

SARA + JIM





HELLO! WE ARE SARA AND JIM.



OUR NOTE TO YOU

We are honored that you are considering us as potential adoptive parents for your child. From our journey as foster parents, we learned what it feels like to pass a child we cared for to a stranger with the hope and a prayer that their new home will be everything the child needs. We realize that your choice to consider adoption for your child is a very difficult one and that you are not making this choice without heartbreak. We admire the personal strength you show through considering adoption. We appreciate the enormous trust you would be placing in us to serve as your child's adoptive parents. As your child's biological parent, you will always be an important person in their life. Should you choose, we intend to support a relationship between you and your child and our hope is for your child to always feel your decision was one made from a loving heart.

We understand the importance of trust during this time. We promise to be honest with you and to answer as many of your questions as we can. We trust your judgement and support your decision for who you choose to parent your child. We want to assure you that if you select us, your child's well-being will always be our top priority. We want to reassure you that we are ready and able to care for your child. We have completed numerous training courses and read more books than we can count; but nothing can compare to our real life experiences with the children in our lives. We have experience as foster parents, experience with our friends' children, and experience caring for our ten nieces and nephews. We believe we are ready and committed to supporting your child as they grow and navigate their unique life.

If you are willing, we also believe in maintaining a strong connection with you; as we know how important that connection can be for your child's sense of identity and emotional well-being. We want to support you through this time in your life and get to know you on a personal level. Above all, we want to reassure you that we are here to provide a safe and loving space for your child to thrive.

Thank you for considering us. We look forward to meeting you and your child.

A romantic couple, Sara and Jim, are embracing and about to kiss on an airfield. Sara is wearing a black and white checkered dress over a black long-sleeved shirt and black heels. Jim is in a tan military uniform. In the background, a fighter jet is parked on the tarmac under a warm, golden light.

*with love,
Sara and Jim*

OUR DREAM FOR YOUR CHILD IS THAT THEY GROW UP KNOWING THEY ARE LOVED AND CHERISHED BY GOD, BY YOU, BY US, AND BY OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE WANT FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE A SAFE HOME WHERE THEY CAN OPENLY EXPRESS THEMSELVES. A PLACE WHERE THEY FEEL SEEN, HEARD, AND VALIDATED IN THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.



W H Y A D O P T I O N

We have always wanted a family and from the beginning, we talked about adoption or fostering being a part of the way our family would grow.

In 2021, we learned that we are unable to have biological children due to medical reasons, so we decided to start fostering with the possibility of adoption in the future. We began this process while living in Japan. We were approved and on the list for matching but had to move back stateside before we had a successful match. Once stateside, we fostered a ten year old boy until he was moved to what will be his forever home. Our time with him was short but we know we made a positive impact on his life, just as he did on ours. Our experience as foster parents was rewarding and made us realize that we are ready to pursue adoption. We have a deep desire to work together to raise children and watch them reach as many new and important milestones as they can. We are excited to learn about and celebrate everything about your child. From your child's likes and dislikes, to their individual personality, food preferences, hobbies, and fears; we want to embrace them all while watching and encouraging them to grow and learn.

Connection to Adoption

Sara's brother and sister-in-law have five children. One son who was adopted, one biological son, two biological daughters, and one infant daughter they are currently fostering. Our nephew was adopted from another country at the age of 12 and is now 18 years old. He is the oldest of Sara's brother's children and he has been a beautiful addition to our family. He was born with several disabilities and will be cared for by his parents for the rest of his life.

Jim's family friends, who are more like family, have a daughter who became pregnant at a young age. She and the father made the decision to find adoptive parents for their baby. From this, we have seen the difficulty of a family making this decision and we have seen our family respect and support their daughter's decision. We know that our family will show you the same respect, love, and support that was shown to our friends.



Both of our families are extremely welcoming and supportive of our decision to adopt. We are certain that our extended families will treat every child who enters into our family through adoption and foster care the same as every one of our biologically-born nephews and nieces. We and our families will fully embrace and honor the culture and heritage of every child who enters our family. We would find great value and joy in teaching your child about foods, languages, holidays, music, and customs from their culture. We lived in Japan for almost six years and our extended families are multiracial, so we understand the importance of investing our time in learning about different cultures. We will enjoy helping your child learn about their culture and heritage as well as helping them make friends with people of their ethnicity. We value a diverse community and believe it's one of the best gifts we can give children.



OUR STORY

We have been married for twelve years.

Before we met, Jim was attending a university to be a classical saxophonist and Sara was planning to attend art school. As fate would have it, our plans changed and we both transferred to the same university. Jim changed his major to math and economics and Sara became a business major. Our paths crossed for the first time in English class. Sara decided right away that Jim was too talkative and annoying. Luckily, Jim skipped classes often. Jim says he looked forward to seeing the “cute redhead with the nose piercing,” just not enough to go to class twice a week. The following school year, we both started working for university housing and our paths crossed again. We officially started dating after a 5k race when Jim asked Sara if she would be his girlfriend and we have been together since!

Jim’s military career started in 2014 and since then we have moved around the world, including six years in Japan. During our twelve years together, we have learned to be a team and support each other through all the challenges of life. We both share a love of adventure and the outdoors which has encouraged us to explore everywhere we have lived. Jim’s job as a pilot has been very demanding and has at times meant spending months apart. Over the years, we have overcome these challenges through good communication, a strong bond of trust, and shared Christian values. We have reached a point in Jim’s career where we can now settle down and are excited to start a family. The challenges we overcame and adventures that we had will help us to be better parents. We are excited to pass on our knowledge and experiences to our children as well as to have all new adventures with them.



OUR *Milestones*

- ♥ **Spring 2009**
Met in English class
- ♥ **Fall 2011**
Met again and started dating
- ♥ **October 2013**
Got Engaged
- ♥ **March 2014**
Got Married
- ♥ **April 2014**
Jim started career with United States Marine Corps
- ♥ **August 2014**
Added our dog to the family
- ♥ **October 2018**
Moved to Japan
- ♥ **Summer 2021**
Started foster + adoption journey
- ♥ **May 2024**
Moved to North Carolina
- ♥ **July 2025**
Started as Foster Parents
- ♥ **January 2026**
Moved to Maryland

OUR VALUES

Our family values include prioritizing quality time with family and friends, spending time in and taking care of nature, and continuing to learn new things. These values overlap and help us to maintain a healthy and happy life together while making the world a better place for others as well.



Our Faith

We were both raised in families with strong Christian faith traditions. As parents, we hope to model the values of hope, integrity, and love for our neighbors and community to our children. We are members of a local Roman Catholic Church and attend mass every Sunday. We believe that our faith in God has been an important source of strength and peace in our lives and we want to provide that same grounding to our children.

Time Together

We enjoy cooking, baking, reading, cycling, hiking, walking, gardening, studying Japanese, listening to music, playing with our dog, traveling and visiting family, and going to art, science and history museums.





OUR DAYS TOGETHER

On a typical weekend, we spend Saturday morning doing an outdoor activity such as cycling, hiking, or going for a run. The afternoon is usually spent playing with and walking our dog before we plan what we are going to cook for dinner. We usually prepare dinner together while listening to music. After dinner we like to read or watch a movie or TV show.

On Sunday morning, we go to church and Jim makes brunch. We spend the rest of Sunday getting ready for the week, reading, watching a movie, or relaxing. When we have children, we would like to have game nights and pizza nights and enjoy their hobbies as well.

Often, our vacations include visiting family, especially around the holidays. We are lucky that both of our families live near each other so we are able to visit Sara's parents and Jim's mom almost every Christmas. When not visiting family, we often go camping together and like hiking and exploring national parks. We spend a lot of time outside and in the mountains.

M Y H U S B A N D

J I M



I N Q U I S I T I V E , M U S I C A L , R E L I A B L E

I admire Jim's determination to provide for our family and his desire to continue learning. One of the things that attracted me to him was how smart and curious he is. He always needs to know how things work, why things are the way they are, and how he can make things run better. Jim is also a very thoughtful gift giver. It's not the quantity or expense that matters, but how thoughtful his gifts are. He always writes the most thoughtful cards to accompany the gift. In fact, we both have a box full of cards we have received from each other over the years.

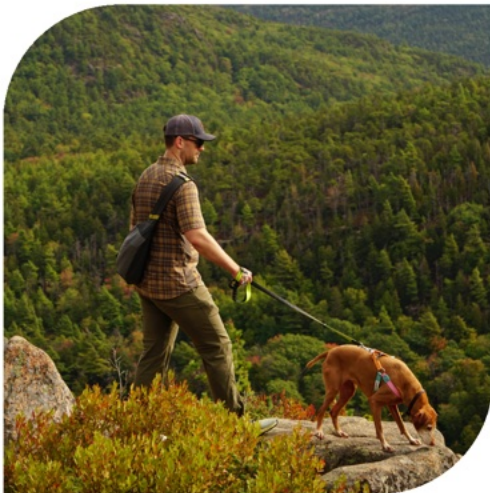
I have witnessed Jim as a foster parent and I know he will make an excellent father because he is so patient and approachable. Jim is very level-headed and calm, which makes him an excellent teacher. He is the most patient and gentle man I've ever met.

Jim is always willing to help. We have a very equal system of how chores are completed in our home and we work well together. I have seen Jim step up time and time again when I am busy or unable to complete chores and he always does it with a smile. He is an extremely hard worker and his love for me and our family shows through his commitment to providing for us. Most days, Jim cooks dinner and I know this is one way he shows me love.

HI, I'M JIM

I imagine my children, especially as they get older, will describe me as a bit of a nerd. I love to learn and to teach, particularly anything about airplanes and technology. During our time in foster parent training and volunteering with children in the US and Japan, I enjoyed reading books and building Legos with the children. My greatest wish for my children is that they grow up with the skills and confidence to pursue their dreams. I was fortunate that my mother supported me in my pursuits and raised me with the skills and morals to be successful and happy. I want to provide the same thing for my children.

My father died in a car accident when I was six years old, so I have very few memories of him. I was fortunate to have several uncles and close family friends who are great examples of good fathers. They are hard-working, patient teachers and mentors to their children, and dedicated husbands to their wives. I want to emulate that example for my children. Being a husband and father is a responsibility I take very seriously. I believe that becoming parents will be the most important thing Sara and I do and I will have the responsibility of providing for, supporting, and being a good example to our future children. I want to give our children a strong faith and moral grounding and a confidence in themselves that will allow them to grow into adults who can pursue their dreams. I want our home to be a place where they feel safe and have the opportunity to learn and experience new things.



I am very lucky to have spent the last twelve years training for and living out my dream job as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. I get to fly airplanes, teach the newer pilots how to fly, and lead the Marines that fix our airplanes and support the squadron. It is a job that is very physically and mentally demanding, but that is part of what I like about it. For most of my career, this job has meant very irregular working hours and long periods away from home, but it has also given Sara and me the opportunity to experience life all over the country and in Japan. With our move to Maryland, my job has shifted to testing aircraft and other systems. I will still fly but my work hours will be much more normal. I am excited about this change as it will offer more time to spend with family.

SOME FAVORITES

I love road and mountain biking, running, hiking, and reading. Sara and I both road bike, run, and hike and often do these activities together. I love to read, especially science fiction and nonfiction books on science, technology, and history. I have enjoyed cooking since I was a kid and am usually in charge of cooking for big family get-togethers.



M Y W I F E

S A R A



C R E A T I V E , D E P E N D A B L E , O R G A N I Z E D

I admire Sara's strength and independence. She has been a strong and dedicated partner through the many life challenges of our twelve years of marriage. She is meticulously organized and a very careful planner and we work together very well as a team. She is a loving aunt to our ten nieces and nephews and was a dedicated and loving foster mother. As a foster mother, I saw how caring and committed Sara can be, even when dealing with the challenges of an older child. With our foster child and our nieces and nephews, Sara has been thoughtful and intentional, always looking out for what is best for the children in our lives. I know that she will make an excellent mother and that our home will always be a safe place for children.

Sara brings an important perspective and balance to my life. She immersed herself in Japanese culture while we lived there and continues to study the language and enrich our home with those traditions. She will be a strong mother who will nurture and love our children and encourage and prepare them to pursue their dreams and explore the world around them.

HELLO, I'M SARA

I think our future children will describe me as imaginative, consistent, and present. I think it is very important to give a child undivided attention and to actively play with them. From my experience as a foster mom, I know I enjoy “doing the mom stuff,” like making school lunches, helping with homework and projects, random dance parties, driving to sports practices, and ice cream pit stops. As a foster mom, I also experienced many hard days full of temper tantrums, meltdowns, and forgotten school assignments. Being a mom can be fun and rewarding, even on the hard days. I am very much looking forward to being a mom again.

I show my love for Jim and my family by finding ways to make them happy. Jim's job is very serious so I like to find little ways to make him laugh and relax when he is home. I show my love through cooking and baking and hiding small notes for him to find. Jim and I have a mutual respect for one another. We listen carefully when the other is speaking and we value each other's opinions. We show each other respect by speaking kind words to each other and giving each other space and time to feel our emotions. My goal, as Jim's wife, is to find ways in our everyday life to make his job and day easier, happier, and more relaxing. I plan to show the same love and respect to our future children.



While living in Japan, I taught English to local women. Since moving back to America, I do not formally teach them, but I do stay in contact with them. Although I do not have a traditional job, I spend a lot of time volunteering for Jim's job and helping welcome new spouses and creating meal trains for sick Marines and spouses. Jim and I have decided that we want our children to grow up with one parent working in the home to care for them and home life. Once our children are school-aged, I plan to volunteer in their school and extracurricular activities. I think this is how I can show my love and care for them, by being active in their lives.

SOME FAVORITES

I am a self-taught photographer and absolutely love taking photos of insects, flowers, and other parts of nature. I enjoy baking delicious cakes and pastries and hand delivering them to neighbors and friends. I love how simple things can make a person's day instantly better. While living in Japan I learned how to speak Japanese, dress in kimono, perform the traditional tea ceremony, and Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement). I still practice these hobbies, take Japanese language class once a week, and have online tea parties with my Japanese friends once a month.





WELCOME TO OUR HOME

We live in a 1900 square foot, two-story, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom house. The house has many windows that provide a lot of natural light. The laundry room, kitchen, dining area, a half bath, and living room are on the main floor. We spend a lot of time in the kitchen together cooking and baking. The kitchen has a direct view into the living room where there is plenty of space for children to play. The bedrooms and two bathrooms are on the second floor.

The children's room has a new white crib as well as a twin bed. We think the twin bed will come in handy for nights when one of us needs to sleep close to the baby. There are three white bookshelves with wooden toys, dolls, and books for different aged children and infants. Above the tallest bookshelves is a wooden airplane clock/shelf that belonged to Jim when he was a little boy. We want this room to be a safe and comforting place for our children to play and sleep. We are also very excited to see how a child will choose to decorate this room as they grow up and develop their own preferences.

Our backyard is surrounded with a white privacy fence. We have flower pots and planting beds full of flowers and herbs. There is a small patio area with a table where we like to eat meals when the weather is nice. Our front yard is very small, however we have several parks with playgrounds less than a block from our home. Our neighborhood has a secure swimming pool with lifeguards, tennis courts, pickleball courts, walking trails, and a clubhouse. On weekends, a coffee truck and a mobile library come to our neighborhood and we enjoy meeting our friends there.



OUR COMMUNITY

We live just outside of Washington, D.C. in a quiet neighborhood surrounded by countryside. Our favorite thing about where we live is our group of friends we made shortly after moving here. They have young children and family dogs, like going for walks together, making dinners together, and relaxing at the park while the kids and dogs run around. One couple in our neighborhood also lived near us in Japan. We met them through the Japanese foster care system and watched them parent two children in foster care. They just announced their pregnancy and we are excited to be a part of their growing family. The wife is Japanese and the husband is Thai-American. We really enjoy spending time with each other and learning more about their cultures.



We enjoy living so close to D.C. because we are able to go into the city to visit museums, monuments, festivals, gardens, and asian markets. We have friends who live on the opposite side of D.C. from us, so we really enjoy meeting them and their children for day trips in the city. We are excited to share this community we have built with your child and all of our friends are excited to meet and welcome your child into our home.





MEET ZSA ZSA

We have an eleven year old dog named Zsa Zsa (named after the Hungarian actress, Zsa Zsa Gabor). She is a vizsla, which is a breed of bird dog from Hungary. We added her to our family when she was just eight weeks old. When she was younger she loved to go mountain biking with Jim. She could run ten or more miles at a time without stopping. She is too old to go mountain biking now, but she still enjoys zooming around the yard, chasing grasshoppers, playing with sticks and toys, and going on walks with her neighborhood dog friends. Zsa Zsa is excellent with children, even infants. When she meets an infant, she likes to smell their toes and watches them carefully. She enjoys playing fetch and snuggling with older children. She absolutely loves when children read books to her.

We believe that every child should have a pet and know how to help take care of them.

For this reason, we plan to have a dog or two in our family.



FAMILY TRADITIONS

For Christmas, we usually visit our parents and see our siblings who are able to come into town. Jim enjoys cooking a big Christmas dinner for friends and family and we bake a lot of Christmas cookies, many of which are old family recipes. Jim's sister-in-law is Jewish, so we have started celebrating Chanukah with their family every year. For Thanksgiving we visit Sara's brother's family in Ohio and have Thanksgiving dinner with them. For our birthdays we always make each other a homemade birthday cake and spend the day together. Inspired by the Japanese tradition, we go for an early morning hike to see the first sunrise of the new year. For Valentine's Day, Jim makes homemade chicken parmesan and tiramisu. Jim made chicken parmesan for Sara when we were first dating and now it has become a delicious yearly tradition.



OUR FAMILY

The matriarch of Sara's family is her mother's mother, Lillie, but everyone calls her "Nanny." Sara's parents, Elizabeth and Curtis, go by Nonnie and Gpa. They live with Nanny in her Georgia home in order to take care of her. Sara has three siblings. Sara's older sister, Amanda, who also lives in Georgia, is married to Danny. They have three daughters, ages 10, 8 and 8 years old. Sara's older brother, Caleb, is married to Lisa and they have five children and live in Ohio. Their children are 18, 12, 10, 7 years old, and a 7 month old daughter they are fostering. Sara's younger sister, Aubrey, also lives in Georgia and is unmarried with no children. Aubrey teaches preschool and loves children.

Jim's family consists of his mother, Cheryl, and his three younger siblings; Patrick, Nick, and Kristen. Jim's mother goes by Grandma to her grandchildren. Patrick is married to Daniella and they have a daughter, three years old, and live in California. Nick is married to Debra and they have a daughter, 8 months old, and live in Georgia near Jim's mother. Kristen is married to Matt and they are expecting their first child in summer 2026 and live in North Carolina.



WE LOVE THE KIDS IN OUR LIFE!

We have a unique relationship with each of our nieces and nephews since we do not all live nearby each other. We enjoy celebrating Christmas, Thanksgiving, summer breaks, spring breaks, and birthdays together as much as possible. Sometimes we travel to spend time together in person but we also enjoy taking time to call and video chat with them (even when it means watching our nieces use silly face filters). No conversation or call with them is too small.

It is amazing to watch how each of the children has accepted and embraced each new addition to their family.

Our extended families are both very close and are enthusiastic about our plans to adopt. With both of our parents living in Georgia, we usually see them and most of our siblings every year at Christmas. Jim's mother is a school teacher, so she travels to see Jim and all of his siblings during her summer vacation. When Jim was a child, his family and extended family rented a beach house together every summer. We would love to start this tradition in the future. Even though we are separated for most of the year, we expect our siblings, nieces and nephews to be a close part of our future children's lives.



LOOKING AHEAD



We hope to raise two to three children and plan to stay in our current area for the foreseeable future. We live in an area with a good school district and good opportunities for Jim's career. One day, we may move to a different house in our area to better meet the needs of our growing family.

We want our children to learn how to play an instrument or how to play a sport. We want them to decide what they are interested in learning to do. We do expect them to stick with the sport or instrument for a season, to help them learn dedication. Ultimately, we want them to find an extracurricular activity that they enjoy.

We plan to take a family vacation every year and we would like to take a family trip to Japan to visit our friends there. We are excited to see where our children would like to travel and we plan to have them help us decide where to go for vacations.





EDUCATION

We believe that education is important and want to encourage a love of learning in our children. We plan to send our children to public school as long as that is the best option for them. We believe that the diverse perspective offered by a public education will best prepare our children for the world. Both of us pursued our dreams in the arts early in our adulthoods; before ultimately settling upon our current paths. Because of this, we understand the value of pursuing one's dreams and will support that for our future children. If our children wish to go to college, we plan to help them while also encouraging them to support themselves. We believe that a child who is helping to pay for their college education is more likely to take it seriously. We also realize that college may not be the best path for every child and we will support our children in other pursuits if that is their dream. Ultimately, we want our children to grow up into adults who are financially smart and independent.



Our Commitments to You

The most important promise that we can make is that we will nurture your child and prepare them to go out into the world and pursue their dreams. We promise that we will love them and accept them for who they are. We will always honor your choice of adoption for them and keep them connected to their unique culture and heritage. We will never speak unkind words about you and will respect the important place that you have in your child's life.





B E F O R E Y O U G O

We are grateful to be considered by you and we can not thank you enough for taking the time to read about us. We pray that you will feel at peace with the family you ultimately choose for your child. We hope and pray that you see and feel our love and appreciation for you and for your child and know that we will always be here for you both.

We believe that you will always have an important connection with your child. If you choose us to be your child's adoptive parents, we would like to support and nurture your continued relationship with visits and contact in the future. You will always be an important part of your child's life, and if you desire, your presence though all of the important milestones in your child's life is welcomed and will make this child and our family stronger.

*with love,
Sara and Jim*



