







## Hi! We are Ryan and Chantal

We are an active couple who loves exploring the world around us - close to home in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, in far away places and everywhere in between! We can often be found hiking, kayaking, enjoying trips to the beach and hanging out with family.

We dream of growing our family through open adoption, and we appreciate you taking the time to learn about us!





## How We Met

We met in 2013 on an online dating site - Chantal was the last person Ryan reached out to, and Ryan was the first person Chantal was drawn to. Our first date was on a rainy autumn evening at a local coffee shop and before two weeks had gone by, we had squeezed in six more dates! By Christmas, we knew that we were meant to be together and a couple months later, we were engaged.

A busy spring and summer ensued with Chantal starting her clinical shifts in medical school, Ryan finishing coursework for his master's degree and preparations for a wedding! We were married on a friend's farm in Oregon on a golden summer afternoon in 2014. It was a fun weekend celebrating with friends and family who joined us from all over the US. We've been enjoying our happily ever after ever since.



## Things We Love to Do Together

- Soak in hot springs
- Summer picnics in the park
- Travel to places near and far
- Relax with music and snacks on our patio
- Walk to our neighborhood farmers' market
- Explore waterways in our kayaks or sailboat



# Our Values

Our relationship is based on friendship, laughter and shared core values.

**Family:** we prioritize maintaining close connections with our family, regardless of how near/far we are.

**Curiosity:** we are passionate about learning new things, exploring new ideas, understanding other viewpoints.

**Kindness:** we enjoy helping others and making people feel welcome. Our family and friends know we are available to lend a hand.

**Faith:** we are active in our faith community and attend church weekly.

**Environment:** we desire to make the world a better place and to have fun doing it!

Our dreams for having children started long before we knew each other. When we met and fell in love, that desire became an exciting possibility! But after a heartbreaking process, including many unsuccessful fertility treatments, we realized we would need to start our family another way. It felt like open adoption found us. We look forward to sharing our hearts and home with an adopted child and guiding them on their path through life.





# Meet Chantal

## Occupation:

Naturopathic Physician

## Favorite Activities:

Gardening, making herbal medicines, baking, hiking, yoga, singing, hosting friends, catching up over tea, solving mysteries

## Spoken Languages:

Fluent in English & French; dabbled in 4 other languages during her various travels (Sango, Spanish, Cebuano, Hindi)

## Favorite Foods:

Pizza, doughnuts, grapefruit

## Favorite Vacation:

Visiting family, putting more stamps on her passport, tropical beaches

## Secret Ability:

Balancing items on her head while walking long distances



I was born in Cameroon, West Africa, where my parents were working in rural healthcare. My two younger sisters and I attended a small boarding school with other missionary children in Cameroon and lived with my parents in the Central African Republic during school breaks and summers. Every 2-3 years, we returned to the US to visit family in Colorado, the Midwest and the East Coast.

My childhood was full of spectacular Harmattan sunsets during the dry season, open air markets, hot days spent playing in the river, climbing trees and many school plays and piano recitals. We navigated the red dirt roads in our trusty land cruiser nicknamed "La Tomato".







I moved to the US (Colorado) to attend high school and enjoyed choir, tennis, diving and participating in events with my church's high school youth group. It was strange going through culture shock in my "home" culture, yet wonderful to reconnect with family.

I studied International Relations in college (Minnesota) and after graduation, I spent one year working in the Philippines. I learned about human rights, healthcare and protecting the environment. A seed planted then led me to Portland to study medicine, interning at a rural hospital in India in 2013, meeting Ryan and for the first time in my life - putting down roots.



## What Ryan Loves about Chantal

- 24/7 access to the best doctor
- She makes the best apple crisp
- She knows just how to make me laugh
- She shares my love of adventure and travel
- She is the most caring and kind person I have ever met
- She is quick on her feet and always has a witty response
- Her every-day smile brightens up every room and you need sunglasses for her vacation smile



# Meet Ryan

## Occupation:

Engineer

## Interests:

Woodworking, kayaking, cycling, hiking, camping, sculpture, exploring

## Favorite Music:

Mountain Stage Radio Show

## Favorite Foods:

Jambalaya, pad see ew, fresh pitas, lasagna, pie, chocolate

## Favorite Vacation:

A road trip to anywhere.

## Secret Ability:

Flipping pancakes without a spatula



I grew up in the Portland area with my parents, brother and sister. Throughout our childhood, we all stayed quite busy with competitive swimming but always found the time for friends, family and some sort of project. During breaks from school and swimming, we went on road trips to visit family in Eastern Oregon and Southern California. Despite all the long drives, seeing our grandparents was always worth it.

These days, my family is still in the area and we get together often for projects, dinner and hiking with my siblings' dogs.







I have always enjoyed science and art. Designing things in school led me to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in art. During the week, I can be found working at a manufacturing plant where I get to play with robots and all other sorts of manufacturing equipment while helping support colleagues around the world.

In the evenings, I like to leave the technology behind and spend time designing and building in my workshop. Over the years, I have made many things: from a guitar to much of our house and the furniture in it and even a sailboat. I especially enjoy getting together with my brother and dad to use their big chainsaw to turn trees into usable lumber. Rather than a "honey do" list, Chantal adds items to a "honey make" list that keeps me especially busy around the holidays.



I am passionate about exploring the world around me. I especially enjoy spending time in nature, whether it be hiking along a new trail, camping under the stars, or even just reading in our garden - there is nothing like fresh air. I also really enjoy exploring new places by touring the local museums and getting lost while strolling down unknown streets.



## What Chantal loves about Ryan

- Dimples!
- His quick wit & "punny" humor
- He is a very appreciative pie consumer
- His prowess with a piece of wood and an idea
- He is incredibly kind, caring and generous
- The way he twirls me around the living room and kitchen
- When he sets his mind to something, it always gets done!
- He is creative in so many ways (including what's for dinner)



# Our Home and Neighborhood

We live in a quiet neighborhood on the west side of Portland that is surrounded by trees and hills. Our home was gutted and remodeled by Ryan, and we love spending winter evenings by the warmth of our fireplace after cooking up a delicious meal. We enjoy hosting friends and family, and our guest bedroom is always ready for visitors.

During the spring, summer and fall, you can often find us enjoying our outdoor space - reading on the patio, tending our garden boxes, eating tomatoes and peas right off the vine, pruning fruit trees, making colorful bouquets to bring inside, playing games with friends on the lawn. Scattered around everything are plants that Chantal uses for herbal remedies. (There is also an old tennis ball that our nephew puppy, Porter, stores in various places for his next visit.)



We are lucky to live right in the middle of an extensive system of trails and parks. Within minutes, we can be walking through trees and strolling past playgrounds where children play and sled down hills. The zoo and several fun museums are only a short drive away.





## Our Traditions

One of our favorite traditions is escaping the damp Oregon winters for sunny Southern California. For over 20 years, Ryan's family has been going to Southern California to visit his grandparents, and we continue that tradition today. We love time with family, hiking in the desert, absorbing all the sunshine we can find.

In between our annual vacations, we make a point of driving to the beach for the afternoon or even an overnight. We especially prioritize escaping to the beach on Chantal's birthday to help her bring in another great year with sand, salty breezes and the refreshing sound of the ocean. Ryan's birthday traditions include homemade Pad Thai and camping or backpacking.

We also have a standing tradition of getting together for Sunday dinner with Ryan's family. This is a fun way to end the week and catch up with our family.



Christmas is one of our favorite holidays, and we enjoy spending this time with family whether it be hanging out by our cozy fire listening to Christmas music or traveling to see Chantal's family and making a batch of lefse (a Norwegian specialty, similar to a big tortilla).

With Chantal's family spread across the country, weddings are always a great excuse to get the family together while celebrating a milestone in our family members' lives. Sometimes this can make for quite a bit of travel, but it is always worth it.





# Dreams for the Child we Adopt

We will foster a sense of adventure and curiosity in the child we adopt so that they may explore the world and learn from first-hand experiences. We each try to lead an active lifestyle and can't wait to help the child we adopt discover the joys of movement and exploration.

While we are excited to share our knowledge and interests with the child we adopt, we are also curious to see what interests they introduce us to. It will be so fun to help them discover their passions!



And, oh, the fun places we will go! We enjoy traveling and look forward to introducing the child we adopt to places we have visited, whether it be in colorful bedtime stories or retracing our footsteps from long ago. We will encourage them to try new foods, languages, clothing styles, music, etc. as they grow and learn about who they are. We hope they will appreciate our beautifully diverse world.

We eagerly anticipate all the laughs, stories and experiences we will share along the way.



# Our Open Adoption Aspirations

The child we adopt will know they are deeply loved, desired and supported. We want them to understand where they come from biologically and to have a deep sense of belonging in both their birth and adoptive families. One of the things we appreciate most about open adoption is the intentionality that goes into it. Together, we form a unique and evolving family.

We welcome birth parents and their families to play an important role in the child's life with us. Similarly, we anticipate forming special relationships with other families who were created through adoption. We look forward to shared celebrations, passing along time-honored family traditions and creating new ones. There will be lots of silliness and laughter, as well as comfort when it's hard.

We hope to weave a network of close connections and a foundation for our family built on mutual respect and love.

Warmly, Ryan and Chantal

