



**MADE WITH LOVE**



**Bridget & Roderick**





**HELLO!**

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about our fun and tight-knit family. We hope that through these pages you will be able to see the deep love we have for each other as a couple and how much love we have to give to a child. We can't wait to bring a child home to a supportive family with lots of silliness and laughter.



## OUR STORY



*The pillars of our relationship are love, laughter, and friendship!*



We met at college in 2009 at a get-together of mutual friends. We started chatting and never stopped! We began officially dating soon after. Our first official date was at a Greek restaurant, which led to us watching the movie, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. This was the start of us watching and critiquing movies together. Roderick proposed on the beach by Bridget's parents' house and we got married in November 2012.

Our favorite date night is still dinner and a movie. No matter how many times Bridget has seen a movie, she will still cry at certain parts. Roderick will always look over at her during those scenes to verify if she is okay or if the waterworks are starting, which causes both of us to laugh. One of our favorite things about each other is the ability to make each other smile - no matter what we are doing.

## OUR VALUES

Bridget grew up singing along to musicals (mostly Disney) when not reading a book. Roderick grew up working with his hands: farming, drawing, and revving engines. Even though we grew up in different environments (Bridget suburban and Roderick rural), we were raised on the same values of:

**RESPECT** We always view each other as equal partners and make a habit of sharing household duties.

**COMPASSION** Being respectful and kind to others makes this world a better place.

**EDUCATION** We both know the value of education and feel it helps you grow mentally, socially, and emotionally.

**TOGETHERNESS** We always sit down together for dinner each night with no distractions.







## THINGS WE LOVE TO DO TOGETHER

**TRAVEL** We enjoy experiencing new places and learning new things about each other while we travel. We've visited Mexico, Germany, France, and England. We also take at least one ski trip in the Pacific Northwest with friends every year.

**PLAY GAMES** We like to host game nights and enjoy the friendly competition. Our favorite games are Darts, Monopoly Deal, Dutch Blitz, and Catan.

**WATCH MOVIES** We enjoy watching drama, action, sci-fi and fantasy movies. We've seen the Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, and Star Wars series multiple times.

**BE ACTIVE** We love cycling, hiking, and tending to our vegetable garden.



### **FUN FACT ABOUT US!**

*During a trip to Germany, we won a plush smiley poop emoji playing archery at Oktoberfest. We still have the plushy and can't wait to hang it over the changing table!*





Harry Potter Studios, UK

## MEET BRIDGET

**OCCUPATION:** Administrator  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, journaling, singing, musical theatre



Bridget and her sister

### FUN FACTS

-I have one older sister who I am incredibly close with. She is my best friend!

-My favorite foods are pad Thai, gluten free donuts, and cashew milk ice cream.

-I love visiting Disneyland and even hosted my bachelorette party there.

-Alternative/indie and pop music are my favorite genres of music to listen to.

-In high school, I performed at Carnegie Hall, New York with my jazz choir.

-I like to give back to the community and support equity and social justice projects.

-Shopping at HomeGoods for unnecessary home décor is my guilty pleasure.



## BRIDGET'S STORY

I grew up in the Seattle area. My parents always encouraged me to play outside and use my imagination. As a child, I also enjoyed reading and watching musicals and Disney movies. We had the best big backyard where my dad built us a two-story castle playhouse. In the summer, my parents would throw castle parties - a medieval themed party with family and friends. I loved dressing up for it!

I started singing and acting at age five. I sang in multiple choirs from early childhood through high school and took voice lessons starting in my pre-teens. Through the years, I have been in a variety of community theater, summer camp, and school musical productions. Although I stopped performing publicly, I still enjoy singing around the house and going to shows. At our wedding, I recorded a couple songs to surprise Roderick!

Photos: Women's march with mom (top); Bridget's family (middle); DC zoo with nephew (bottom)





Skiing

## MEET RODERICK

**OCCUPATION:** Project Manager

**HOBBIES:** Skiing, long distance cycling, video games



Mount St. Helen's

### FUN FACTS

-In 2017, I climbed Mount St. Helens (an active volcano!) with close friends.

-I can fix most household and car issues by myself.

-I studied industrial design in college and designed some of the furniture in our house.

-Pizza, Nashville hot chicken, and Tillamook ice cream are my favorite foods.

-When I was 20 years old, I rebuilt a car engine with my dad.

-I designed a track suit made from car seats for a trash fashion show in college.

-When I am working around the house, I like to listen to podcasts or heavy metal.



## RODERICK'S STORY

I was born in Oregon, but spent the majority of my life on a dairy farm in Washington. My first memories of the farm were building hay forts in the barn and chasing cows when they broke through fences with my younger brother and sister. I was a very active kid and played baseball, basketball, and football. My favorite thing to do, though, was bike horse trails with my dad. We also made special trips to Canada to downhill mountain bike.

I love being creative and I got my artistic talent from my mom's side. My grandmother taught watercolor classes and my grandfather rebuilt classic cars. After high school, I spent a summer working for him restoring hot rods. I still enjoy going to car shows, attending drag racing, and watching Top Gear. When my grandfather passed away, we inherited many of his cars. They are important to us and hold a lot of memories.

Photos: Roderick's family (top); Scuba diving in Cabo; Roderick and his grandpa





## WHAT RODERICK LOVES ABOUT BRIDGET

*"Bridget is organized, thoughtful, and adventurous. One of Bridget's many nicknames is kickstand (bicycle reference) because she is so supportive. She has many great qualities but her motivation and the unconditional love she shows towards those she cares about is easily the thing I love most about her. She keeps our family ship moving in the right direction and I have no doubt that she will love our child wholeheartedly!"*

## WHAT BRIDGET LOVES ABOUT RODERICK

*"Roderick is easy-going, humble, and the kindest man I know. He shows his love through his actions. Early in our relationship, I got hit during paintball and did not want to cry in front of him and was able to hold it together until he brought me a donut, Advil, and gave me a hug asking if I was okay. He will be an incredibly patient and supportive father."*





## OUR HOME

We live at the end of a cul-de-sac in a diverse suburb south of Seattle. Our neighborhood is vibrant with cherry trees that bloom every spring and families walking around. Kids are always riding their bikes past our house. Our fenced backyard and large basement make our home ideal for entertaining friends and family. We can't wait to add a few yard toys outside once we have a little one running around.

We love the area surrounding our home too. There is a trailhead that follows along a river where we go on bike rides. There are also multiple parks, playgrounds, and beaches (Bridget's parents have private beach access) nearby. We are close to all necessities, including two public libraries that Bridget goes to on a regular basis. When we want to explore, we are just 30 minutes away from zoos, aquariums, and museums.



## OUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

When we want to get away and have more fun, you can find us at Bridget's parents' cabin on the Skykomish River or at Roderick's parents' home in Arizona! Both places are meaningful to our family and we can't wait to take our future child there, too.



### *THE FAMILY CABIN!*

Bridget's parents bought a cabin on the Skykomish River when she started dating Roderick. We spent our first wedding anniversary at the cabin and try to go up for our anniversary each year. We go to the cabin any time we want to unplug and enjoy nature either by ourselves or with family.

### *ARIZONA!*

Roderick's parents are snowbirds and live in Arizona November to April. We like to go to Arizona in the winter and rent a car (usually something sporty) to visit Roderick's parents and close friends that live nearby.





## OUR LOVED ONES

Bridget's parents, maternal grandmother, and the majority of her extended family all live nearby! Bridget's sister and her family (including our nephew!) live in Maryland. Roderick's parents (when they aren't in Arizona) and siblings live 1.5 hours away. His extended family is spread out, including some that live in Oregon and England.

Our family is everything to us and not a day goes by that we don't call, text, or video chat with each other, especially those that live a little farther away. We visit each other as much as we can, especially for holidays and special occasions. Regardless of which side we celebrate with, we spend the holidays baking cookies, listening to holiday music, playing games, and watching holiday movies.



Cousin silliness with great aunt



Snow fun with our nephew



Father's Day with both sides



Bridget and her grandma

## OUR FRIENDS

When it comes to friendships, we have a tight-knit group of local and non-local friends that we consider family. Everyone in our support system is excited to be a part of our adoption journey! Bridget gets together with her friends at least once a month for dinner, shopping, and movie nights. Roderick's group of friends gets together to play Pathfinder (like Dungeons & Dragons) or Xbox live frequently.

We have friends we visit and chat with often in Texas and Arizona. We also have friends who live in Germany! Roderick's family hosted a German exchange student in high school and they have been friends ever since. We video chat on a regular basis and look forward to future travels together.



Photos: German friends visiting (top); Visiting German friends (bottom left); Ski crew (top bottom right); Arizona friends (lower bottom right)





St. Patrick's Day



Halloween



Festivus



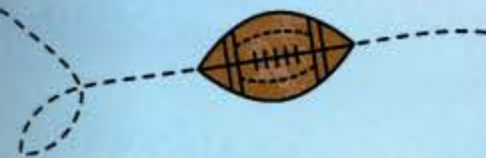
Christmas

## OUR FAVORITE TRADITIONS

-Bridget's paternal grandfather wore a plaid tie every Christmas and now we take pictures wearing them each year.

-We celebrate Festivus, a Thanksgiving/Christmas hybrid, in the fall with Roderick's family before they leave for Arizona for the winter.

-We get together with Bridget's parents and maternal grandma each year on St. Patrick's Day.



-We love the Seahawks and so we attend a game once a year where we tailgate at a charity close to the stadium and host viewing parties throughout the season.



### MEET OUR KITTY!

Izzy is a grey Tabby that loves to snuggle on the warmest spot in the house she can find! She is a kind and playful kitty; she loves to play fetch and chase the laser. She enjoys helping Bridget work from home and Roderick play video games. Her favorite thing in the world is cheddar cheese. She will come running at the sound of the bag!





## DREAMS FOR OUR CHILD



State park beach near our house

We believe in equity and inclusion and will raise our child to accept all people, no matter their race, culture, religion, gender, or sexuality. We will inform them about the systematic racism in our society and look forward to raising our child in our culturally diverse neighborhood where they can socialize and interact with other children that look like them.

We believe in raising our child in an environment where they feel unconditionally loved, supported, and listened to. It is important to us that our child always feels safe and comfortable to come to us whenever they want to talk about something. Our child will have a support network of friends and family all along the way!



Playing with our friends' son



Roderick playing with our nephew

We believe in the importance of literacy and education. Bridget's mom is a teacher/librarian, so our child will have plenty of books. She already has boxes saved! We have many public and private school options available and will choose the option that is best for our child's learning needs. We will encourage our child to study and accomplish academically, while also pursuing their passions and talents. We will do everything in our power to help them succeed in achieving their dreams.



Bridget reading to our nephew



LIFE IS *better* TOGETHER

## OPEN ADOPTION ASPIRATIONS

We cannot even begin to express how much we look forward to finally being able to start our family. We hope that our love and comfort came through these pages. We are so very excited about the possibility of sharing our lives, hearts, and love with our child and their birth family. We hope to build a relationship with our child's birth family that is natural, honest, and respectful.

More than anything, we will love our child unconditionally and will raise them to be the best person that they can be. If our child's birth family is comfortable, we hope that they want to be a part of our child's life. We will support our child throughout their life, including building a relationship with their birth family. We will see our child's birth family as an extension of our family. We will make sure our child knows their story and it will be honored daily.



We look forward to creating amazing life experiences full of learning and traveling often with our child, while laughing along the way. We hope that our child can view their birth family as part of their support system. We will stand behind our child and be their biggest cheerleaders!

Warmly, Bridget and Roderick