

CHRISTIE *and* ALEX



hello

W E A R E C H R I S T I E A N D A L E X

We want to start by expressing our deep admiration and respect for the incredible journey you are on right now. We can only imagine the emotions, thoughts, and decisions you are navigating as you consider adoption for your precious child. Your strength and love in making such a profound choice are truly remarkable, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

In this profile book, we aim to give you a glimpse into our lives, our home, our interests, and our commitment to raising a child in a loving and supportive environment. We hope that through these pages, you will get to know us better and gain confidence in our ability to provide a safe and nurturing home for your child.



ABOUT

Christie

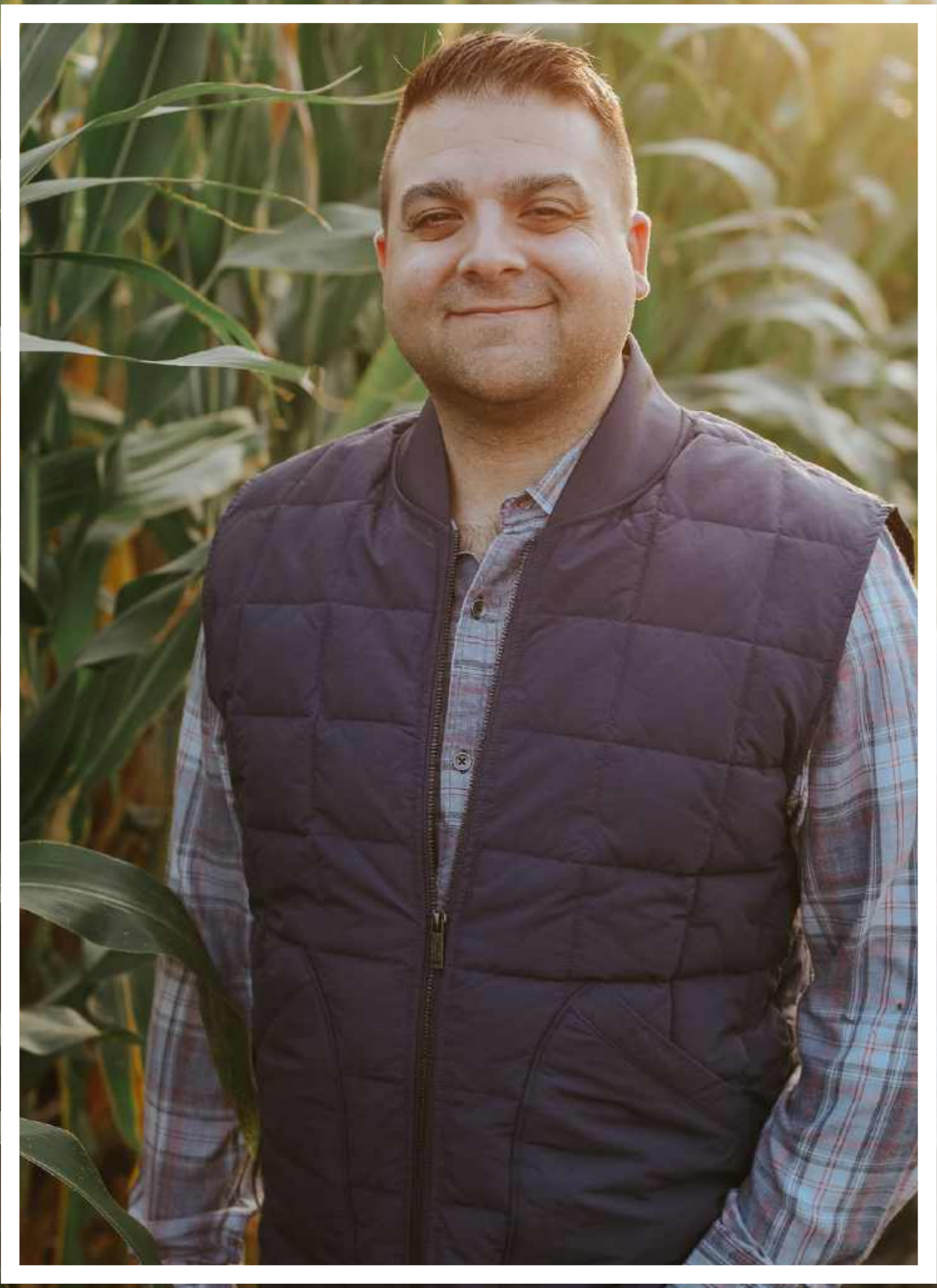


While I was born in Michigan, Illinois is where I grew up and where I consider home (for now). Growing up, I wouldn't say I loved school, but I loved learning. In junior high and high school I was a member of the swim team and swam year-round. To this day, the smell of chlorine, and water in general, make me smile and relax. I took my love of learning into a career in accounting and am now part owner of my own company. I love helping others achieve their goals and living a life that makes them happy. I'm a family-oriented person, close with my parents and with my older sister who's happily married with three adorable daughters. Baking is one of my passions, where I get to be creative and share the treats with those I love. Sourdough, chocolate chip cookies, peach bundt cake, I love baking all of it. I've recently discovered the joy of gardening, with the dream of a large, raised bed garden, and a greenhouse someday. Until then, I fill every open area I have in the summer with planters of tomatoes, peppers, raspberry bushes and blueberry plants. I love traveling, whether it is a road trip for the day or hopping on a flight to Florida. But my most favorite thing is spending quality time with the people I love.



FUN FACTS

- I went to Game 5 of the Chicago Cubs World Series, which they won!
- My favorite ice cream flavor since I was a kid is Breyers Vanilla Fudge Twirl.
- My favorite ride at Disney is the spinning tea cups.
- Fall is my favorite season, Christmas my favorite holiday.
- I can eat corn on the cob every day, it's my favorite vegetable.
- My first job was at Dominoes, and I can't eat it anymore to this day.



Alex

ABOUT



I am the eldest among my three siblings, and I have lived in Illinois my entire life. However, I've always dreamt of relocating to a warmer climate, where I can soak up the sun year-round. I'm still working on Christie for that one, but the day is getting much closer. Despite not enjoying traditional schooling, I persevered and graduated with two bachelor's degrees. I turned those degrees into a career in the logistics industry, and now as a stay-at-home dad. I thrive on planning the next adventure, whether it's a simple trip to the store or an exciting journey to another National Park, with the goal to visit all of them one day. I find immense joy in cooking and grilling and tackling all our home improvement projects. But what I enjoy the most is spending quality time with my family and friends; those cherished moments are what I treasure most in life.



FUN FACTS

- I was an extra in Batman, Oceans 12, and The Weatherman.
- I was a blackbelt in karate, even the state champion as a teenager.
- My dream vacation is an RV road trip to Alaska.
- I love to skydive and have gone several times.
- My favorite animal is a shark.
- My favorite artist is Jimmy Buffet for his storytelling.



HOW ALEX SEES

Christie

Whether it is trying new foods, traveling, reading, or taking care of our home, she does all of that with the eyes of someone who loves. When I am with Christie, I am home. She is the definition of being present. She will sacrifice her time and resources to be close to those that need her. I love doing life with Christie, both the hard and good days, though the nights on the couch with homemade pizza and YouTube videos are the best.

What drew me to Christie was the way I feel safe around her. From day one she has made me feel like her favorite person on the planet. She has always protected us by making sure we don't need to be anything other than real in front of others. I love that she loves people, even those that think differently than her. I love to see her smile, especially when she does her little giddy hop-hop-hop when she gets really excited about something!



HOW CHRISTIE SEES

Alex

Alex's loyalty and kindness are unwavering, making him the bedrock of our family. His compassionate and tender-hearted nature extends not only to me but to everyone he encounters. He cherishes his family dearly, always putting their happiness first. Alex has an adventurous spirit, adoring travel, especially when it involves Disney magic. As much as he loves to travel, he loves being at home with the people he cares about most. Most importantly, he infuses every aspect of our lives with his infectious fun-loving spirit, making every moment a memorable and joyful experience. It doesn't matter what we are doing, Alex has made it fun from the first moment I met him. I rely on his strength, his guidance and ability to see what I can't in situations, and the way he teaches me to love well. There isn't a moment when I doubt Alex's love for me and our family. He sacrifices, protects, supports, guides, and makes me laugh like no one else. He is my favorite person and my safe place.



W H Y W E W A N T T O

adopt AGAIN!

When we got married, we were told the path to children would be solely through infertility treatments. Without hesitation, we jumped into the process with the hopes of success. After four years and seventeen rounds of IVF, five IUI's, infusions, and more vitamins than we want to remember, we knew the path to our own biological children was closed. We took some much-needed time to heal and pray over what was next for our desires for a family. The journey through infertility treatments taught us resiliency, patience, and the gift of unwavering hope. It also revealed our desire to be parents, despite all the obstacles, had only grown stronger.

As we started to explore adoption, we were deeply moved by the stories of resilience, love, and unity formed through this beautiful process. We discovered the concept of open adoption and were drawn to its principles of transparency, communication, and honoring the birth family's role in a child's life. We also love the knowledge of our family not only expanding by a child, but by the child's entire family.

When we adopted Levi in November 2023, we got to experience all of the emotions of adoption first-hand. We know those emotions will also grow and change and the years progress, but we know our love for Levi and his first mother is permanent. Our relationship with her is evolving. We are letting her lead and respecting her wishes and desires, but our hope is one day to have a fully open adoption relationship with her. For us and, most importantly, for our son. We are excited about the prospect of becoming adoptive parents again, and for Levi to become a big brother.

WE KNOW ADOPTION IS NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR A BIOLOGICAL CONNECTION BUT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A LOVING AND SUPPORTIVE HOME WHERE A CHILD CAN THRIVE, KNOWING THEY ARE CHERISHED, CHOSEN, AND VALUED FOR WHO THEY ARE.

Our journey through infertility and adoption has strengthened our resolve to provide a safe, nurturing, and joyful environment for a child, regardless of their biological origins, and we eagerly await the chance to welcome another child into our family through

adoption

welcome home





about our home and neighborhood

Our home was built in 2022 and is a three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath, full basement townhome. It has a great patio perfect for some container gardens, a grill, and a small firepit. It's a good night when we sit outside by the fire with s'mores. Our neighborhood is quiet and peaceful but full of families with children. We are close to several parks, have lots of walking paths, and are in one of the top school districts in the country. There is even a small suburban farm behind us, and we love the fall fest they put on each year.

As a suburb of Chicago, we are far enough away to enjoy the quieter environment but are within an hour of all the benefits of the city. We love going downtown to see Cubs games, the museums, Broadway plays, and to try out the newest restaurants.

THIS IS

LEVI





WE WELCOMED OUR SON LEVI IN NOVEMBER 2023 THROUGH THE GIFT OF ADOPTION.

Levi loves to be outside on the swings or walking through the botanic gardens. He is crawling all over the place and just learned to stand, which is all he wants to do. We know he will be running around our house before we know it, and he will RUN. We recently got him a walker and his love for that is unmatched. He zooms around the house exploring everything he can and getting into everything he isn't supposed to! He is rambunctious, energetic, and thriving. We are constantly told how we have the most joy-filled son anyone has met, and we couldn't agree more. There isn't a day that we don't stand in awe of the gift we have been given through him.

Christie's Family

I COME FROM A SMALL, CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY.

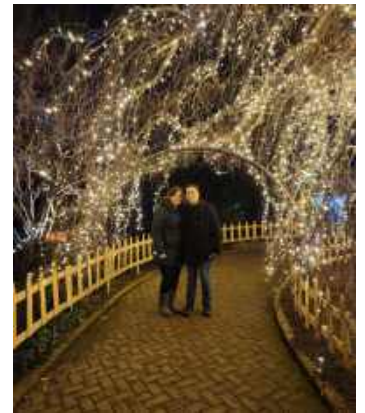
It was just my sister and I growing up, and now her family has grown to include my three nieces. I am so proud of them, and love spending time supporting them in their swim meets, plays, recitals, and whatever else comes up. I'm lucky enough to be close to both my parents and get to spend time with them regularly. Alex and I are also blessed with a close group of friends who are like family to us. All of us live close by and are intentional about time together, and we love spending time with all their kids.

Alex's Family

I HAVE THREE SIBLINGS, TWO OF WHICH ARE MARRIED NOW AND HAVE CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN.

I love being the fun uncle to my seven (soon to be eight) nieces and nephews. I'm always the one sneaking them ice cream and other treats. My parents moved to Nashville a couple of years ago, along with two of my siblings and their families. We miss them terribly but visit every month or so and are constantly video chatting with them. There doesn't seem to be a day that goes by when we aren't talking. I come from a large extended family who have always been close, and we regularly see my cousins and their kids.





FAMILY TRADITIONS

Driving to see Christmas lights in the same neighborhoods each year, complete with hot chocolate and orange slices.

Every fall, doing a scenic drive in Wisconsin to see the fall colors and stopping at the apple orchard for the best caramel apple pie there ever was.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving we head to Chicago where we see a Broadway play, attend the Christmas market, and view the lights downtown.

Homemade pizza and YouTube on Friday nights.

Putting up the Christmas tree as early as possible, within reason.

Valentine's Day dinner at Portillos for hot dogs and chocolate cake.

Homemade cinnamon rolls on Thanksgiving and Christmas mornings while watching the parades.

Celebrating everything, both the big and little achievements.



WE LOVE TO TRAVEL!

Florida has become a second home to us, and we vacation there the most. We tend to be in the state once every month or two, whether it is a planned trip, or we are tagging an extended weekend onto a work trip. Orlando is our most frequented stop due to our love of Disney and Universal Studios. If you are wondering whether we cram all the parks into one day, yes, we do, and my (Christie) feet typically pay the price for days to come. We have also visited St. Augustine, Tampa, Vero Beach, Miami, Key West and Key Largo. While we tend to return to the same places over and over, we do have plans to visit the Florida panhandle next.

We love to travel and have been very lucky to have had opportunities to do so. When we aren't in Florida, our vacations have spanned out west to places like Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, the Badlands, and Grand Tetons. We did a two-week road trip out west a few years ago that was unbelievable. We recently had the opportunity to go to Maui, and I am planning our trip back for our ten-year anniversary. It is paradise. We also love cruising on Disney, which is typically to the Caribbean, a favorite of Alex's. We have our eyes on Alaska, Vancouver, and Maine for the fall colors soon.







We understand this is an incredibly important and challenging decision for you, and we are humbled by your strength and courage in considering this choice. Thank you for taking the time to consider us, and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming another child into our hearts and home.

We are here with open hearts, ready to again embrace the joys and responsibilities of parenthood and offer your child a life filled with love, laughter, and endless opportunities.

Christie & Alex



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