left - Working at our property in the Fall  
Top Middle - Second anniversary walk in the park  
Top Right - On a hike in the mountains of the UP  
Left - At a close friend's house for pumpkin picking  
Right - Riding modified tandem bikes on a railroad on a family trip*

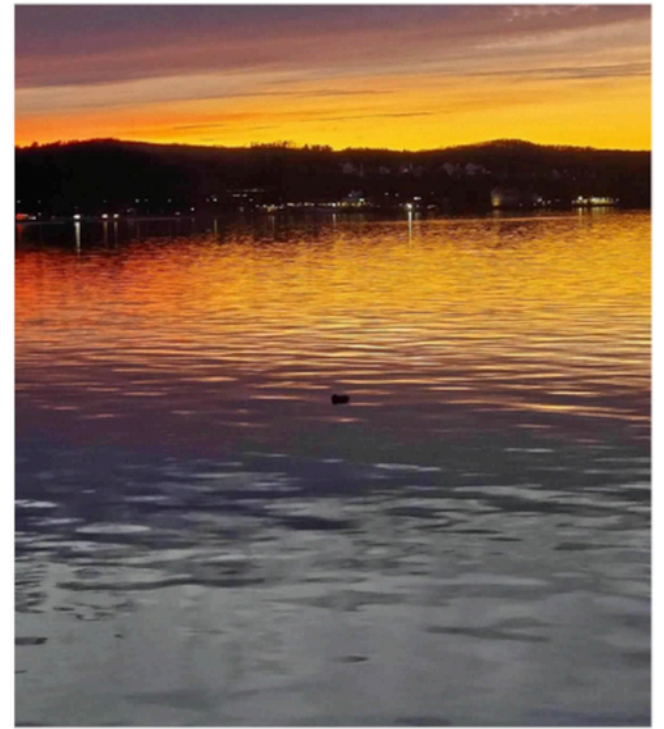




*Left - Alyssa and her brother Nick  
on a hike to visit what would  
eventually become our Maple Sugar  
harvesting camp*

*Right - A local wood duck  
silhouetted by the sunset*

*Below - Matt, Alyssa and Alyssa's  
best friend Lauren atop King  
Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh,  
Scotland*



*For you,*

*As we reminisced through old photos and tried to find ways to show the love and opportunities that we have to share, we knew that this would be a somber moment as well. If you choose us to be your child's adoptive parents, we will all be linked together for the rest of our lives by your sacrifice. We will never perfectly understand your current feelings and thoughts, but know that you are not alone.*

*From the bottom of our hearts, we care about you.*

*Maybe that seems ridiculous. Without being able to tell the future, we don't even know your name. But we already have several things in common: futures full of uncertainty, immense love for your child, and excitement to see how your child grows to be uniquely themselves. Taking such a leap of faith into the unknown requires a noble heart, strength, and love. If you choose us, we would honor you and your shared heritage. We would look forward to witnessing your child grow into a beautiful person who will always know your story and feel the love you have for them. Put simply, we would become family.*

*We have had many emotion-filled conversations about how this moment will impact all of our lives. We are excited for the opportunity, scared of future unknowns, empathetic of your incredibly tough decision, and so grateful that you would even consider us. Adoption creates space for a bond that is unique and special. We envision a bright, colorful, nature-filled future for any child that we adopt and raise, and the best version of it includes you.*

*If you would like to learn more about us, meet to chat or ask any questions, we would be more than happy to do so. Regardless of what you chose, we wish the best for you and your child.*

*With love,*

*Alyssa & Matt*