

Mike and Rita



Hello.

If you only read the first line of this letter, it should tell you the most important thing you need to know. **Your child will be loved.** If your child becomes a part of our family he or she will be loved unconditionally forever. Your child is already so loved because you are considering such a selfless act for your child's future. No matter what you decide, we respect you - your love, courage, and strength. We have you on our hearts as you go through this process. We have been praying specifically for you and your child every night for a long time now.

We are Mike and Rita. We came to the journey of adoption because before we were married we have had this on our hearts. We see such beauty in the extreme acts of love and can not wait to welcome a child into our family through adoption.





*For this child we have prayed
1 Samuel 1:27*



Our Love Story



If you can believe it, we actually met on a blind date! We both had very low expectations going in to it but realized after talking for two hours before ordering food that this was something great. (Fun fact - we go back to the restaurant where we met every year to celebrate and talk about what has happened since that day.) We have been married for 7 years now and still feel like we are honeymooners. We laugh a lot and enjoy dating each other.

We enjoy simple nights of hanging out and watching reruns of our favorite shows together. Every night no matter how the day has gone, we hold hands and pray together. We are truly best friends. We love doing things together as a family and can't wait to see what the future has in store.



Meet Mike

FROM RITA

The single greatest accomplishment of my life was marrying Mike. He is the most loving caring and self sacrificing man that this world has to offer. He always puts me and our kids ahead of himself. Seeing him become a father and love so generously made me fall in love with him all over again. His patience (especially with kids) is amazing. He never tires of letting the kids climb all over him or answering the same questions or reading their favorite books again and again. He loves spending time with our kids and tells them how much he loves them multiple times every day.

Mike has a strong faith. Most nights he can be found sitting on the ground next to the bed saying prayers with our kids. He is the patient strong rock of our family.

If you are looking for a strong father figure and great example of a loving husband and hard working man (I may be biased) but I do not think there is one better in the world than Mike.



Mike's Favorites



Mike loves anything with sports and especially football. He has played and coached different sports before and would like to coach all of our kids' teams. He is currently the flag football coach for Benny's team.

Mike loves his job as the principal of an elementary school. He knows every kid by name and stands to hold the door for the kids every morning no matter what the weather is like so that they are all greeted with a smile.



Mike is extremely handy and the fixer of all things in our lives. He loves taking on projects in our home. He has taken Rita's ideas to make so many improvements in our home.

Meet Rita

FROM MIKE

I am fully convinced that Rita is Superwoman. Rita is a wife, mother, teacher, school board vice president, and an entrepreneur. While wearing so many hats, she always prioritizes her family. I am constantly amazed at how she can do so many different things while being present for her family. The only logical explanation I can come up with is that she is a superhero, because no person can do what she does.

Our kids absolutely love their Mom. Rita provides them with so much love and support. Rita is so invested in our kids lives. Rita is known to do home science experiments, read stories until every book on the shelf is read, and on occasion pull the kids from school for a day of adventures and fun with the kids. She loves a loud music dance party in the kitchen and fills our home with laughter. In addition to loving our kids unconditionally, she models for them how to live a life a virtue and faith.

Rita is the type of mother every child needs. Someone who is loving, strong, caring, compassionate, fun, energetic, and faith filled.



Rita's Favorites



Rita loves planning family trips! She enjoys thinking of fun destinations for our family and then making all of the plans.

Every year Rita makes us a family halloween costume. She loves coming up with a creative idea and putting it all together for our family. Last year we were smores!

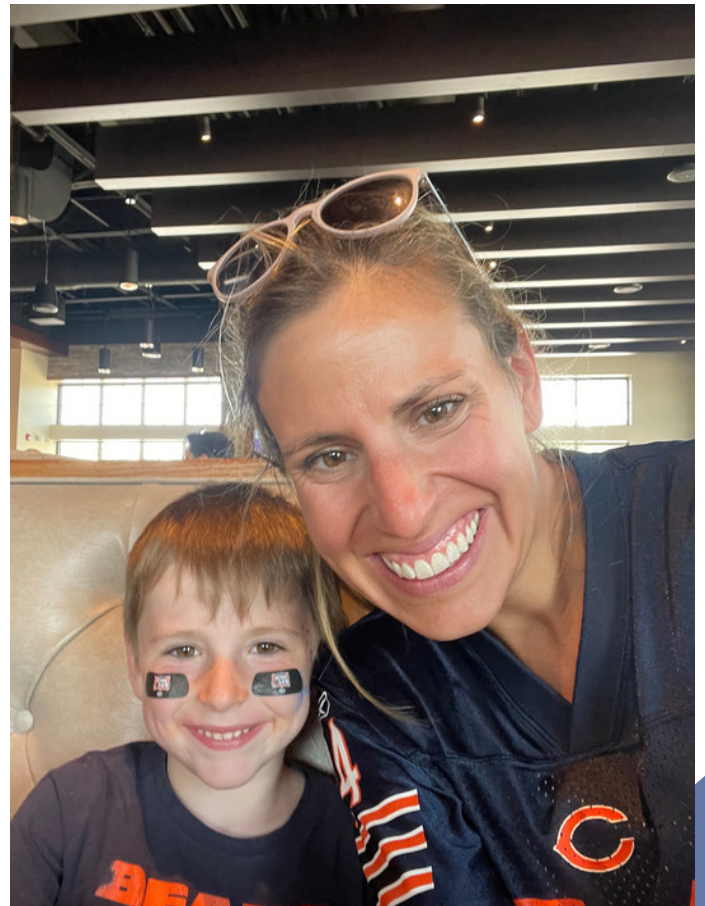


Rita is known for taking the kids all around our town in her bucket bike. She has biked with our kids and their two friends all in that blue bucket.





Out on our family size paddle board which is one of our favorite activities in the summer.





BROTHER AND SISTER

Ellie is four years old. She is constantly on the go and never slowing down. She loves playing in the water at the beach in our town and running and playing outside. She is a wild child in the best way. She is loving being at Spanish immersion preschool and sings to us in Spanish all the time. She is very excited to be a big sister.

Our Family



We are a close family. We do not always have it all together but we do love, laugh, and pray every day. We have some goofy things like giving everyone a nickname (even when they sound so far from their real name). We enjoy visiting family often and spontaneous family outings that result in ice cream. We take a few trips every year, sometimes to visit extended family that do not live in the area and sometimes to a random place that we think our kids would enjoy like the tractor museum. We say 'I love you' many times every day and mean it. We surround our kids with wonderful friends and work hard to give them a good education, a happy home, strong faith, and a loving family.



Extended Family

MIKE'S SIDE



We love spending time with Mike's family. His parents are such a good example of a happy loving marriage for us. They love finding activities for the kids and having us all over for one of Grandma's yummy meals.

Mike's parents are a short 25 min drive away and love to spend time with the kids. They are praying every night for a new baby to come to the family.

Mike's brother is about an hour away and he and his wife have two kids and hope to have more in the future. The cousins are 2 and almost 1.

We recently went on our first full family vacation to South Carolina. We had such a nice time spending so much time together and hope to make it a tradition. The pics above are from our trip. The first one is from the water balloon fight we did at the end of our family pics for fun.





Extended Family

RITA'S SIDE



Rita's parents and her brother and sister in law live in our same town (the brother whose wedding the top picture is)! It is so fun to have a last minute bonfire on a nice night and have family walk over to spend time together. It makes such a difference in our kids lives to have involved grandparents walking distance away.

Rita's sisters family would also like to move back to this town from Maryland. We see them and make an effort to see each other several times a year. Rita's brother lives in Chicago but is a short train ride away. He comes over often and loves playing with the kids.

Rita's family is welcoming to everyone, loud and fun, they laugh a lot and are very loving.







Our Home...

We have always loved this exact neighborhood and have looked for a home here for a long time while renting. We were beyond happy to find our dream house. It needed a little updating but we were not afraid of the projects. It was built in the 1800s and is filled with charm. We have plenty of space for our growing family, a fireplace to hang stockings and a big table in the dining room for family dinners. It feels perfect. Our block/neighborhood is so kind, welcoming and diverse. We love it here and think that it is the perfect place to raise our family.



In a moment of spontaneous fun we let the kids help paint the walls in a bedroom. It turned out great! Last weekend we added a rocket ship to one wall.

The day we bought our home. We are so happy!

We have a little backyard that is fenced in. The kids love playing back there and making smores whenever we have a bonfire. We plan on making a vegetable garden there this year.

...Sweet Home



We LOVE having a big sectional that we can all have a lazy family movie night on.



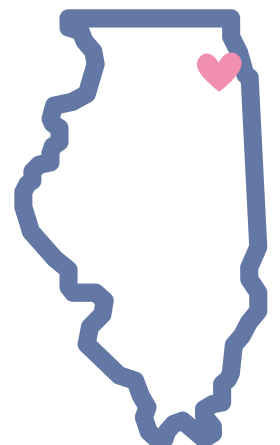
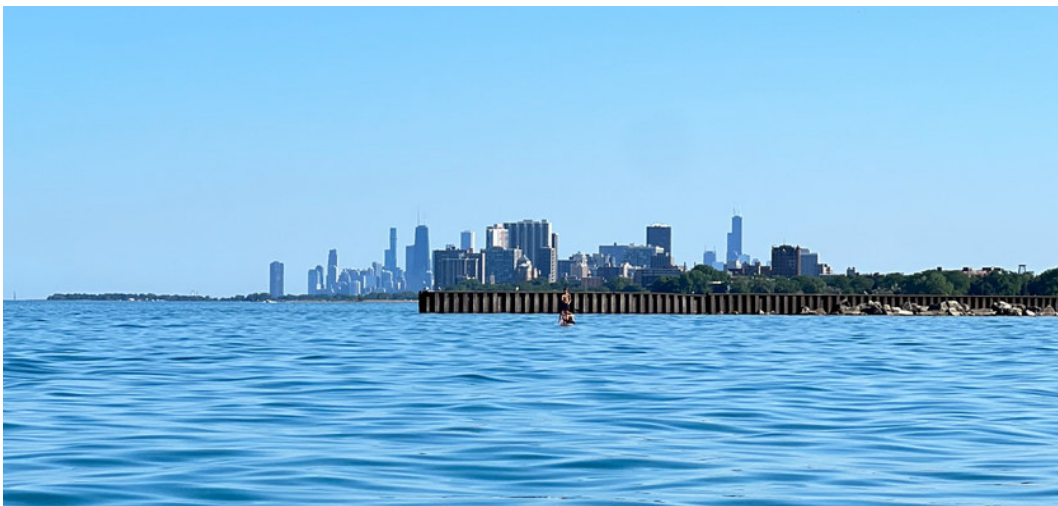
We made one of the bedrooms into a little playroom with a play kitchen and space for art.



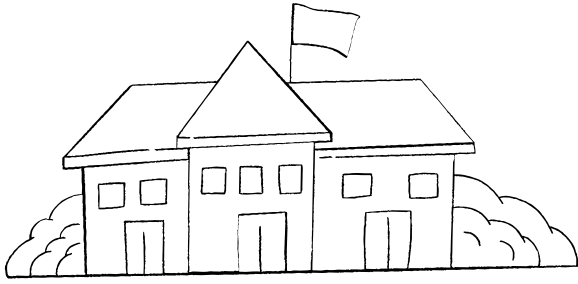
Mike is the backyard grill master!

Our Community

We are so happy to be able to live in such a great community to raise a family. Our community is diverse and supportive. We can walk most places like the beach, parks, restaurants and our church. When we are at the beach we collect sea glass as a family. We have really enjoyed taking advantage of the many activities for families that this community has to offer. We have two parks about a block away from our house and our town actually has 57 parks with a playground. Rita and the kids decided to make "park passports" for kids in our community encouraging them to visit all of the parks. (pic of the yellow books below). The bottom picture is the view from our paddle board



Our Schools



We feel very fortunate that there is a Spanish immersion preschool program that Ellie attends and Rita is on the board for. In Kindergarten we started a Spanish/English two-way-immersion magnet school that Ben currently attends. It goes from Kindergarten to 8th grade. The kids love having the gift of being bilingual and learning about many different cultures. Below is a picture from when they were in preschool together at one of the multicultural festivals.



Mom and Dad are trying to learn Spanish to keep up with our kids!



Openness

Just wanted to leave a short note on how we feel about openness in adoption. We would love to have an open adoption and allow our child to have a connection with his or her birth parents. We would love to work with you to create a plan that honors and respects your desires for openness in this relationship. We understand that your desires may change, but know that our hearts are always open to you. We also understand that you may desire a closed adoption, and either way your child will know that you made a decision out of love.

One last **THANK YOU**

It is so hard to summarize our family and our lives in this little book but we hope this gave you a small glimpse. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for considering our family. We hope that we will have the opportunity to meet you and get to know you better sometime soon. No matter what you decide, we believe that you are a hero. If our family is chosen to be the family for your baby your child will always know that you love him or her so courageously. We will never take for granted the privilege and honor of welcoming a child into our family through adoption.



