

# Michael & Ben

*our adoption story*





## *nice to meet you!*

Hello! We are Michael & Ben. We don't know you yet, but thank you for considering us in your adoption decision. We admire the difficult, loving choice you're making for your child, and truly can't imagine how hard it must be. You've already given so much to this child and will continue to give, and know you want the absolute best for them.

We believe we can provide the love, care, support, and resources to help your child grow and thrive. Should you choose us, our promise is to love, cherish, and cheer on your child, and foster a healthy relationship with you in the process.

We want to give you an idea of what our life here in Minnesota looks like, and imagine what the life we could provide for your child. We also hope the information on these pages gives you a glimpse into who we are, and the family we will be for your child.

We hope we get the chance to meet you and speak more about your hopes, values, and get to know you too.

-M & B



## *how we chose adoption*

From the moment we decided to become parents, we knew infant adoption was the path we would take. Ben's sister is adopted, so we know firsthand how impactful adoption can be on a family, and how each experience is unique and beautiful.

We both came to this decision differently. Ben always knew he wanted to have children, but Michael never felt it would be possible for him until after we got married. As our relationship matured and we built the life we wanted, we realized that being fathers together was a path we could not pass up.

We believe that love makes a family. We know that's already true for our family, and will continue to extend that love as our family continues to grow.







## *our love story*

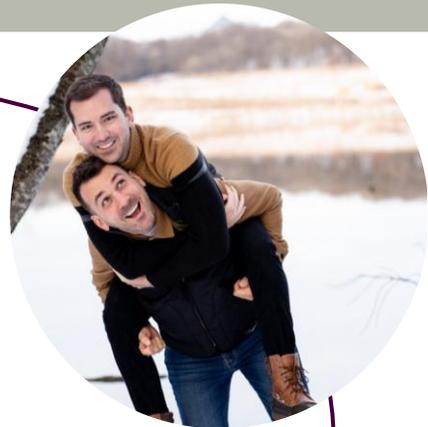
We met in June 2017 and had a whirlwind summer romance getting to know each other. We knew very quickly that this was something special. Both of us had just made huge changes in our lives: Ben coming out to his friends and family, and Michael, new to Minneapolis and establishing a stable career path. We found each other right when we were ready.



Michael brought out the fun in Ben, who can at times be so focused on progress that he doesn't slow down to enjoy the journey. That all changed that summer.

Ben brought a maturity and stability to Michael's life that he didn't know he was missing. Things were easier and more assured when Ben was around. We made a good team.

Fast forward a bit... we moved in together in 2019 survived the pandemic together, and in March of 2021 we got engaged on the same day that we put an offer on a new home that we would share. In that same time, Ben changed careers, leaving teaching and becoming a successful businessman, and Michael changed jobs. Each change was a moment that strengthened our love and commitment to each other.



We got married in August 2022 in Minneapolis, surrounded by family and friends – a beautiful ceremony that we'll never forget. Best friends, partners and husbands.



But it doesn't stop there. We know our future together won't be just the two of us. We're excited to get to know each other in our next roles – as dads. We are excited to start a family, and share our love with a child.



## *more about* Ben

<b>Occupation</b>	Director of Learning & Development in Digital Marketing
<b>Education</b>	Masters in Music Education
<b>Race</b>	Caucasian
<b>Religion</b>	Christian
<b>Sport</b>	Long distance- running & cross-country skiing
<b>Hobby</b>	Gardening & taking care of plants- indoor and outdoor!
<b>Tradition</b>	Cooking Thanksgiving Dinner with Michael & extended family
<b>Music</b>	Choir Music and Pop
<b>Dream Vacation</b>	Hiking through the mountains in Italy
<b>TV Show</b>	Real Housewives (esp. Salt Lake City)
<b>Book</b>	The Hunger Games

### *about* Ben, by Michael

Ben (36) is one of the most thoughtful and steady people I know. He brings care and calm to everything he does, whether it's in his work as a learning and development director or in everyday life with our home, garden, and two beloved cats. Before his current role, he spent a decade as a K-12 choir teacher, which speaks to his nurturing nature and love of learning.

He's patient, kind, and deeply committed to creating a loving and supportive home. Ben is also driven; he finds joy in challenging himself, whether through fitness, career goals, or personal growth. Despite his ambition, he stays grounded with a great sense of humor and a strong sense of fairness. I know any child raised by Ben will feel safe, cherished, and inspired by his example.



*ben is...* kind, patient, communicator, driven, creative, athletic, nurturing, expressive

*more about*

# Michael

<b>Occupation</b>	Senior Account Manager for Retail Services
<b>Education</b>	Bachelors in Acting & Children's Theater
<b>Race</b>	Caucasian
<b>Religion</b>	Christian, not practicing
<b>Sport</b>	I grew up golfing and playing tennis
<b>Hobby</b>	Relaxing with the cats and playing video games
<b>Tradition</b>	Picking out Xmas trees at the farmers' market
<b>Music</b>	Musicals, 80s & 90s throwbacks, and a little bit of Kpop!
<b>Dream Vacation</b>	I would go to Palm Springs for every vacation if I could!
<b>TV Show</b>	RuPaul's Drag Race
<b>Book</b>	I'm in the middle of reading Harry Potter for the first time



## *about* **Michael**, by **Ben**

Michael (34) is playful, kind-hearted, and full of love. He brings joy and creativity into our home, whether he's dancing in the kitchen or dusting the living room, he makes simple moments special. With his big heart and deep empathy, he has a natural gift for making others feel seen and loved, and is always the life of the party.

He studied theater for young audiences in his undergrad and worked as a director & performer before becoming a successful account manager. He still carries that sense of fun and imagination into everything he does. Michael is incredibly caring, whether it's with our cats, in our marriage, or simply admiring a beautiful plant. He works hard, feels things deeply, and leads with love. I know he'll be a gentle, silly, and devoted father.



*michael is...* fun, caring, sensitive, theatrical, cautious, thoughtful, a learner, gentle





## *more about* **our home**



We moved into our beautiful 4 bed/3 bath home on a cul-de-sac about 15 minutes NW of Minneapolis in 2021. Our home is spacious—perfect for growing our family. We sit on half an acre with a massive, beautiful backyard with tons of space to play, garden, and relax. We live in a great school district and are walking distance from one of the elementary schools.

We also live a 2-minute walk from a state park with trails, a lake, and a beach! Each night (weather permitting), we walk to the park to enjoy the beautiful outdoor spaces before sunset.

- **Wake up** around 7:30 for coffee and feeding the cats.
- **Relax:** We take Saturday mornings slow, savoring a little extra time relaxing together.
- **Chores:** Our home and yard always needs TLC to stay beautiful! We enjoy keeping the yard spruced up in the Spring & Summer to brighten the neighborhood.
- **Hobbies:** Ben will head out for a long run or bike ride, while Michael logs on to play video games with friends who live in other states.
- **Food:** We love spending time together in the kitchen! Ben is the cook of the family & will likely get started prepping some food for dinner – if it's not winter, we're probably grilling.
- **Evening:** We love to stay in! We cozy up in our downstairs by the fireplace and watch a show, pausing for long periods to talk, joke, and watch the cats.
- **Walk:** As the sun sets, we'll go on a walk- we always do the same 1.5 mile loop to the lake near our home.
- **Bed time:** We both pull out our kindles... Michael is reading some throw-back Nancy Drew, and Ben is reading a novel (he loves fiction).

*a typical  
Saturday  
in our  
home*

more about

# Our Cats, Peanut & Pickle

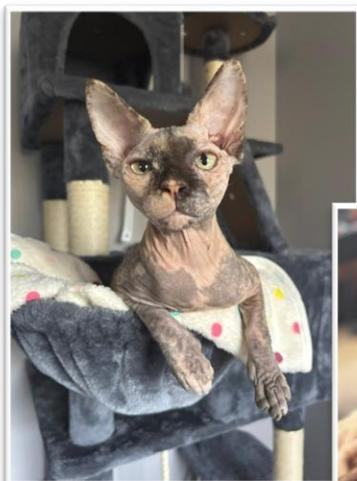


We have two hairless Sphynx cats, Peanut and Pickle, both of whom love meeting new people, and connect especially well with children. Peanut (left) joined us in Summer 2024 when she was just a kitten—she is playful, vocal, social, and still has the kitten energy! She plays fetch in our living room with her favorite toys and sometimes will accidentally run into the sliding glass door. Pickle (right) joined us in fall of 2025, and is a big boy! He is rambunctious and affectionate, and loves to play, cuddle, and run on his cat wheel (like a hamster wheel, but bigger). We love taking care of them!



## Peanut & Pickle's Favorite Things

- Food** Yes. The more expensive the better.
- Memory** Eating
- Hobby** \*\*\*See 'Favorite Memory'
- Color** (Can cats even see color?)  
What color is the food?





*more about*

# Our People

We have a wonderful support network– family and friends both near and far who are excited to support us and our child as our family grows.

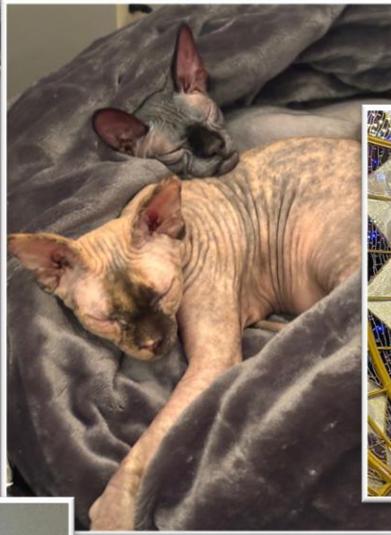
**Ben's family:** His parents, grandmother, his three siblings & their spouses, and their children (six nieces and nephews across three families) all live within 15-minutes of us! Ben's family frequently gets together for Sunday night dinners– four generations of family all in the same space!

**Michael's family:** His mom, dad, stepparents, and brother live in San Antonio, Texas, where he was born and raised. Michael's extended family (aunts, uncles, grandparents) all live in Minneapolis! Michael's mom frequently travels to Minneapolis to visit and is eager to fly up often to support our growing family.

**Friends:** Our friends live coast to coast, from Boston to Minneapolis to L.A., and are excited to share and support our growing family. Michael & Ben each have best friends who live *just* down the street from us, and we are excited to incorporate all of them into the life of our child. Many of our friends have also recently started their families and have children under the age of one.



*Our life in*  
**Photos**





## our promises...

Every relationship is built on trust. We hope these promises from us build a strong, trusting foundation for our open adoption relationship to you.

- We promise to love this child unconditionally, nurturing them as they grow, cheering for them when they need to be encouraged, and supporting them as long as we are alive.
- We promise to build a home full of joy and laughter for this child to grow up in.
- We promise to advocate for your child's needs, whatever they might be, and to provide them with education and opportunities to learn.
- We promise to invest in their relationship with you. That they will know you, know your deep love for them, know our love and admiration for you, and know the power of the choice you made in letting us parent them.
- We promise to be open, honest, and transparent with you as we build our relationship. We know there will be stumbles along the way as we figure it out, but we will stay engaged, even when it's hard.
- We promise to consider you in our decisions. We will consider how you feel, what your needs are, and how our choices as a family will impact you.
- We promise to keep learning. We don't know what's ahead, but we do know there will be a lot to learn. About parenting. About openness. About ourselves, the child, and you.

We promise.

Ben & Michael



**We hope to  
meet you soon!**

