



Ross and Lacey

Hello, we are Lacey and Ross. We live in northwest Washington and we are excited to grow our family through open adoption. Thanks for looking at our book to learn more about us and the life we hope to offer a child.



Our beginning!

We met in 2012 while serving in the Peace Corps in Zambia, Africa. Ross was working with farmers on more sustainable farming and tree practices, while Lacey was teaching English in a government school. After living in Zambia for two years, we moved to Seattle, Washington in 2014. We were married August 19, 2017, by our two favorite people, Lacey's sister Haley and Ross's best friend Bryan.



Below: Lacey and her host family.
To the right: Ross playing with some of the kids from the village he lived in.



Mural we painted on the school where Lacey taught.



Lacey getting water and Ross starting a fire to cook.



Lacey working with students and her classroom.

Our values, our relationship

trust
kindness
love
adventure



Backpacking for Lacey's sister Haley's 29th birthday.



Haley (sister) and Cam (brother-in-law) over for a Christmas game night.



Our favorite things to do together!

- game nights with friends
- riding bikes
- hiking and backpacking
- relaxing, reading, or watching tv on the couch with our pets
- celebrating holidays, each other, or friends



Halloween '13 Peace Corps Friends

Meet Lacey

Occupation:
Elementary Social Emotional
Learning Specialist

Favorites:
purple, my dog June

Favorite activities:
hiking, backpacking, mountain
biking, running, gardening, pottery,
painting, baking, reading

Food: guacamole & chips, chocolate

Drink: coffee, fizzy water



I enjoy working with my hands in a creative way. During the day, I am teaching at an elementary school. In the evenings you may see me painting, reading, or running. On the weekends, outside is my favorite place to be, whether biking with Ross, hiking with Haley, gardening, or hanging with June, our pup.



Below: Haley, Cam, Me and Ross



My sister Haley is my best friend, we love hiking and backpacking together, either just us girls or with our husbands too!



I grew in Sacramento, California with my younger brother Luke and sister, Haley, who are twins, and our parents, Susan and Larry. I was actively involved in choir and dedicated to horseback riding. I attended college at Seattle Pacific University where I learned how to row and joined the crew team. I remember waking up everyday at 4:30 am in the freezing rain to bond with my team and row. I got my teaching degree but wasn't ready to be in a traditional classroom right away, so after graduating, I joined the Peace Corps, to teach, learn, and experience a different way of life. Teaching is my passion. I love see my students learn and grow. After returning from the Peace Corps, Ross and I moved to Seattle, where I continued teaching in elementary schools. Currently I am a social emotional learning specialist, I teach many social skills including, self regulation, self management and emotional literacy which I get to teach in all the pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade classrooms.



What Ross loves about Lacey:
 - her kindness, joy, and determination
 - her sense of adventure and curiosity
 - her empathy and warmth



These days we get together with my sister and brother-in-law, Cam, for game nights, hiking and running. My parents are part time in Washington and California so we see them several times a year for get-togethers. My brother and sister-in-law, Destiny, live on the East Coast, so we see them once a year or so for holidays. Its always fun to spend time as a family.



Luke and Destiny's wedding
 Left to right: Me, Larry (dad), Susan (mom), Luke, Destiny, Haley, Cam (brother-in-law)



Meet Ross

Occupation:
Works for Veterans Affairs helping veterans receive the funds they qualify for

Favorites:
nature, bees, green, our cats Pocket and Olive

Favorite activities:
hiking, biking, photography, backpacking, kayaking, being outside, board games, video games, cooking, beekeeping

Food: anything
vegetarian from around
the world

Drink:
coffee, tea, anything
with bubbles



Ross and his bees



Enjoying the view



Good college friends; Bryan, Freddy, Ross, and Andy



Andrew, Phoebe (dog) and Ross



Mom (Trish), me, and Dad (Scott)



Mom, Dad, myself, and brother Reed



My brother and me



In Boy Scouts (myself centered)

I grew up with my older brother and parents in Oklahoma, where I found a love of bikes in exploring my hometown with friends. When I was a teen we moved to Colorado where I learned to ski and became enamored with nature. I attended Western State University studying natural resource economics and skipped off to the mountains to snowboard as much as possible. In 2012, I joined the Peace Corps and met Lacey.



Grandpa, Trish (mom), Scott (dad), Reed (brother), Ross

What Lacey Loves about Ross:

- his ability to make a meal out of the oddest ingredients (and it tastes good!)
- his smile
- his support and encouragement (especially when I am trying something new)
- he can make me laugh about the silliest things

Pocket and Olive

Pocket is our shy, black kitty. She loves to sit in the window and dream of catching birds.

Olive is our talkative, tabby kitty. She loves people and wants all the attention, all the time.



June

Little June, our adventurous pup. June loves to do outside things with us, whether it's kayaking, hiking, or running. When at home she loves snuggling on the couch or attempting to play with the cats.



Our house and neighborhood

We are fortunate to live so close to places to do our hobbies, including amazing mountain biking trails, a lake to swim and kayak on, plus snow shoeing, hikes, and backpacking on nearby Mt. Baker. We love the area we live in.



We take June on daily walks around the neighborhood trails, where we often see deer, ducks, bunnies and squirrels. Our house is also very close to several different playgrounds and great schools.



We live in a quiet neighborhood in Northern Washington, close to the Canadian border. Our house has 3 bedrooms, an open kitchen, and spacious backyard. In our backyard, we have a catio for the cats to enjoy fresh air, a growing garden, fire pit, and beehives.

During fall, spring, and summer we enjoy hosting bonfires with friends, gardening, lounging on the patio reading, or throwing a ball for June. In winter, our kitchen is our favorite place to be, as we like to bake and cook together. We also like hosting game nights or lounging on the couch with our pets, while watching a good show.

Family Traditions



We enjoy:

- celebrating holidays, such as New Years and Halloween, or any excuse to indulge with friends and family
- cooking and baking together
- birthdays are celebrated outside!
- at least once a year we make potato buns together (Bierox, potato bread buns with sauerkraut and sausage, Ross's family tradition)
- Lacey's favorite holiday is Valentine's Day, so we always try to do something fun and different (last year we went snowshoeing!)



Dreams for Our Child

We know that it is essential for our child to feel loved, be confident, have a sense of belonging, and to know and believe that they are loved and supported unconditionally.

We hope for our child to feel pride and security in knowing their birth story, family, and history. We will fully support our child in having meaningful relationships with their birth family and including them as part of our family.

We will strive to provide a home full of love, laughter, and learning. We will not only share our passions with our child but also nurture theirs.

Our child will be supported by community, family, and friends. We hope our child will be comfortable in their own skin and be proud of whoever they are and become. We will teach our child to be kind, empathetic, respectful of differences, and to stand up for what is right.



Photo taken by Ross on a family hiking trip.

Open Adoption Aspirations

We believe in open adoption because we know that it is essential for our child to know their story, heritage, and birth family, in order to have a stronger sense of self, identity, and belonging. We hope for our child to know they are loved and supported by all of their family. We want our child be fulfilled, to have confidence and pride in themselves.

We hope to expand our family and community to support and love our child. We look forward to celebrating new traditions through the culture of openness, and welcome additions to our family, culture, and community. We look forward to embracing this next chapter with grace, love, and respect towards all members of the adoption constellation.



Photo taken by Ross during a family vacation.

Thank you,
Lacey and
Ross.

