HELLO. We would like to sincerely thank you for considering inviting us into your life journey. We also hope this brief glimpse into who we are will show you the type of parents we aspire to be, as well as the love we have for each other, family, friends and future plus-one.

THIS IS OUR STORY
Greetings

We are Nathaniel and Joy. Before even knowing we weren’t able to have biological children, we planned on building our family through adoption. We have been married 12 years and are excited to go from two to three of us. We can’t wait to read bedtime stories, make their Halloween costumes, teach them how to bunny hop on a bicycle, play Marco Polo in the swimming pool, hide-and-seek throughout our house and the thousands of other family rituals that we will discover together.

If we are chosen to parent your child, rest assured that their best interest in life will always be our top priority. With God’s help, we will always provide them with the care and guidance they need, and most of all, unwavering love.

Your consideration of adoption shows your unconditional love for your child. We already think you’re one of the bravest people we have yet to meet and your child will always know that.
BMXER MEETS
Skater girl

YouTube was just created, Star Wars Episode III was blowing up the box office, and MySpace was the social media platform of the day. At the young age of 22, Nathaniel had barely been out of college for a year and 18-year-old Joy was finishing up her freshman year of college. When they both weren’t working or studying, they spent most waking moments at the local skate park. It didn’t take long before Nathaniel spotted the solo girl on her skateboard. She looked intimidating and focused, so he didn’t think much of it until he saw her strut into the evening church service he attended. Hoping that she was a collection of the character he decided he needed to talk to this girl. His first words were, “Hey, you’re that girl that skates.” Joy, used to having boys come up and talk to her, spared no effort to complete girlish. While their first conversation was awkward, their later encounters at the skate park went more smoothly. They exchanged email addresses and over the course of that summer, what started as an awkward first few words became a love story the world will never forget. They were married in June of 2007.

Fast forward 13 years, and you can still spot them any given summer day at the skate park together.
OUR DAILY LIFE

**SIX FAVORITE THINGS TO DO TOGETHER:**
- Riding bike
- Cooking
- Walking the pugs
- Summer nights by the fire
- Watching live music
- Morning coffee dates

**TRADITIONS THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING WITH YOUR CHILD:**
- The farmer’s market in the summer
- Saturday morning breakfasts
- Sunday nights making homemade pizzas
- Watching movies with our best friends, Alan, Anne, and their son, Levi
- Mornings at the pastry shop
- Going on bicycle rides
- Creating Halloween costumes
- Holidays and summer vacations to see Emily in Minnesota and Virginia

OUR NEPHEW

**FAVORITE PLACES TRAVELED TOGETHER:**
- Iceland
- Amsterdam
- Prague

US Now
BORN: DENVER, COLORADO IN 1985. BUT MOVED TO WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA WHEN I WAS 6.

CAREER: Administrative Assistant at a college. Formerly worked with international students in the college’s study abroad program, but changed jobs to have a better work-life balance to prepare for a family.

WHAT I’M HAPPIEST DOING WHEN I’M NOT WORKING:
- Skateboarding
- Mountain biking with National
- Raising up the dance floor
- Walking with my pups
- Enjoying time at home
- Grabbing coffee with friends
- Breaking up the routine pool
- Playing practical jokes on my siblings
- Enjoying live music

THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE YOU:
- Enthusiastic
- bubbly
- unapologetic

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?
- Hanging out with college students all day is the cherry on top. I love getting to see them grow into the people they are meant to be. It’s always heartwarming seeing goodbyes when they graduate.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLACES YOU’VE GOTTEN TO TRAVEL WITH STUDENTS?
- Trinidad: Taboga: Habitat for Humanity trip
- Seattle: Justice Journey to study sustainability
- Paris & London: study abroad program
- Minneapolis: Overview: Rauben conference re: sustainable communities

ARE YOU MORE LIKE YOUR DAD OR MOM?
- I think I blend a healthy mix of both, but my parents would say I’m more of a mirror of my mom. She loves people and doesn’t know a stranger. She enjoys being social and even at the age of 60, rides hundreds of miles on her bike each year. My father, who has been recovering from a stroke, is the one who’s determined to keep up with people in the ways ofClinton, and I get my love of overcoming obstacles from him.

INTERESTING FACTS:
- I hold 9 patents for a living. My grandmother, along with my two parents, lived with me when I was a kid.
- I spent every summer from the age of 7 to 18 in Colorado, skiing with my best friend’s family and in Latin kindergarten when I was 5. We were still good friends and I had them for many years.
- Played tennis in college.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST TAX PAYING JOB?
- In 1999 I started working in a Mexican restaurant. I worked there illegally from age 15, and the restaurant got in trouble because I clearly wasn’t available. I stopped and began the necessary steps to work legally at 15—two years later.

WHAT’S A TYPICAL SATURDAY LIKE FOR YOU?
- It’s a summer, breakfast at the patio with National and the pups. Then we typically ride our bikes to the farmer’s market, take the pups for a walk, and finish the day grilling with friends.

IF YOU COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW, WHERE WOULD IT BE?
- Riding bike through the beautiful streets of Amsterdam.

TOP THREE FAVORITE BOOKS YOU’VE READ:
- The Girl on the Train
- The Great Gatsby
- Pride and Prejudice

FAVORITE CHILDHOOD CARTOON?
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT THAT BECAME FAMILY TO US:
- Japan
WE START AND END WITH FAMILY
BORN:
Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1963.
NUMBER OF SIBLINGS:
One brother, two sisters.
NIECEs/Nephew:
None as my side jet, but plenty through my wife.

CAREER:
Graphic Designer/Art Director. I worked in advertising agencies for over 30 years, to better for local company to have a better work-life balance. I also run my own design and branding business in the side.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST EARLY JOB:
I was a floor manager at the local toy store of the young age of 15. It was great since I didn’t have my driver’s license and I could just walk to work each day and eat all the free candy I wanted from the confectioners stand.

SOMETHING YOU ADORE AND HATE:
My nails. She is the kindest and most confident person I know. She was much of a great influence to my brother and me.

NAME ONE QUILT TREASURE:
I have the name “The Best of BMX Bros” from PHONIC.

WHAT TV SHOW CHARACTER ARE YOU MOST LIKE:
Chandler from FRIENDS.

SUPERMAN OR BATMAN:
Hulk head, Batman.

ALWAYS THE WISER:
I always think of the future. I always think of the present. I always think of the past.

THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE YOU?
Chet, Kent and Funky.

HOW DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO REMEMBER YOU?
A kind person that gives God and people,

GOAL YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE IN THE NEXT YEAR?
Save enough money to build a dock on the house.

NAME A FEW OF YOUR DAILY HABITS:
- Coffee always
- A little reading over my lunch hour
- Checking Instagram for funny memes

WHAT ARE SOME CAUCUSES THAT YOU CARE ABOUT?
Moving towards more organic and sustainable farming.

WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS AND YOU DO IN YOUR SPIRIT TIME?
Lots of grilling and beer.

WHAT’S YOUR PERSONAL MOTTO?
Let your actions do your talking.

WHAT WAS THE LAST THING YOU WATCHED ON TV?
The Great British Baking Show and Stranger Things.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?
Oh boy, so much. I have a creative mind, so I am inspired daily from multiple things: books, art, sculpture, and even architecture.

WHAT ARE YOU KNOWING DO?
Most commonly design or BMX.

WHAT DO YOU WORK TOWARDS IN YOUR FREE TIME?
Being debt free.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 FAVORITE BANDS OF ALL TIME?
The Pixies
Tame Impala
Hot Water Music

The Godfather
Most rock from the 90s!
Although our family covers four states - ND, SD, MN, VA - we stay close. Nathaniel’s brother and wife are only a few miles away. When visiting Joy’s mom, Caron in SD, our bikes take up more room than suitcases. Nathaniel’s MN family enjoys kayaking and riding dirtbike. Sharing family meal prep as a tradition across all state lines. Annual trips to VA to visit Joy’s sister include DC visits, cycling and delicious food. We can’t wait for the newest addition to join the five MN counties on the train tracks, tree swing and a soccer game in their backyard. Your child will be well loved.
We brought Ellie home on Valentine’s Day almost 12 years ago after going to the pet store to “just look.” Not long after, we decided Ellie needed a buddy and found Zero at the local humane society. The two quickly became best friends. Even though we intended on just getting pets, they end up becoming family. As cheesy as it is, these two have brought us so much joy and have become our furry little kids.

Ellie: Loves being cuddled, sleeping in dirty clothes, cuddling, and eating anything and everything
Zero: Loves playing fetch, long walks, playing with toys, and eating anything and everything
NEW BEGINNINGS

Our first home was a bit too small for us to expand our family, so when the opportunity came along to build, with much prayer and a bit of fear, we took the plunge. We live in a cul-de-sac with a beautiful creek, forest and a soon-to-be paved bike path across the street where our child can go wild and play. We appreciate modern architecture and are so blessed to live in a house that we love both inside and out.

Words cannot express the love we had for our first home. We had so many memorable FIRSTS there. Without it, we would never have been able to build our dream home. We will be forever grateful to have called it our first home.
It’s hard to summarize our whole lives in this one short book, but we hope that we gave you a true glimpse into our home, our community and the things that make us **UNIQUELY US.**