Rob & Lena





Hello!

We deeply appreciate you taking the time to look at our profile. We are excited to show you a slice of our lives, but we'd first like to acknowledge you. We have the utmost respect for the weight of the decisions you are making right now and extend to you our deepest empathy. We hold you in the highest regard and no matter what you path choose, we wish you the best.

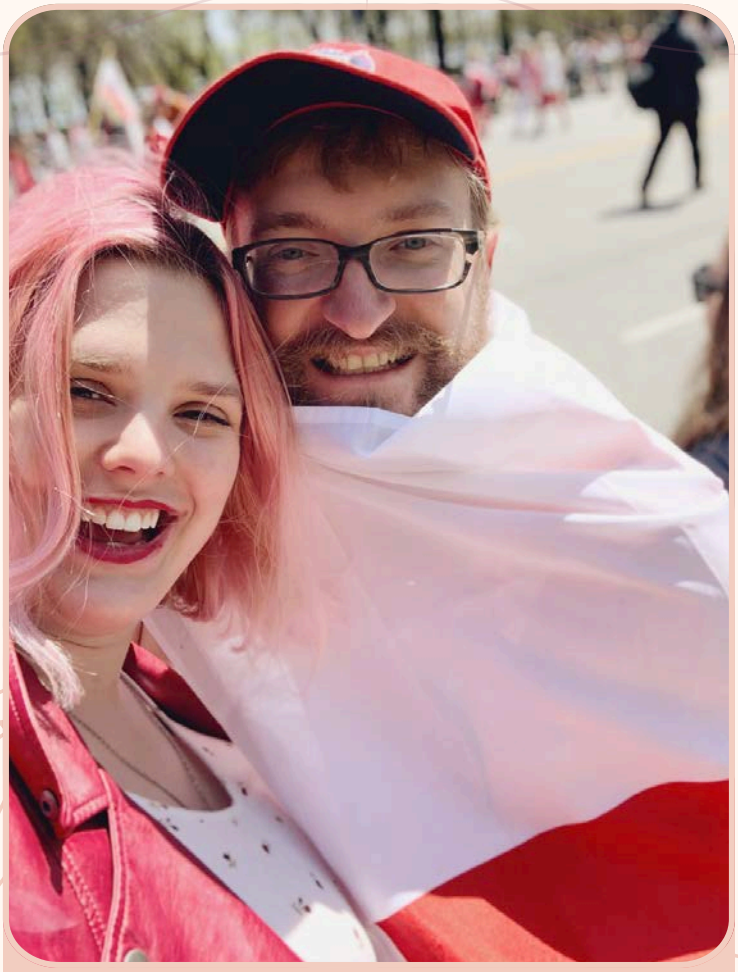
We live in the Wisconsin farmlands near Eau Claire with our two dogs. Now that we're in our 30s, we spend most of our days making music, in the garden, or hosting our friends and family for a craft night or bonfire. We love our home and our community, and can't wait to grow our family. **We're excited to share the great adventures and simple pleasures of our life with a little one.**

~ Rob and Lena



Our precious pups Gordie (Left) and Izzy (Right)

Our Story



2019 Polish Constitution Day Parade in Chicago

We met in 2017, when we both worked at a microphone company in Chicago. We were fast friends, and even before we started dating we spent a year attending concerts, going on road trips, and getting coffee together every morning. **We bonded over our shared love of music, small town upbringings, and love of adventure.**



Polish weddings are all about the dancing

At the end of 2019, Lena moved for a new job opportunity, and Rob followed her shortly thereafter. We got an apartment (and a dog) and then a house with a big yard (and another dog). In 2023, we hosted two wedding celebrations - one in Rob's home country of Poland, and a second in Wisconsin. **Now that we have had a few years of enjoying our married life and establishing our home, we're feeling ready for the next chapter.**



Celebrating at our American wedding

Adoption has always been the way we plan to grow our family. Before we were dating, some of the first meaningful conversations we had about our dreams and goals centered around adoption. While it's always "felt right" for us, our decision was solidified when we learned pregnancy may be dangerous to Lena's health. After years of discussions, research, and planning for an adoption journey, we are incredibly excited to welcome a child into our home. We have so much happiness, love, and tradition to share with them. **We're committed to embracing all of the additional joys and challenges of open adoption, and our child will always know their adoption story as one full of strength and love.**





A Day in the Life

A day in our life is normally packed full of the so-called "little things." We work in the garden and then make jams and pickles, Rob practices bass with his band and Lena works on her latest project with her crafting group. Together, we take the dogs for trail walks, cook meals, play board games, and listen to audiobooks. Of course, we also love a quiet night on the couch with the pups curled up by the fire.



Working in the garden



We absolutely love a good ice cream date



We often head to nearby Minneapolis for hockey games and other events

And a Life of Adventure



Our first Valentines Day together we traveled to India!

We also love to get out and explore. We've been to 8 countries together and go to Poland to visit Rob's family almost every year, which gives us a great excuse to travel around Europe. We also visit our friends across the country often. While those big trips are always something to look forward to, we also love a weekend adventure like skiing, hiking, going to a music festival, or just finding a cool new museum.



Visiting the pyramids near Mexico City



Skiing in Lena's hometown in Michigan

Meet Rob

Creative ✦ Empathetic ✦ Fun-Loving

My childhood was spent in a small village in Poland, where I lived in a house with cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and great grandparents! My sister, cousin, and I were all very close in age and we loved going for bike rides in the fields, climbing trees, and taking care of the barn cats. When I was 9, we moved to Chicago and, a few years later, to the suburbs. **These different eras of my life all gave me something new. I keep my love of the outdoors from my time Poland, the adaptability I learned from moving to a city where I didn't speak the language, and many of my friends from middle and high school in the suburbs.**

I'm excited to share the best parts of my childhood with our kid, like Legos, climbing trees, and classic Polish cartoons



Shortly after I received my degree in computer science, I took a job at a microphone company where I met Lena and still work today, albeit now I work from home. I think of myself as one of the lucky ones to have a job that I consider fulfilling, challenging, and fun. **I love learning new things, especially history, and look forward to learning lots alongside a kid.**



Rob playing bass and synth with his band



Lena's favorite picture of Rob

In Lena's Words

The qualities that make Rob an excellent partner will also make him an excellent parent. He is kind, patient, constantly seeking out opportunities to learn, and the funniest person I know. He's happiest when he's making music or out in the garden, and I know that will include singing kids songs and teaching a little one about growing food. **The kids in our life love hanging out with Uncle Rob because he's always ready to be silly and make them laugh.**



A picnic in the yard with our nephew, who is also Rob's godson

Meet Lena

Artistic ✦ Compassionate ✦ Motivated

I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where I spent my childhood playing on beaches and making lots of snow forts. As a teenager, I went to an international boarding school with students from 85 countries, which gave me lifelong friends around the globe and expanded my world view beyond my small town. **I'm extremely thankful for the balance between growing up in a tight knit community, and gaining a more diverse perspective through my education, and I look forward to seeking out ways to bring that balance into our child's life.**



I got my undergraduate degrees in Sound Engineering and Electrical Engineering, and later my Masters in Sound Engineering. Now, I get to share my passion for music through teaching at a university in the school year, and with younger students at camps in the summers. I also love chasing other creative pursuits in my free time, and I'm constantly trying to learn new skills to pass on to the next generation. **Sharing my creative passions and knowledge with kids is already one of the best parts of my life, and I can't wait to do that every day.**

The thing I'm most looking forward to about being a parent is seeing the world through their eyes and watching them explore

In Rob's Words

Lena is a loving individual who always puts smiles on the faces of everyone in the same room as her. She quickly becomes a favorite among kids that she meets. Lena is deeply creative, whether that is making music or crafts. **As a parent, I foresee her making many hand knit mittens and hats for the Wisconsin winters and learning all of Raffi's greatest hits on acoustic guitar.**



Lena at the Recording Studio she runs and teaches classes in



Rob's favorite picture of Lena



Hiking in the Tatra Mountains

Get to Know

Rob









Career

Software Engineer for a microphone company

Hobbies

Playing music, Gardening, Hiking, Reading

Best Concert Ever

Seeing Bob Dylan in Eau Claire

Favorite Vacation

Our honeymoon in Croatia

I'm Currently Working On

Improving my breadmaking, learning carpentry

Something I'm Proud of

Rennovating our attic into a recording studio!

I'm Known For

Always having a new project to start around the house or garden



Get to Know Lena



Career

Sound Engineer + College Professor

Hobbies

Embroidery, Knitting, Canning, Playing Music

Best Concert Ever

When I got to work on a Bon Iver tour and see the show performed in an arena!



Favorite Vacation

When Rob proposed in the mountains in Poland

I'm Currently Working On

Improving my Polish and learning to sew clothes



Something I'm Proud Of

Getting my Masters Degree while working full time

I'm Known For

Giving excellent gifts (often homemade)

Welcome to Our Home





We live in a 3 bedroom house on a quiet little patch of land surrounded by forest and farms. The 60 acres around us are all in a forest preservation trust, so it's very private, except for the deer, bunnies, and birds that visit us daily. We think of our home as the best of both worlds. **We get our country getaway life with all the peace that affords, but we're just a 10 minute drive from town** for trips to the park, walks along the river, great restaurants, and plenty of family friendly events.

Our home is very open, with large windows that fill it with light and allow us to watch the changing seasons from our dining room table - sometimes we even get a view of the Northern Lights! We love to have friends over for a garden-fresh dinner, a jam session, or a crafting night, and our home provides such a lovely setting for folks to gather. Our walls are full of art, shelves are full of books and vinyl, and freezer is full of pierogi.



We have a large kitchen where we love to cook with friends and family

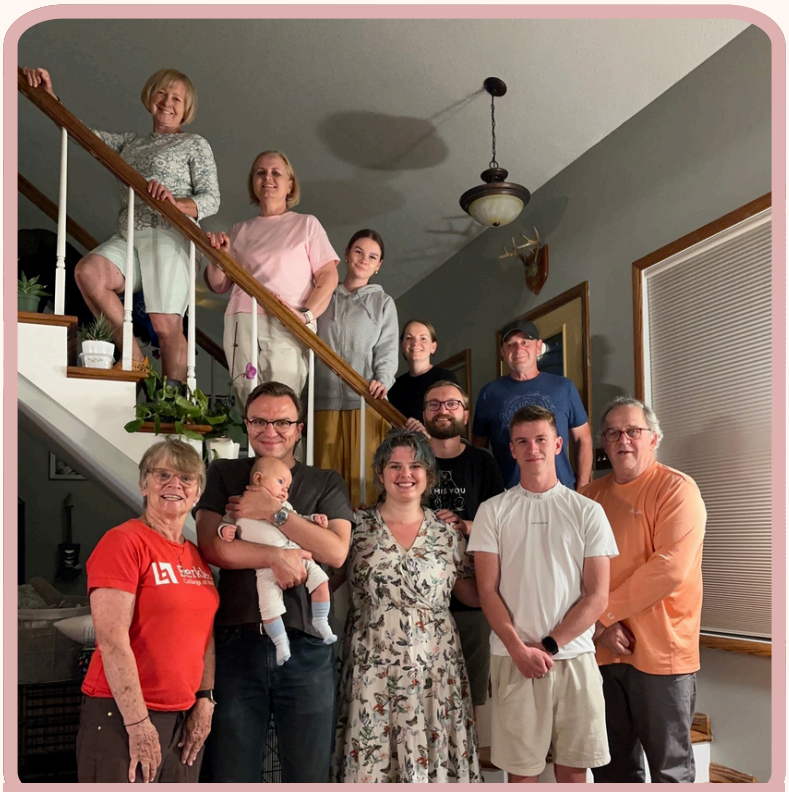


The dogs in their favorite place by the fire in the living room



Our dining room with a view of the forest

Our Family



Our families at our home, including some of Rob's family visiting us from Poland

Rob's parents, sister and brother in law live in the Chicago area, along with our 2 year old nephew Henryk. It's a few hours away, but we go down every month or two to visit, and they come visit us a few times a year. Most of the rest of his family is in Poland, and we try to get there every year to see his grandmas, young cousins, and aunts and uncles.

Lena's parents currently live in the Upper Penninsula of Michigan, but they are looking to buy a home closer to us for the next chapter. They currently visit every month or so, and occassionally join us on our international travels.

Our families love spending time together so we spend most holidays and occasions with both sides of the family, often hosting at our home.



A day out with our nephew to the local Children's Museum



Both of our familes together for Easter



With Lena’s parents in Prague



With our parents at our wedding

Despite all the distance, we find ways to stay close to our families. It is a treat to have so many different places to visit. Trips to Poland mean learning new recipes from Rob's grandmas, taking the kids to museums, and having family stories passed down to us around the dinner table. When we go to visit Lena's family in Michigan, we get to enjoy their house on the lakeshore. In Chicago, we enjoy taking our nephew to libraries and parks, going to great restaurants, and seeing lots of art and music. **We find that our adventures are always better with family.**



Cooking with Rob’s Grandma



Christmas Dinner in Poland



Lena meeting our nephew

Our Chosen Family



Traveling through Poland with some of our friends

With our families far flung, and Lena being an only child, we have found our bonus family to be an extremely important part of our life. We're so lucky to have lifelong friends and friends from each chapter of our lives that we consider family. They're there for us through thick and thin, and we wouldn't be complete without them. Many of them also have young children who know us as Aunt Lena and Uncle Rob, making our family feel bigger and richer. **Our friends are already constantly asking what they can do for us to help through the adoption process, and are offering hand-me-downs from their own kids, childcare, and help around the house for when we bring a child home.**



Having breakfast with our friend's son



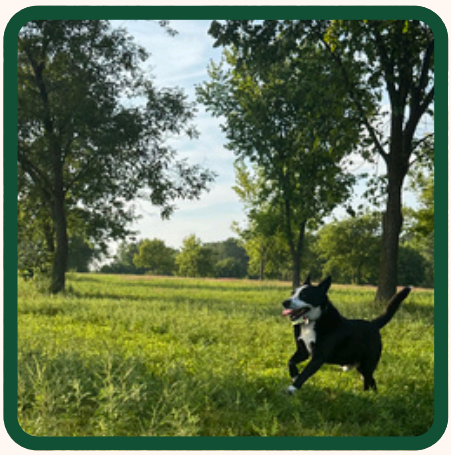
Rob playing with a friend's daughter at our annual "summer camp"



Lena meeting our friend's daughter

Gordie Howl is our 8 year old cattle dog mix who we adopted in 2020. He's often described as "a character" and "kind of a nerd." He's become a pretty laid back old man and mostly loves to lay out in the yard. He's been great with the babies he's met and is very curious about all those snacks toddlers tend to drop.







Gordie and Izzy







While Gordie has the big personality, Izzy has all the charm. She's a 3 year old Aussie/Poodle mix and has been meltin' hearts since she came home with us as a pup. When our friends or family talk about her, they call her "the absolute sweetest" and "perfect".

Our Family Values

Community is our greatest resource.

We are only strong, safe, and happy if our friends, family, and neighbors are. We take care of them and know they will care for us when we need.





Creativity is a key part of a fufilling life.

Making things teaches us about who we are and what we value. When we make, we become more curious about the world around us and the worlds inside of us.

Joy is a virtue

We take time to express gratitude for the delights in every day and cultivate joy in the same way we cultivate hard work and patience. We laugh as loudly and often as we can, and do what we can to make our joy infectious.





Love above all.

Love means treating people and places with respect and dignity, and recognizing we are all connected. We love our family, our community, our selves, and our land. In our home, love is an infinite resource.



We'd like to thank you again for considering making our family a part of your story. **We hope that you can see how much we love our life, and how excited we are to have a child to center our family around**. We are ready for our recording studio to be filled with kid's songs, embroidery to be swapped out for finger paints, and for the adventure list to include a lot more parks and libraries. We also know that adoption means more than just adding a child to our family, and **if you choose to intertwine your adoption journey with ours, we hope that we can move forward having honest discussions about what open adoption means to you.**

Our closing promise is that, should you choose us, **we will love your child fiercely and joyfully.** We will support them no matter who they are or what dreams they want to chase. They will be raised in an environment filled with art, nature, and travel, and they'll be loved and cared for by so many in our family and community.

With Love,
Lena, Rob, Gordie, and Izzy