

JOSHUA & SELBY



and Kitty too!



Selby Speaks Cantonese Chinese and French

Hello!



We cannot express enough how grateful we are that you are considering us as adoptive parents for your child. Through this book we hope you can envision the life your child would have with us as parents. If chosen, we will view every day as a blessing that would not be possible without you. We hope that you find strength through what must be a difficult time, and please know that we see this as a journey we would be on together with you. We are here to support you in whatever way we can.

Our Interests



We love all things Disney. A few years ago at Disney World, we experienced *Enchanted Tales with Belle*, a live retelling of *Beauty and the Beast* with Belle with audience participation, since it was something that Selby had not done before. The first room had a large wooden door on the far wall and a mirror on another wall. Selby saw the door and stood next to it thinking that it would lead to the next room. Little did he know, the mirror was magical. A scene from the movie played on the mirror and then the mirror expanded and revealed the path into the next room! Selby was blown away by the Disney magic, even as an adult. Our friends immediately volunteered Selby to play a part in the show and he was chosen to play a knight in shining armor. Your child will be raised hearing stories of happily ever after and living out their fantasies on vacations to Disney.

Game shows air regularly in our home. In the evenings we tune in to *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy*. On a trip this year to California we were able to attend a live taping of *Jeopardy* and it was so fun to see how they produce the show behind the scenes. Joshua hopes to be a contestant one day but for now, we “buzz in” from the comfort of our couch.



The proverbial saying, “**One man’s trash is another man’s treasure**” holds with one of our favorite activities; estate sale shopping! Joshua scours his go-to estate sale companies’ websites every Wednesday to see what items are being offered that week. During one of our early sales trips, we had our eye on a used KitchenAid stand mixer. We showed up an hour and a half early to be the first to buy the mixer. When it was time to go into the house, we speed-walked to the kitchen to claim the KitchenAid as ours. It was only \$80 and still had all the attachments! Our attempts at using the mixer to bake don’t always turn out as planned but we have fun trying. We experience a thrill when we find a bargain especially one that has a story and history.

About Selby

By Joshua

Serving as a member on our church board is one way that **Selby puts others' needs above his own**. This past year, the Congregation Council was considering adding a Paid Parental Leave policy for its staff. The original draft stated that a parent needed to take the leave immediately after a child's birth or adoption. Selby advocated to change the policy so staff members can take the leave within a reasonable time after a birth or adoption so that parents can stagger their leave and families can spend more time at home before going back to work. One of the pastors was very supportive of the idea as he recently had to take leave at the same time as his wife, limiting bonding time. Selby's advocacy led to the Council approving the policy change which now positively impacts the church staff. Your child will learn to stand up for others.



Selby values learning. When we were shopping for a new car Selby decided he should learn stick shift so that we could expand our search options. His Dad offered to teach him how to operate the manual transmission. They started out practicing in his dad's neighborhood but Selby was not a natural and managed to stall the engine several times. His Dad wanted to throw in the towel but Selby was determined he could get the hang of it and recruited his brother to help teach him. It took a few more lessons but Selby eventually was operating the clutch like a professional and taking the car out onto the highway. Naturally, after all of Selby's efforts we ended up buying another automatic transmission!

Selby's parents immigrated from Hong Kong so **he grew up speaking English and Cantonese Chinese** at home. He was born in Toronto, Canada so when it came time to enroll Selby in kindergarten his parents decided he should attend a **French** immersion school. They taught everything in French so he is quite fluent in the language now! While on a recent trip, we noticed a man struggling to figure out how to buy a subway token and which route to take. When we offered to assist him, Selby realized that the gentleman spoke Cantonese as his first language and was struggling to read the English signs. Selby gave the man one of our spare tokens and gave him directions in Cantonese. The fellow tourist thanked Selby many times and was pleasantly surprised someone was able to help him in his travels.



About Joshua

By Selby



Joshua is the **musically-inclined** person in the relationship. He grew up playing the **piano** and **saxophone** from grade school through college and was involved in his high school **theatre** shows. At our niece Anna's most recent birthday party she enjoyed twirling around in her new Elsa costume dress while Uncle Joshua played music for her on their electric keyboard. Our family was impressed that he remembered a few songs and Anna loved "performing" for everyone. Your child will be surrounded by creativity and the arts.

He is also **the comedian in the family**. Joshua "got" Selby with a prank for years through his pronunciation of Jiminy Cricket. One time years ago, Joshua pronounced it "Yim-ma-nee" as a joke. Selby did not realize that he was intentionally saying it wrong, so one day when Selby's mom was talking about a plush Jiminy Cricket, Selby corrected his mom saying it was pronounced "Yim-ma-nee." Joshua laughed so hard from the other room because he had unintentionally fooled Selby. Once Selby realized Joshua had been joking all those years, he was able to laugh about it as well and was impressed with how long Joshua kept the joke going.



Joshua's **love for Disney** started as a baby. When his parents bought their house, Joshua's room was decorated with Disney wallpaper and his parents like to say that is how he got hooked on Disney. He even had the opportunity to work for Mickey at Walt Disney World for a period of time as a cast member. He is always able to talk to kids about their favorite characters and tv shows. We recently were babysitting our niece Journee and at bedtime she requested we read a Disney Zootopia story book to her. Joshua provided the various voices like the slow talking sloth, Flash, and the sly fox, Nick. She was laughing so much it was not exactly the end of the night wind down that reading was intended to provide. The next night she told her parents that Uncle Joshua is a much better story teller than they are!

Our Story

We met online and have been inseparable ever since. Joshua liked that Selby's profile seemed mature as he was looking for a serious relationship, so he messaged. Selby was intrigued by Joshua's picture with a DeLorean from *Back to the Future*. It wasn't long until we were making plans for our first date. We decided to go to brunch at IHOP, because it was conveniently located between us. Joshua was quite surprised to hear Selby ask the waiter if it was ok if he could order off the senior citizen menu! He was not sure if Selby was trying to be frugal, or if he wanted to keep the meal light in case he needed to bolt. Joshua is never one to miss an opportunity to make a joke so this was great first date fodder and continues to be to this day. After dating for a while Selby shared that he had already had a big breakfast but did not want to miss out on the opportunity to meet and spend time with Joshua.



After dating for a little over two years, Joshua bought a ring to propose to Selby. We had a long weekend trip planned to New York City during which Joshua planned to propose. Selby had no idea so he definitely didn't realize that **Joshua was worried that airport security was going to stop him** going through the metal detector because of the ring in his pocket. Due to our mutual love of Disney, Joshua decided to propose on the stage where *Aladdin* is performed. We saw the performance Friday night and the next morning we had signed up for a behind the scenes tour of the production. As part of the tour we had an opportunity to go on to the stage for photos. Joshua got on one knee to the surprise of Selby, as well as the theater staff who said that nobody had ever proposed there before. The other tourists were shocked and screaming for joy for us after Selby said "YES!"

From the very beginning of our relationship, we both expressed how much it meant to us to one day be able to grow our family. We both firmly believe that **it is not DNA but rather love that makes a family** and therefore knew that adoption was the right decision for us. Joshua's mother was adopted by her biological grandparents and although the adoption occurred within our family, Joshua grew up hearing about all the opportunities his mom had because of the choice her birth parents made. Our friends who have built their families through adoption have also been proof to us that God has a plan for every family. We hope that we are able to join you in this journey and look forward to getting to know you more.



Kitty



Joshua grew up with pets, including several dogs. Selby had always wanted to have a dog but his brother's allergies prevented him from getting one. Luckily, **Kitty and Joshua were a package deal**. A few years before we met, Joshua had been looking for a tri-colored Beagle to bring into his life. When he saw Kitty's information through a Beagle rescue group, he set up an appointment to meet her. Joshua sat on the floor and Kitty came right over. It was clear almost immediately that Kitty and Joshua would be in each other's life for years to come. Everybody that gets the chance to meet Kitty thinks she was named for the irony. The actual origin of her name is from the previous owner who was a fan of the TV show *Gunsmoke* and named her after one of the characters.

Kitty is certainly spoiled with treats and love and **her favorite chew toy is a stuffed hedgehog**. Throughout the years we have gotten her many varieties of hedgehogs. Once at *Petsmart*, Selby found a hedgehog toy that was practically **the same size as Kitty**. He brought it home and couldn't wait to see her reaction to it. Kitty ran to the toy and began tipping it over on its' side with her nose. Watching her try to toss the bigger toy was very funny for us to watch since she was barely able to get a grasp on it.



Kitty loves kids! When we take her on her nightly walk we have to allocate extra time because when the neighborhood kids see her coming down the sidewalk, they all run over to pet her. Fortunately for Kitty, she loves the attention and we enjoy seeing how the kids' faces light up when they are with her. Selby's brother was a little hesitant when he first met Kitty. Due to his allergies he had not spent a lot of time around dogs and formed a little phobia. Kitty was patient and waited for him to be comfortable, reading his body language and letting him take the lead. After a few visits he had so much fun playing with Kitty he decided to get a hypoallergenic dog so that he could have a dog of his own!

Our Family

If you choose us, your child would be surrounded with love from 4 Grandparents, 8 Aunts and Uncles, and **6 Cousins!**

Our family expresses love for each other through food.

Joshua's Dad ("Poppop") used to own a pizza shop so the grandkids always ask to have pizza parties. They help Poppop roll out the dough, spread the pizza sauce, and then load the pizza up with all of their favorite toppings like pepperoni and sausage. During the pandemic lockdown the kids were hankering for a pizza party so Poppop led a cooking class over Zoom. He had everybody order the supplies ahead of time and we all made our own pizzas. The cousins said it wasn't quite the same as everyone gathering around the table to share a slice, but they still had fun.



We often enjoy **playing cards and board games after family dinner**. Not everyone takes the games as serious as us but we all enjoy playing as it is a good way to let loose and socialize. During a recent game of catchphrase where Joshua was giving the clues, he prompted Selby, "This is the lady who sewed the flag!" Without hesitation, Selby yelled out "DIANA ROSS!!" It took us a while to move on to the next round of game play because the whole family was in tears from laughing so hard.

Our family has been built by adoption. Our close friends Karen and Andy adopted our niece Journee a few years ago after being her foster parents for a year and a half. She was seven years old when she came into our lives so it has been an informative experience being able to hear her express what adoption has meant to her. She feels blessed to be able to be a part of our loving family and have stability which has led to her growing more confident and successful. Your child will have an older cousin who will be able to relate to their experience as an adoptee.



Family Traditions



As a multicultural family, we have enjoyed incorporating various customs from each of our individual backgrounds into memories and traditions that we now share as a family. **Chinese New Year** is a celebration we look forward to every year. Our traditions include “sweeping out the bad luck,” “rolling in the good luck,” and handing out red envelopes of money as gifts to our nieces and nephews. Selby also prepares a wide variety of traditional dishes and then reminds us all how to play mahjong. This past year *Lego* created a set themed to the Chinese New Year that depicts several families preparing to celebrate. We assembled the *Legos* while dinner was cooking but kept the box so that each year we can take it apart and rebuild it as another cherished tradition.

The State Fair is a highlight for us when it comes to town every fall. We enjoy seeing the prize winning animals and the giant vegetables that the local farmers were able to produce during the year, **but no fair is complete without some fried food**. Selby likes to read the news about what the latest craze the booths have come up with and makes a game plan for which foods he wants to try. This past year, a vendor came up with the idea of serving rattlesnake but we were not brave enough to give it a try. Instead we stuck with our usual favorites like London Broil sandwiches, fried Wisconsin cheese curds, and funnel cake.



Every Easter before we dig into Mom’s delicious home-cooked ham, **we host the Easter egg hunt**. This past Easter the weather was a bit dreary so the kids were worried we were going to have to cancel the annual egg hunt that they had been looking forward to. We saved the day by hiding the eggs inside the house instead and it actually made for a more challenging search. Our nephew Graham had so much fun that he asked us to hide the eggs a second time so he could hunt them all over again. We would love to learn about traditions that are important to you and your culture so that we can incorporate them into our lives for your child as well!

Our Home

Our home is located in a growing neighborhood in suburban North Carolina. We enjoy **spending time in our living room** where we get to unwind and watch TV and movies. Joshua loves to watch classic sitcoms that he grew up **watching** with his grandmother. When we first met, Selby shared he had never seen **The Golden Girls**. Rewatching them together as a couple has been a lot of fun, however, Joshua has a bad habit of laughing at the jokes before the characters can even say them since he knows the episodes so well. In the first episode we watched together, the characters Rose and Dorothy worked to write a jingle about Miami to try and win a contest. Selby was a little hesitant that an older show would be of interest to him but after that one episode he was also hooked.



Our community has an **appreciation for art** that includes museums and theater venues. We are fortunate to have a large venue nearby that hosts touring Broadway productions of live theater. One of our firsts dates together was to see *Cabaret*. A few months ago we were able to go see Disney's stage musical adaptation of *Frozen*. Kids wearing their costumes were singing along, filled with excitement seeing Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Olaf, and Sven in real life. The show included some impressive special effects so we were both discussing afterward how Elsa was able to transform her dress right in front of our eyes. Your child will have access to art like the ballet, symphony, and always a song being belted out in the car.

Our area has **two different zoos, one of which is devoted entirely to birds**. Joshua has an interest in parrots so on a recent birthday, Selby took him to celebrate at the aviary zoo. Visitors are able to buy seeds on a stick to feed the parakeets, parrots, ducks, flamingos, and other birds. It was a lot of fun as they landed on our hands to eat the seeds, but they did not stick around long once the food was gone! Joshua was so excited but it took Selby a while to warm up to the random birds flying towards him from every direction to eat their lunch. Your child will celebrate nature and all of its beauty, including the animals.



Values



We are active members in our Lutheran Church where **“All are welcome, No exceptions.”** Our involvement within our church community provides us with friends of all ages. We have our “pew buddies;” a group of senior citizens who welcomed us to sit with them when we first visited the church. We continue to sit together and have remained close ever since. They were even guests at our wedding ceremony. We love that our congregation is truly trying to be a place for everyone and is living this out through its support of marginalized communities. We helped form a Bible study for LGBT members and this past year our church created a Racial Solidarity Team to help fight racism in the community.

Joshua has always been a fan of super heroes. As a child Superman was his favorite because of all the powers that he had and the morals that he represented like standing up for what is right even if it meant putting himself in harm's way. Around fifteen years ago, Joshua's life was improved thanks to another hero. He began experiencing an extreme amount of anxiety and it was affecting his employment and relationships. One afternoon during this time, he stumbled on to the old TV series *The Incredible Hulk* starring Lou Ferrigno. While he always thought the Hulk was a mad scientist with an alter ego, he saw that the story in the TV series was different. The scientist was in a car crash and couldn't open the car door to save his wife, his strength failing him when he needed it most. His theory became that **we all have an inner strength that we can tap in to when we need it.** This idea really resonated with Joshua and he used it as a mantra to help himself seek the help of a therapist. The path to resolving his anxiety took a lot of work and courage but whenever he felt overwhelmed, he reminded himself of the Hulk. A few years ago Joshua was able to meet Lou Ferrigno and thank him for what the show meant to him. Your child will know that it is important to take care of both your physical and mental health and that everyone needs help on occasion.



Working with the local Parks and Rec department, Boy Scouts, Toys for Tots, and Habitat for Humanity, among others, volunteering has always been a priority in our lives. We recently helped our local food bank by **sorting through a large bin of potatoes** and dividing them into bags to be evenly distributed to families. The size of the bin and amount of potatoes seemed like a huge task but it was heartwarming to see how generous the local farmers had been and knowing that the time and effort we were putting in would directly help our neighbors. We found our time volunteering...**a-peel-ing** and look forward to going back to help more in the future.

Our Daily Life

Selby is a lawyer by trade and applies his knowledge and skill set at a registered investment advisory firm within their Human Resources department. He is passionate about his work and has been enjoying doing employee relations and compliance. Selby's company offers a **flexible, work from home** policy which means that Selby can be available during the day to help out with school programs or pick up on sick days. Selby works a predictable schedule and his company offers 4 weeks of paid parental leave so he will have extra time to bond with your child.



Joshua is the business officer for an outpatient clinic for individuals with a severe mental health diagnosis. The clinic helps individuals transition from an inpatient facility back into an independent living situation. He acts as the “air traffic control” by being in constant contact with the patients, staff, and their family. Patients love Joshua so much that one of them even suggested that Joshua take time out of our vacation so that Joshua and the patient would not stop their daily 30 minute check-in call. Although he didn't actually call from vacation, they both had plenty of stories to share the next week. His schedule is **predictable** and also has paid parental leave time for bonding with your child.

We make sure to take time to be in the moment together after work. **After preparing and eating dinner together we take Kitty for a walk** through our neighborhood. This evening stroll gives us time to share how our day went and unwind a little. We like to think we are getting some healthy exercise but in reality Kitty is a Beagle who stops and sniffs everything so we don't exactly get our heart rates up too high. Last month Kitty must have thought we went for too long of a walk because she stopped in her tracks and wouldn't budge. We ended up having to pick her up and carry her the rest of the way home. Your child will have two parents home every night to spend quality time with them.



Thank You!



Thank you for taking the time to get to know a little about us. If we are fortunate to be able to raise your child, know that they will be loved unconditionally in a home full of laughter and encouragement. We pray for the health of you and your baby. Throughout the years **we would love to share photos and updates with you.** Thank you for considering us, we look forward to keeping in touch.

Joshua & Selby

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