



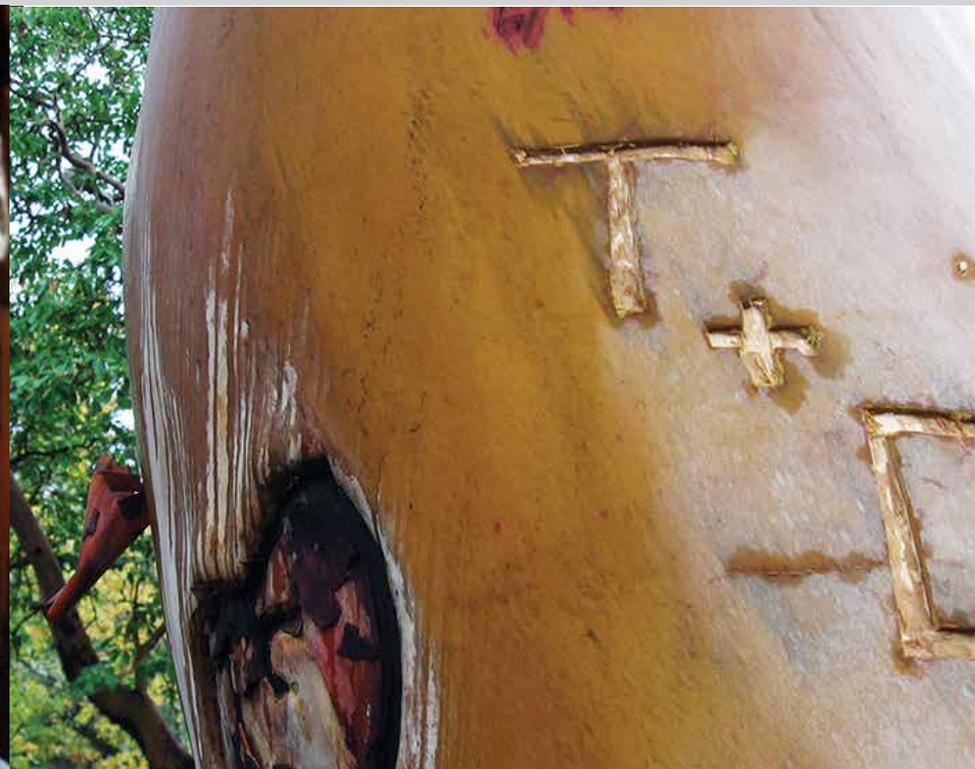
OUR STORY



We met in high school and dated throughout our senior year. After high school, each of us went in different directions to pursue school and careers. Terry jumped into a family business and Charissa moved to attend the University of Oregon. We spent lots of hours on the road traveling to see one another during that time.

A BIT ABOUT US

ringing the church bell
on our wedding day

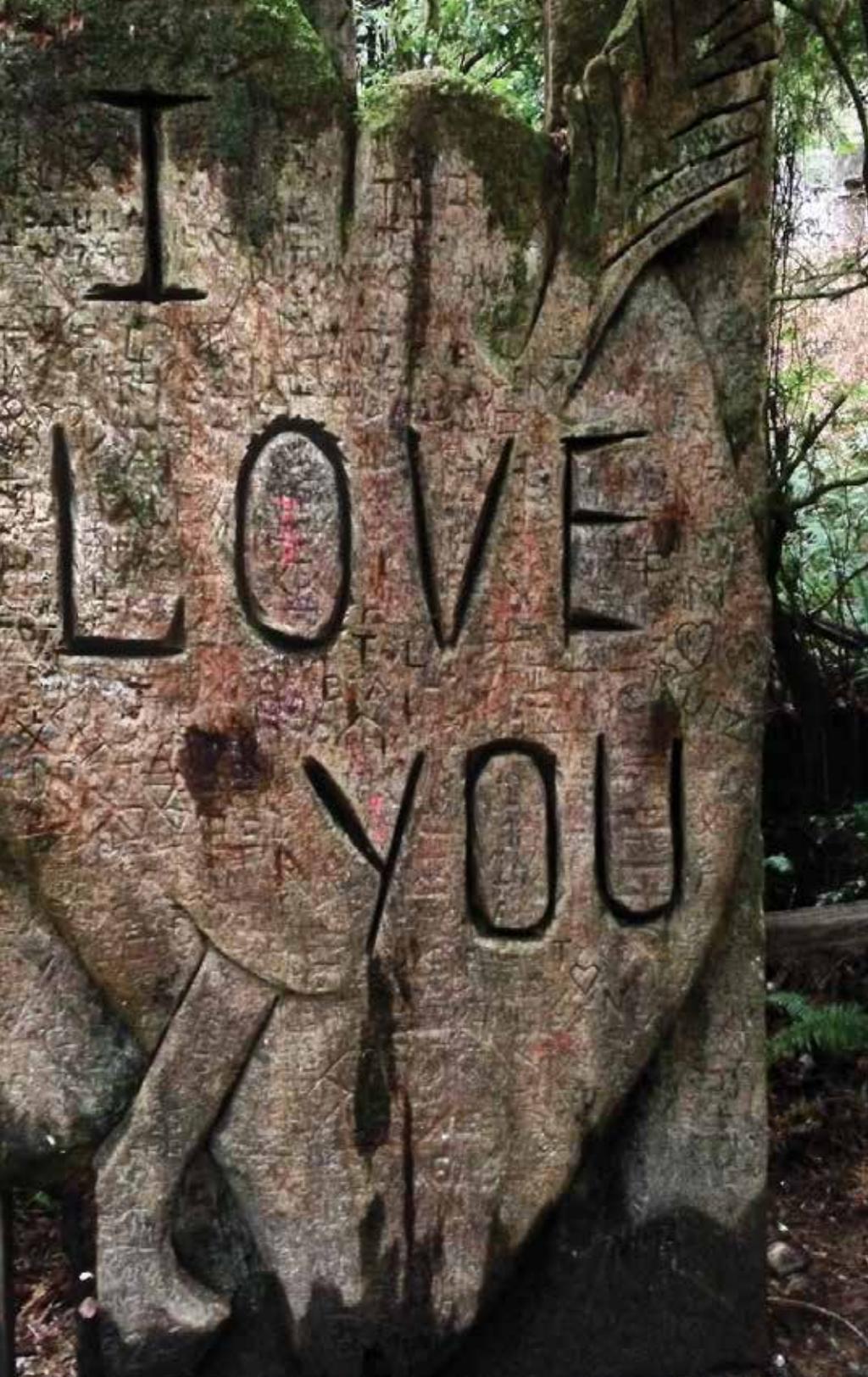




We love Oregon and all that it has to offer--art, diversity, energy, amazing local food. We bought a house with a big back yard with lots of running room for our beagle boy Chico, a space for our business and enough room to expand our dreams and family. We've had fun settling in and working on projects to make it our own.

On a typical day you can find us playing with the pup in the yard, gardening, heading out to a local farm to get ingredients for dinner and coming home to cook up a meal to share together. We love to explore our local area and are true Oregonians that think we live in one of the most amazing places in the world. We spend every chance we get in the company of our friends and family and feel super lucky to have such supportive, diverse, amazing people all around us.





While we've been together a long time, it hasn't been without work. Life has thrown us some serious curves and with each others help we've made it through. We love our life and wish for that next step of expanding our family.

Charissa and Terry have grown up together and weathered many tragedies and challenges that would have torn other couples apart. Despite challenges, I have never known Charissa or Terry to give up on anyone they care about.

Mary Beth, family friend





A LITTLE ABOUT TERRY

Terry is a builder at heart and can fix just about anything he sets his mind to, but his real love is cooking. He is fearless in the kitchen, taking on unknown ingredients and untested recipes and feeding anyone who is willing to try. Needless to say, our family gatherings are something special when he has the apron on.

When you can get him out of the kitchen, Terry has an artistic side and a love for the outdoors -- riding motorcycles, hiking, fishing, planning road trips, camping. He is ready to do it all -- a true adventurer. He has a love for life that helps him connect with others and everything he does.

Is fearless in the kitchen...
and most anywhere else.

Has ridden thousands of miles
cross country on
his motorcycle.

Dreams of owning
his own bakery.

Has an unforgettable laugh.

Is a goofy soul.

Isn't afraid to cry.

Has saved numerous
lost animals.

A LITTLE ABOUT CHARISSA

Charissa loves all things artsy and is almost afraid to admit just how many art supplies she has. She brings people together with that creative spirit and loves to spend time making things in just about any medium she can get her hands on dirt, paint, hardware, salad everything can be art! Her favorite place to be is hanging in the backyard with family and friends. She deeply loves Oregon (even the rain!) the mix of nature, music, art and amazing small business and food scene makes for her perfect home.

Can often be found wandering around a hardware store in search of the perfect something for her art.

Dreams of watching the family business grow and grow.

Loves the smell of summer rain.

Hopes to someday see the Northern Lights.

Founded a group of women artist's called the artchics.





RYLEE OUR LITTLE SPARK



Loves robots, rock and roll,
making pizza, trains & the beach.

Has a huge heart.

Can mimic over 50 animal sounds.

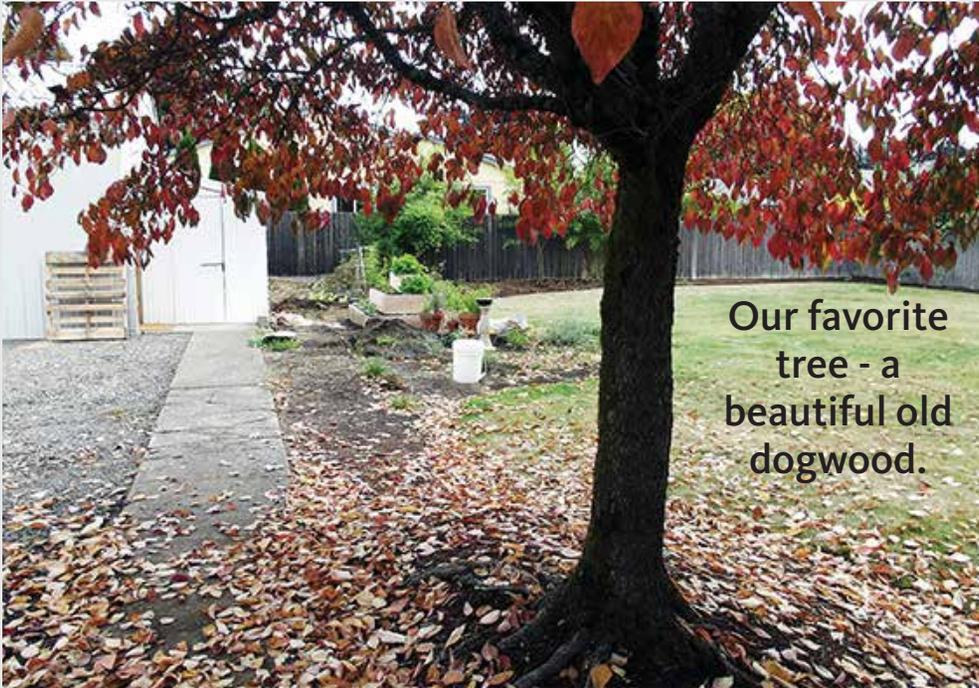
Favorite food: fig bars & cake.

Will break out the
dance moves on request.

It has been a dream sharing our world with a little one. Our hope is to expose Rylee to as much love, art, music, books, food, and gatherings as possible. Open adoption has created a family, a community that are all part of his story. We can't wait to watch him grow and choose his path.



OUR HOME



Our favorite tree - a beautiful old dogwood.



Harvesting raspberries in the back yard.



Fall harvest from the garden.



The back porch... lovely in all seasons.



a visit to Crater Lake



fun with the cousins



working with Dad

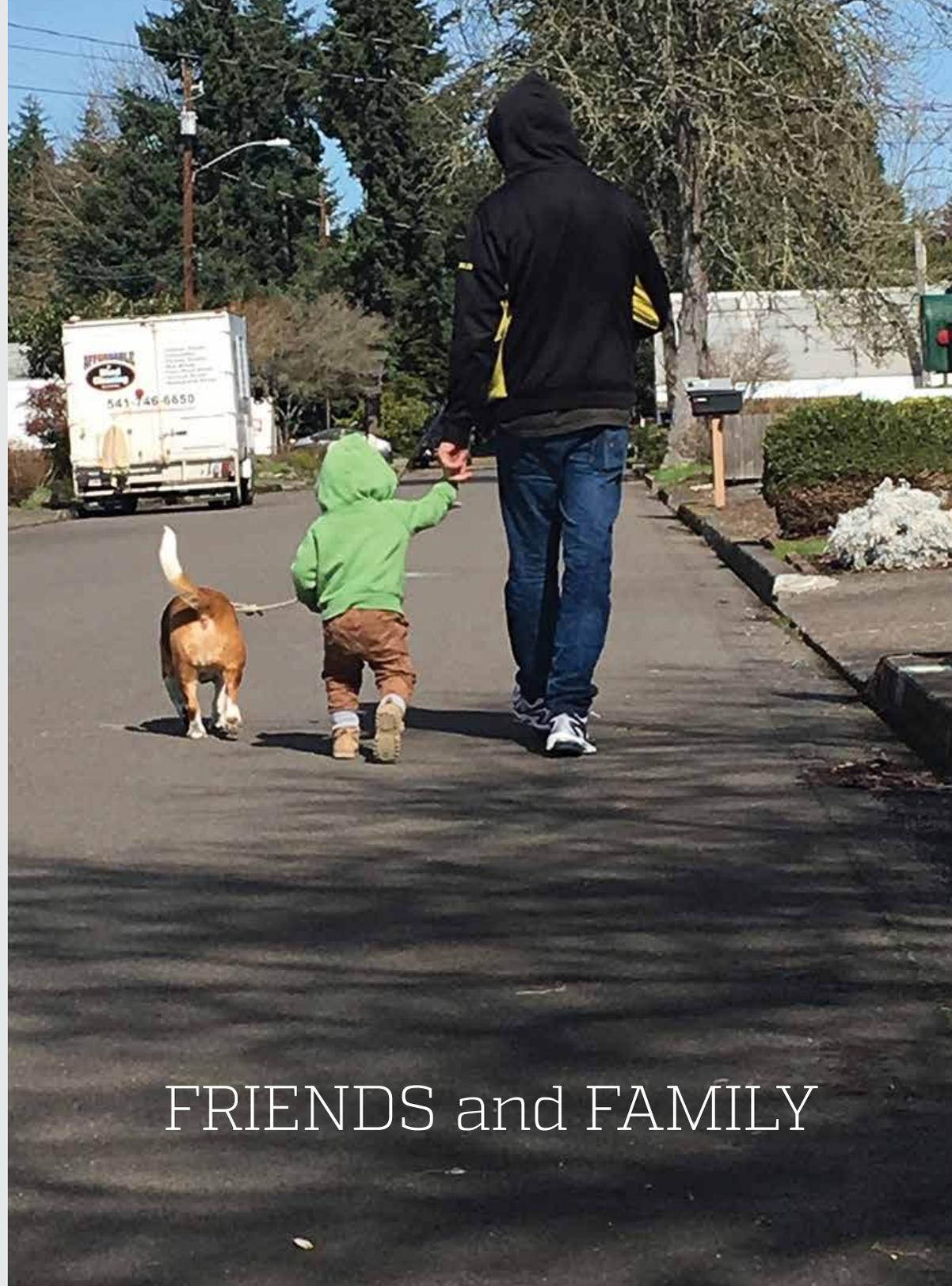


best buddies



*When we visit their home
we are always warmly
welcomed with love, hugs,
good food, and fun times
which have made many
wonderful memories for
our family.*

Sharyl, sister



FRIENDS and FAMILY

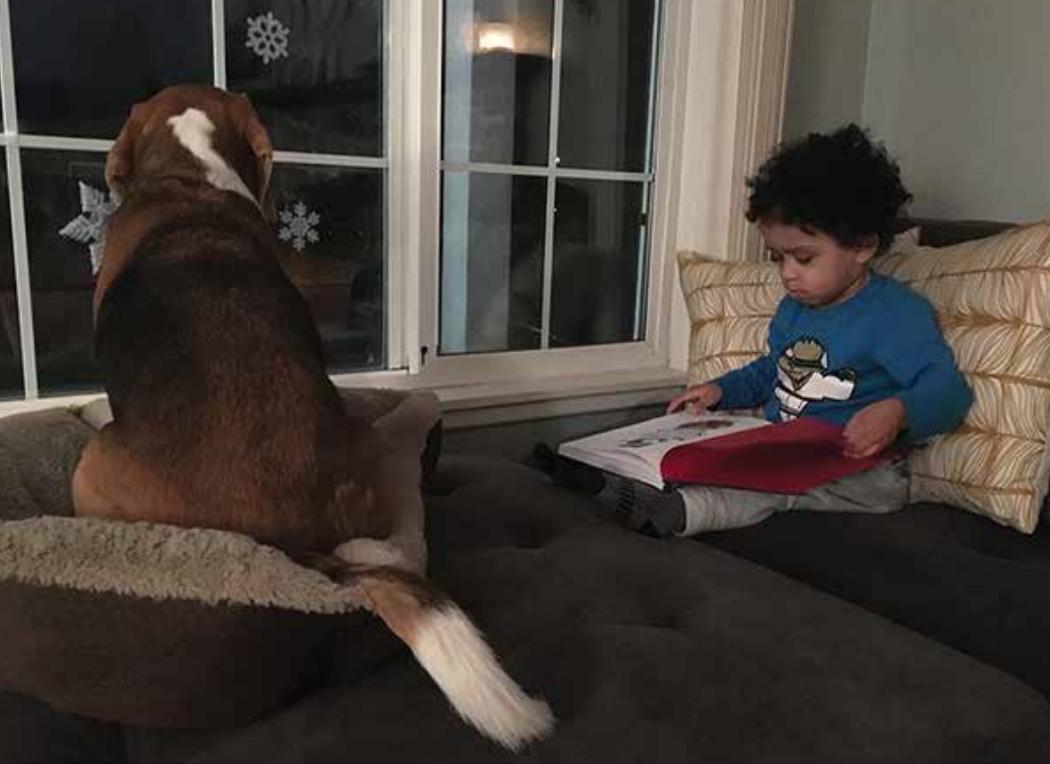


FOOD and COOKING



Food is a big part of our lives... not just eating but it is at the heart of many of our get-togethers and happens to be to the basis of our business too. We are lovers of ingredients and finding or growing those ingredients. Cooking for us is a means to gather as a family and to spend time with friends and loved ones.

Terry has a new found love of baking. It has been great fun to watch the scientist and artist in him explore all there is to know about bread. And the delicious smell of baking bread isn't bad either!



A child in their home will be loved unconditionally. Charissa and Terry have close knit families and a large network of long time friends ready to joyfully support them in this endeavor.

Georgeanne,
family friend

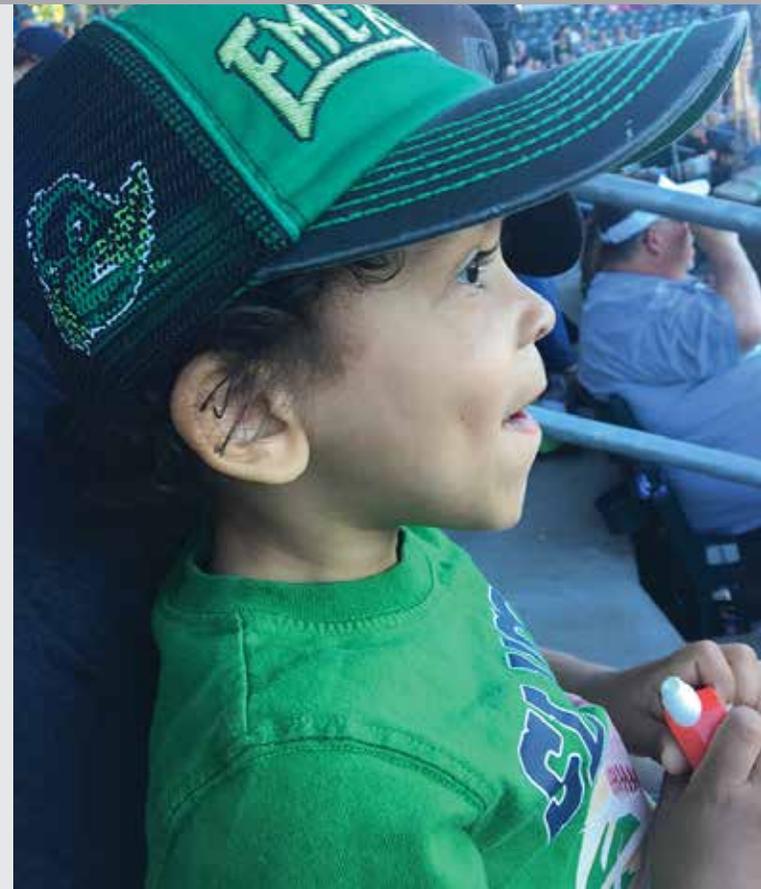




OUR HOPES and DREAMS

Most important to us is that a child is safe, loved and accepted for who they are... and that they have the chance to experience and learn new things and find out what they love most.

We look forward to watching them grow and can't wait to help and encourage along the way. We do all we can to surround Rylee with new things and adventures so he can learn and see what inspires him. Reading, music, cooking, gardening, animals, building, sports, bugs, and visiting new places--watching the world through his eyes is magic.



OPEN ADOPTION

Adoption had always been a part of our family dream but was only when we discovered open adoption that the path felt like the right one for us. The more we learned about the possibility of connecting with a birth family and that the decision was the expectant parent(s), the more it felt like what we would hope for every child a connection to their story and people who are ready to love them and tell that story.

Connecting with Rylee's family has been life changing. We are all so thankful to be in each others lives and love that we have the chance to grow closer and closer... it feels like what family should be, real and honest.





