DANIEL & ERIK

READY TO BECOME PARENTS

ABOUT US

We're young professionals - 44 & 38 - who have been together for 16 years, and married for 12. We don't have children but we've known since we got married that we wanted to have a large family.

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OUR HOME

We live in a beautiful home in a serene suburban community outside a large city. Our yard is filled with native flowers and we have a pet cat named Drake.

MORE ON PAGE 4

OUR JOBS

We both have fulfilling careers that we love. Daniel works with the LGBTQ community and Erik in public health.

MORE ON PAGE 2&3

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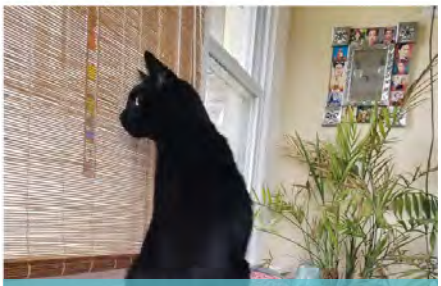
PAGE 4 | OUR HOME



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Erik (left) and Daniel (right)

DANIEL AND ERIK

STARTING OUR FAMILY

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us. We are two young professionals who live in a quiet, peaceful suburb outside a large city. We have been together for 16 years and we're ready now to start our family. We are pursuing adoption because it is important for us that birthing parents feel comfortable and included as we move through the process.

Like many people our age, we are concerned about the future. We worry about the environment and the wellbeing of people around the world. We want to make sure people have access to food, healthcare, shelter, and education in every community. Most importantly, we want people to love who they are, to be loved for who they are, and to thrive where they are. As time has passed, it has become clear to us that we have enough energy, love, and resources to share with a child so that we may help them feel safe, feel loved, and thrive where they are.

Erik and niece

We fill our time with several hobbies, including gardening. Our yard is filled with many types of native plants that attract vital pollinators to the region such as hummingbirds and harmless honey bees.

In addition to colorful flowers, we grow fruits and vegetables in our gardens to cook for ourselves or share with friends and family.

LGBTQ FAMILIES

As a LGBTQ+ couple, we have a first-hand understanding of the need for compassion and inclusion within our families and communities. As parents, we want our child to feel confident that they will be cherished and loved, period. And we want them to learn to value others with the same compassion.

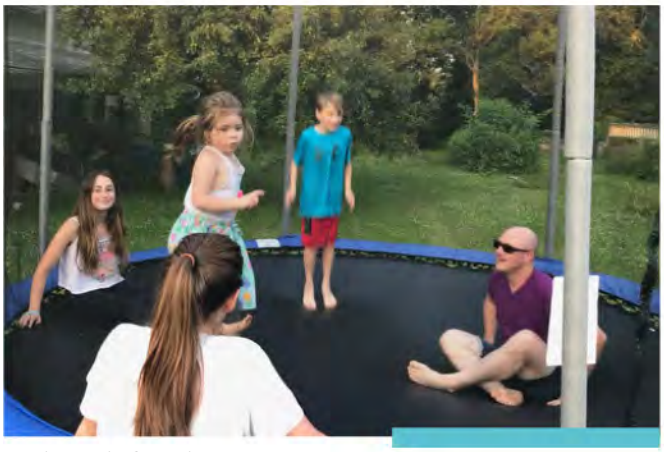
ABOUT ERIK

WRITTEN BY DANIEL

I was drawn to Erik by happenstance. We met by chance and what really kept me around was his responsiveness and openness. He never avoided texts or calls, never ghosted me, and he was always willing to go out and do stuff. At that time in our lives, going out and doing stuff meant a lot of impromptu late nights just having fun with our friends. I was drawn to Erik's youthful, bright fun streak, which I greatly lacked. He brought me out of my shell more and I created more structure andgoal setting in his life. Of course, Erik has adjusted well to being a professional and responsible adult, and his “fun” streak has morphed into being willing to think outside the box, being the first person to smile, and having no reservations about expressing pure happiness and joy when he feels it.

He really holds up the home front and keeps me grounded as I can overly press myself into actions, work, and caretaking. He helps to remind me to take time for fun and joy.

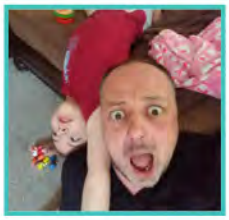
Daniel with colleagues


Erik with family

ABOUT DANIEL

WRITTEN BY ERIK

First, Daniel is an Eagle Scout, which compliments my suburban upbringing. His rural farm upbringing gave him skills that make him helpful and calm in just about every scenario - something I am grateful our children will benefit from. Daniel's personality compliments mine perfectly in many other ways as well. When I'm overeager, Daniel is there to balance me out with his patience. He's a planner, and I'm more of a dreamer.


Daniel with niece

Erik and Daniel

Erik with friend

Daniel's ability to plan and follow through on tasks - even difficult ones - to keep our lives on track has been a great source of stability and security for me from day one. I like to think I keep things interesting and he keeps things consistent. Even though he doesn't share my creative or impulsive streak, he is always willing to listen and support me. His support makes me a better person, and together our qualities make us incredibly strong.

One thing I'm looking forward to about parenting is seeing Daniel use his calm demeanor and patience to help kids work through their emotions. He's one of those magical people who can sit on the ground with a small child and make them feel safe, heard, and important. This is a gift Daniel shares freely with those around him, and I'm honored to count on him as part of my family as we begin this journey.

> "He's one of those magical people who can sit on the ground with a small child and make them feel safe, heard, and important."

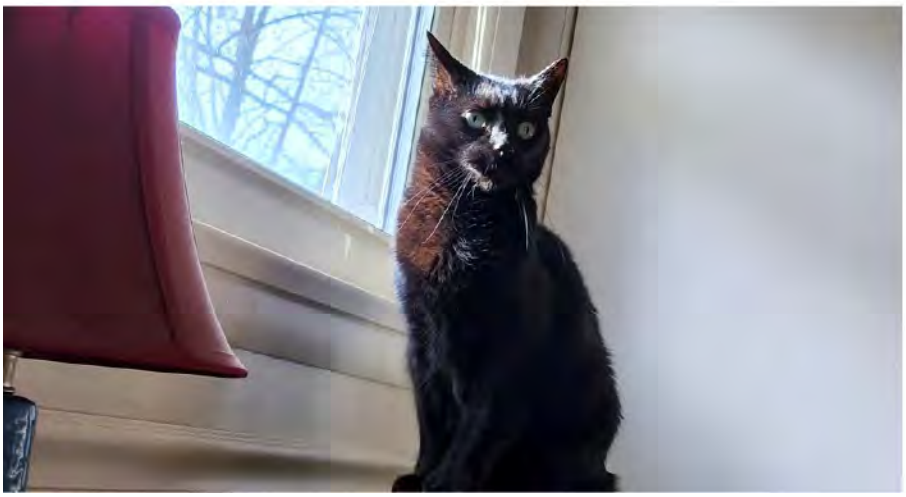
OUR HOME

GREEN GRASS, GREAT SCHOOLS

We absolutely love our home and our community. We intentionally chose where we live to be around good schools and beautiful parks. Our children will be surrounded by nature and other kids from day one. Our home itself is a beautiful older home filled with bright colors, comfortable spots to curl up with a book, and plenty of natural light.

Our families are very important to both of us, and we often fill our home with family and friends to celebrate birthdays, holidays, and special events. There is hardly a week that goes by without a dinner party, brunch or a sleepover. Our annual family-friendly halloween party is such a huge hit that we run out of parking every year.

We both love to cook. Daniel makes pies, soups, and casseroles. Erik likes to cook with a lot of vegetables - preferably grown in our garden. We fill our home with the people we love for the holidays and treasure the culinary traditions that come along with that.



When the weather is too cold to garden, we can often be found inside. Catch us curled up on the sofa reading - Daniel reads over 100 books a year! - or playing board games.

Our favorite television show is the Golden Girls, of course.

MEET DRAKE

"Furever" our first "baby", Drake has been part of our family for many years. We adopted him as a kitten and he has blended in with our lifestyles seamlessly.

He likes children but like most cats, he doesn't want to come across too eager.

He loves to nap in the sun.

OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

We have a large family, many of them living within a 15-minute drive from our home. Our future child will have seven aunts & uncles and three cousins, who are all excited to welcome a new baby into the family.

Daniel's mother and father live nearby. Erik's parents live in Arizona and visit several times a year.

We have a robust network of cousins, many of whom live in the neighborhood and regularly get together for game nights, bonfires, and dinners.

Our immediate and extended family are always getting together or stopping by to share food and fun.

Daniel's family is involved in agricultural activities and there is always an abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables circulating between households.

We have a close network of friends and colleagues who will be part of the support network for us as we become parents. Many have already volunteered to assist with babysitting if needed.

We are well connected to many community resources and are active participants in area Pride festivals; regular supporters and attendees of community theatre productions. We also volunteer with several local organizations that serve community needs.

Daniel with friends

Erik with friend

Daniel with family

Daniel with siblings and niece

Erik (left) and Daniel (right)

DEAR BIRTH PARENT

WHY WE'RE CHOOSING ADOPTION

We know there is nothing easy about adoption as a birth parent. As an adoptive family, we understand that there is nothing we can say that will ever alleviate the worry or concern you have. For Black and non-white birth families especially, we understand the anxiety around placing children of color with white families who might not respect or honor your child's cultural identities and traditions. These are absolutely valid concerns, and we are sorry you have to think about that. This is something we think about every day, and we plan to lean on our vastly diverse network of friends and family members to make sure our future child is proud of the way they look and routinely sees people who look like they do who love them as much as we love them.

Pregnancy isn't an option for us. Even if it was, though, there is a strong likelihood that we would still be pursuing adoption. We share a deep commitment to reproductive justice, meaning we want everyone to have the ability to make decisions about their own families without barriers and hurdles created by things outside their control. We deeply believe you should have the freedom and support to raise your child if you want to, to end your pregnancy if you choose to, or to turn to families like ours to carry on the foundation of love, compassion, and care you've already built for the child you're expecting.

Thank you for considering our family on your path to adoption. We understand how serious this decision is and we are honored to have made it this far in your search.

In solidarity,

Daniel & Erik