



Chandra,
Mike, & Ivan

Dear

EXPECTANT PARENT

We are Chandra and Mike. We have been married since 2015 and over the years we have built a strong relationship based on trust and admiration. We have created a home we are proud of and a lifestyle full of peace and adventure.

After learning that we would not be able to have biological children, we decided to go down the path to adopt. In 2025, our son Ivan joined us through adoption—he's our greatest joy, with an infectious smile and endless curiosity. We are so proud of our Ivan: his story, his culture, and his birth family.

The process has humbled us, tested us, strengthened our relationship, and ultimately made us better, more compassionate humans.

We don't know your exact situation, but we do understand that the decision to make an adoption plan requires a lot of care and thought and that the feelings can be overwhelming.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our family.



About Us.



We met in the summer of 2013 and were married in the summer of 2015. We have really grown together and supported each other every step along the way. Mike manages the family farming operation and Chandra teaches agriculture classes at a local two-year college. We share a passion for agriculture and the outdoors.

We love spending time together outside, whether that's a summer evening by the fire watching the sun go down, cross country skiing through the fields with our dogs or exploring a national park when we're on vacation. We both have great childhood memories of time spent outside, and plan to share those experiences with our own children. We absolutely love our life and have a ton of love and energy to share with another child. We are excited for the next chapter in life.

OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO DO TOGETHER

- Concerts
- Hiking
- Camping
- Bonfires in the backyard
- Getting Ivan to grin his big cheesy grin



HI, I'M

Chandra

I've spent my career working in agriculture and absolutely love it. It is an industry that is constantly evolving and allows me to be outside and work with my hands, which I value. I currently teach precision agriculture and agronomy classes at a technical college. I love my job. Working with students is incredibly challenging and rewarding. I grew up with a very driven mom. Watching her advance in her career and seeing the impact she had was inspiring. I want to be that example and inspiration to our kids.

I'm also active on the farm with Mike. I particularly enjoy putting Ivan in the carrier and walking fields, checking for any issues and enjoying the fresh air with our little guy.

I value personal time and hobbies. In the summer I love spending time outside: tending to the garden, hanging out with the dogs, sitting by the bonfire, etc. In the winter I enjoy cross-country skiing along the creek by our house. I loved art when I was younger; I even went to art school my first year of college. Although that wasn't my ultimate career path I love doing arts and crafts with Ivan and am excited to help him explore his creativity.

“Wonderful person, full of energy and focus.”

WRITTEN BY MIKE

The best thing about Chandra is her genuineness.

She’s got a ton of other great qualities: she’s smart—Give her a textbook and she’ll teach the class tomorrow. She’s capable—If she wants something built, she’ll just build it. She’s funny—usually at her best when she’s not trying. She’s curious—always wants to go see a new place, try a new food, learn a new skill, but none of that is what really matters.

It’s Chandra’s genuineness that makes her the awesome person that she is. The surface level of that is that she has an absolutely terrible poker face. You know all the time where you stand with her, good or bad, and that’s refreshing and comforting. When you take it a step deeper though, you get to the reason that I love her, the reason her students nominate her for teaching awards and the reason she is an awesome mom: she really, genuinely and deeply cares about people.

That care goes to the next level when Ivan is involved. Watching her absolutely light up whenever she’s playing with him just melts my heart. She brings a joyful, loving energy to their interactions that you can see reflected back, not just in his eyes and his smile, but in his sweet and sunny personality.





HI, I'M

Mike

Some kids grow up on a farm and know from the time they can walk across the yard that they are going to be a farmer some day. I was not one of those kids. I loved growing up in the country, having dogs and cats and horses and plenty of room to roam, but the farming was just something Dad did, and while I would ride around with him and even help out on occasion, I was always much more concerned with playing baseball, building forts in the woods, or the book I was reading than I was with the actual farming going on.

It wasn't until I was in college and really working on the farm in a serious way for the first time that I started to understand what was going on and really enjoy it. I did finish my degree in Journalism, but I had caught the bug and have been farming ever since. I love it because no two days are quite the same. You might be meeting with your accountant in the morning and changing a flat tire by noon. The variety keeps it interesting.

When I'm not working, I love to get out and see a concert. I also still enjoy reading—a good book can have me a million miles away in a few minutes, but my favorite times are spent with Chandra and Ivan—whether we're playing on the living room floor, taking a walk as a family (Ivan LOVES to stare at trees), or making a glorious mess out of eating lunch, the times when the whole family is together are just special.

“He is the most easy going person I have ever met”

WRITTEN BY CHANDRA

Mike is an incredible person. He is patient, kind, and intelligent. I met Mike when I was wrapping up graduate school, so he has been by my side for a lot of my education and career milestones. He’s always encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone and reach my next goal. I truly have a life partner which is more than I could ever ask for.

Mike is very intelligent, but not obnoxious about it. He’s a great trivia partner and my personal ‘google’ search. It’s not just book smarts.. He is a great mechanic and can logic his way through any mechanical breakdown.

Most importantly he is the best dad. Before welcoming Ivan into our home, he thoroughly read all the baby books and was quick to correct the garbage baby advice I found on the internet. Not only the practical dad, he has been ensuring that Ivan has an appreciation for classic rock by playing everything from Bob Dylan to Led Zeppelin. Ivan’s first word was ‘dada’ and although I am jealous, I totally get it. He has the biggest expressions, reads books in the silliest voices and will do any stunt to get a laugh out of Ivan or me. We are lucky and we know it.



MEET Ivan



Ivan is the absolute joy of our life, and we are so proud of who he is and can't wait to see who he will become. Ivan was born on February 12, 2025, and we welcomed him into our home on March 11, 2025. Time flies and it's hard to remember a time without him filling our home with so much love and energy.

Our days are spent chasing Ivan around the house, reading books, playing outside, and laughing at his crazy antics. He loves to be outside (even in the winter) so we spend as much time out in the yard and going on walks as we can.

One of the surprising things we've learned since becoming parents is how amazing it is to see your child loved by so many people. Our family and his birth family shed so much love and light on Ivan, but it goes way beyond that. Our friends are Ivan's biggest cheerleaders, his daycare teachers shower him with love and support, his little friends teach him how to have fun, and so many strangers fawn over him. Our hearts have grown so much watching others love our son.

I was told by an elder in the community that we are 'entrusted with a little angel' and that perfectly sums up the way we feel about Ivan and the adoption process.





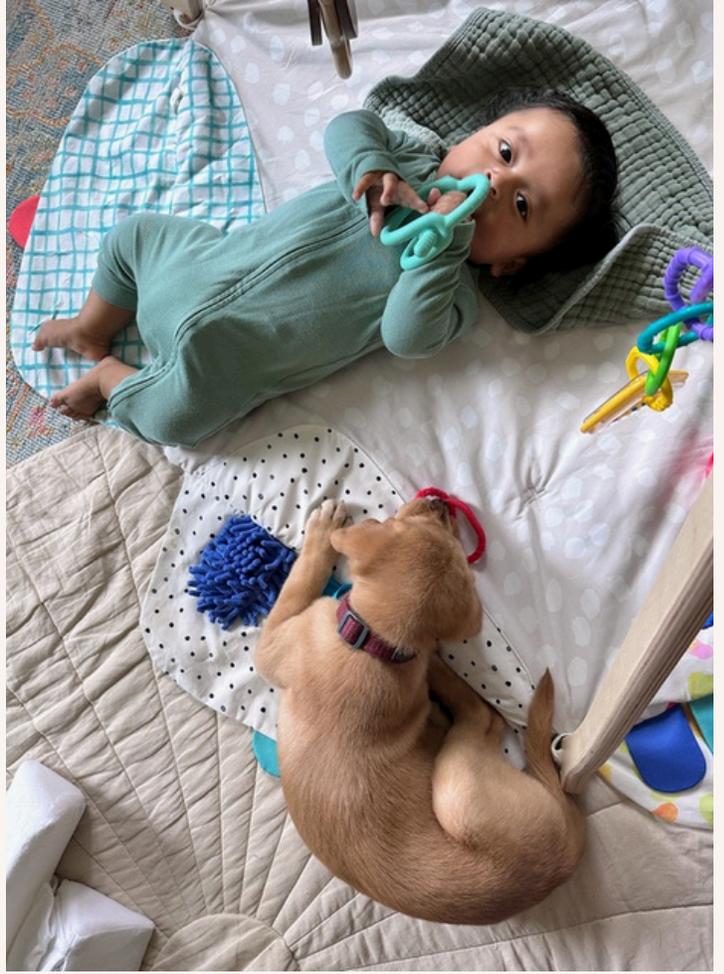
MEET OUR PETS

Daisy, Lark, & Squirrel

Our pets are such an important part of our lives and bring a lot of joy and entertainment. Daisy is the first dog we got as a couple, so she is our first 'baby'. She is 140 pounds of fluff and snuggles. She is an absolute sweetheart but fulfills her role of guard dog very well and spends most of the night outside barking and howling at any critters that roam near our yard.

Our cat's name is Squirrel, admittedly an odd name but she is kind of squirrely. Squirrel can be found hunting for mice, birds, and pocket gophers; she also hangs out with the dogs and goes on walks with us.

Our youngest is Lark. Lark's energy is boundless and he absolutely loves people. He loves walking, stealing Ivan's toys, and bothering Daisy. We are excited to watch Ivan and Lark grow up together, I suspect they will be the absolute best of friends.





ABOUT OUR HOME

Our home was built in 1905, and we are the 5th generation of Mike's family to live in this home. We spent the first 3 years of marriage tearing the house down to the studs and completely remodeling it. It was a labor of love and we are both so proud to bring the next generation into this home.

Our home is incredibly peaceful: big yard, creek running near the house, acres to roam, and a mile away from the nearest neighbor. We (mostly Chandra) put in a huge garden every spring and spend time tending to that and processing food to store throughout the winter. We both love music and our home is filled with guitars, a piano, and a saxophone. Our upstairs has become a bit of a library filled with everything from Harry Potter to Star Wars to textbooks. Mike is an avid reader and a bit of a book hoarder.

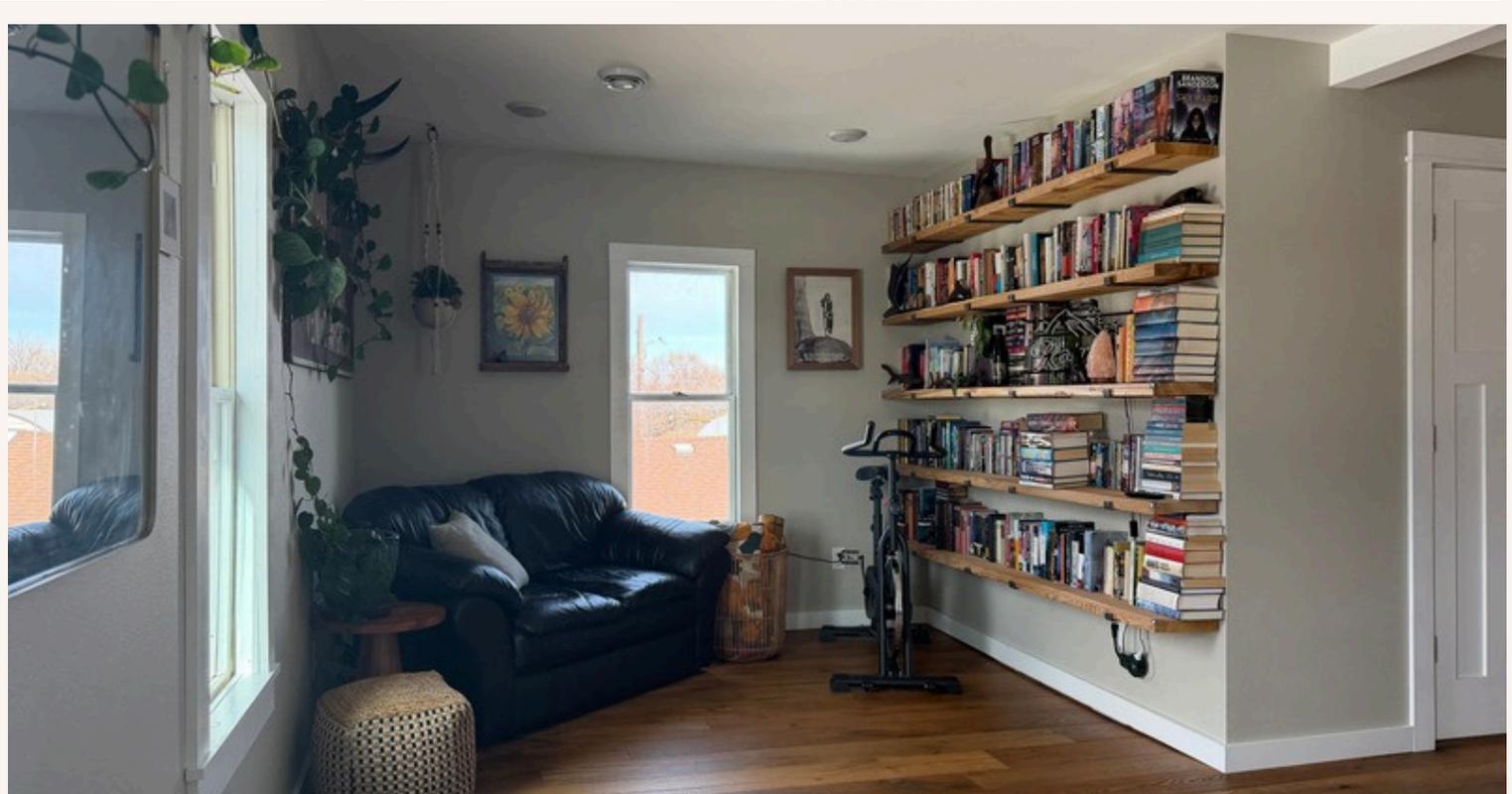
We live in a great community and great school district with a ton of opportunities for a child. We are also close to a large city, so we have access to extracurricular activities and other services not available in our local district.



FUTURE NURSERY



IVAN'S ROOM





ABOUT OUR *family & friends*

We are fortunate to have an incredibly supportive and fun family. Both of our parents live close and are the coolest grandparents and a huge support for Mike and me. We have a large extended family scattered across the US. Our families make it a priority to get together often and will use any excuse to get together and celebrate.

As kids we both had memorable family traditions. Chandra's favorite memories revolve around the magic of holidays: uncles/dad on the roof at grandma's house 'ho ho'ing and ringing bells as 'Santa' arrived and elite Easter egg hunts. Mike's favorite memories revolve around all of his aunts and uncles and cousins visiting because our house was "home" for everyone. We both had incredible childhoods that we look forward to building on.



our adventures



We have always prioritized adventure in our lives. Every year we pick a concert we want to see in a new area. This strategy has taken us to Chicago, Minneapolis, Washington, Colorado and more. We enjoy exploring new cities but really love exploring nature. We've hiked Mt. Elbert (the highest peak in Colorado) and hiked through snow to the base camp of Mt. Rainier. We both enjoy camping and have spent a lot of time in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the Black Hills, and the Boundary Waters.

We both enjoy the peace of nature and are excited to share that with our kiddos. Ivan loves a good walk, and we look forward to some close-to-home hikes this summer and a backyard camping adventure. As Ivan and any future kids get older, we look forward to taking them along on our favorite adventures.

Although we love our home and community, there is a big world out there and we know it is our job as parents to show our kids as much of that world as we can and that is what we intend to do.

OUR FAVORITE PLACE EVER : BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA
WEIRDEST FOOD WE'VE HAD : DURIAN
GREATEST EXPERIENCE : HIKING TO MOUNT RAINIER BASE CAMP



ABOUT OUR FARM

The farm keeps coming up throughout this profile, so we should probably talk a little bit about it.

We raise corn and soybeans and occasionally we branch out into sunflowers or alfalfa. Mike is the 5th generation to operate the family farm.

The farm is a passion for our family and something we take a lot of pride in.

Although we would love to pass our farm onto the next generation, we will encourage our kids to seek their own paths in life and pursue their own passions.





Our Promise

The process of adoption has been one of the most eye-opening experiences we've had in our life. It is a complex, scary, trying, patient, hopeful, beautiful process. We cannot imagine growing our family in any other way. We are grateful for the training provided by the agency and the emphasis they put on supporting the child, birth parents, and adoptive parents at all stages of the child's life.

We are committed to raising our children to celebrate their story, embrace the hard questions, and support their curiosity.

We are committed to honoring the birth families wishes.

We are committed to a relationship between child, birth parents, and adoptive parents.

We truly believe that the family and community are the foundation to a happy, healthy and whole child, and we will work to keep those relationships strong.



We can't begin to thank you enough,

BUT WE CAN **APPRECIATE** YOU TAKING THE TIME TO
READ OUR PROFILE!

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our family. We've read stories from birth parents that reviewed prospective adoptive parents' profiles and 'just knew' they were the right fit. As you read through our profile, we selfishly hope you feel that way about us; but you will know when you find the right fit and path for you and your child.