

JOSEPH AND *Courtney*





hi mama!

**WE'RE COURTNEY AND JOE,
AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE TAKEN THE
TIME TO READ OUR BOOK AND ALLOWED US THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR HEARTS WITH YOU.**

We hope that within these pages, you connect with us, our home, and our family. We understand this is an emotional time and recognize you're facing a difficult decision. The bravery you have shown to consider an adoption plan for your child is something we truly admire and respect. Thank you for your consideration of us for your child's future. We hope, if you see fit, that our story may coincide with yours, and together we can create a family.



HEY, I'M JOE!

I am from Huntington Woods, Michigan, and I grew up with my parents and a younger sister. As it was not in the cards for me to play sports competitively when I was little, I was able to focus on my other interests, which included technology and music. I was always tinkering with something electronic, built my first computer when I was ten, and that is when I wasn't playing my Fender guitar, which I started when I was thirteen. Don't get me wrong though, I was always, and still am, a die-hard Michigan Wolverines and Detroit Tigers fan. I went to college after high school, however, my heart was not in it at first, and I decided I wanted to discover the world, whether it was traveling outside the country, or following the Dave Matthews Band around the country for a summer. I did receive my bachelor's in communication from Oakland University in 2017, and I currently work from home as an Agent Support Specialist for a real estate tech company.

fun facts

As a child, when I grew up I wanted to be a sportscaster for ESPN

My biggest fear is heights and I hate staying above the third floor in a hotel

I started playing guitar because I wanted to join Pearl Jam

My dream vacation would be a trip to Italy

My dad and I share a love of vintage comic books, mostly Marvel comics



"If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile-driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time - a tremendous whack"

Winston Churchill



HI, I'M COURTNEY!

I'm an introvert who enjoys reading, cooking, baking, and shopping. Those that love me tell me I'm quick-witted, caring, and thoughtful. I was born and raised in Michigan, in the same small town that Joe and I currently live in. My childhood consisted mostly of my parents, and my older brother, Kyle. Both my parents came from large families so most of my childhood involved big family gatherings with lots of cousins and laughter. As I grew up, I found an interest in education, specifically for very young children. What started as babysitting evolved to nannying and then teaching infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. I received my bachelor's degree in Psychology and master's degree in Early Childhood Education. I worked as a teacher and administrator for the local school district and for other childcare centers. I currently work from home supporting grant-funded early education programs nationwide. It's a very fulfilling job that I truly enjoy. I also love traveling, especially to the beaches. I love swimming and listening to the waves crash on the shore. While I love new destinations, I'm thankful to live in Michigan which has beautiful places to visit. During the summer, we often travel "up north" to the northern part of the state to our family lake house, or other rentals to enjoy vacations with family and friends. Those days typically consist of swimming, boat rides, BBQs, fireworks, and making memories and smores at the bonfire.

fun facts

As a child, I wanted to be a singer when I grew up

My biggest fear is public speaking - in 6th grade, I once faked sick for a whole week to avoid giving a speech to my history class

My dream vacation would be to visit Ireland

My favorite meal is my mom's homemade chicken pot pie

While I love the summer, my favorite season is the fall because I love going to local cider mills and picking my own apples fresh from the trees, then making homemade applesauce



"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

Dr. Seuss

**"This love will never fade away
because you are the best thing
that ever happened to me"**

BY RAY LAMONTAGNE



A B O U T U S
Together

**"What I love most about Joe is his heart,
and how he cares for those he loves.**

He showed this early on in our relationship when I had to cancel our first date last minute because I had a migraine. I thought he would be angry, but he was so understanding, even checking up on me the next morning and ensuring we rescheduled.

I never thought I would find someone who I love as much as I love Joe. He really made all the clichés true for me. He loves me for who I am, he's patient, my best friend, and truly makes the world a brighter place. He's forever my biggest cheerleader and encourages me to take chances and be brave. Of our relationship, I'm most proud of our communication and how we can both speak, listen, and solve problems together. It reaffirms daily that I made the right decision in choosing my partner. " - COURTNEY

**"I knew I loved Courtney from
the very second I saw her.**

She is by far the sweetest, most caring person that I have ever encountered. Whether it is her friends, family, the children she's impacted throughout her career in early childhood education, or complete strangers, Courtney treats everyone with respect and kindness. I am so excited to watch her bring all these qualities to motherhood.

I think the secret to our lasting relationship is that we love each other, not just because we are married, but because we truly and deeply care for each other and want to see each other reach our dreams. As I told Courtney on our wedding day, I've truly reached peak happiness with her. " - JOE



We always knew we wanted to have children!

After years of being unable to conceive naturally, we discussed our options with specialists. We reached a point where we had to search our hearts and decide the best path to start our family and bring children into our lives. We made the thoughtful decision to choose adoption because we felt and continue to feel strongly that we can offer a good home, a loving family, and a positive relationship for both a child and their first family. We promise to respect you as your child's first mom and will do our best to continue to support your relationship with your child, and us, however you see fit. Our hope is to create a family by showing a child that their life is full of many people who love and support them, including you, who loved them first. We hope to see you play a continued role in your child's life but will respect the level of familiarity that you are comfortable with.



WE'RE
ADOPTING!

WAITING
FOR
BABY
TO Love





HOME SWEET MICHIGAN



WE ARE FORTUNATE TO LIVE IN OUR DREAM HOME
in a wonderful town in Michigan!

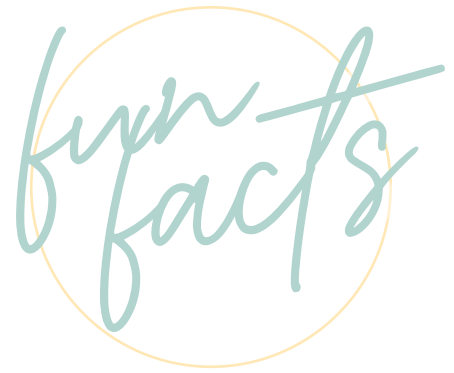
Our town is the same one that Courtney was born and raised in, and not far from where Joe grew up. We knew the moment we saw our home that it was perfect for us and our future family. We even wrote a heartfelt letter to the sellers to help ensure it became our home. We could see our child taking their first steps near the fireplace, playing catch in the backyard, family gatherings in the dining room, and trick-or-treating throughout the neighborhood. Our house is a traditional colonial, with four bedrooms upstairs, three bathrooms, and a large backyard with a small basketball court. Our neighborhood is quiet but friendly, with children of all ages.

Our community is bustling with a fantastic school district, lots of parks, and festivals that bring people together yearly. A few of our favorites include the Fire and Ice Festival in January with fireworks, ice skating, and a community bonfire, Dancing in the Streets where the streets of downtown are blocked off and a live band plays so we can literally dance in the street, and Light the Night, where our entire downtown is covered with holiday lights and the town is lit up for a couple of months over the holiday season.



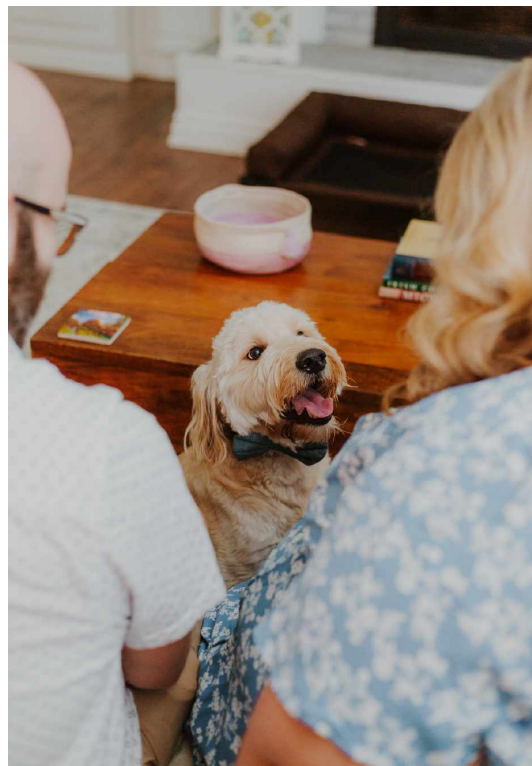
hello
T O B Y

Toby is our two-year-old Goldendoodle who we've had since he was a puppy. He is well-loved and spoiled. His favorite place to be is on the couch between the two of us getting belly rubs.



- He has an odd habit of licking feet right after he drinks water so his muzzle is cold and wet.
- He loves hopping up on two legs and giving hugs.
- He once ran through a screen door to get his favorite food, shredded cheddar cheese.
- He is part Golden Retriever but refuses to play fetch, we throw the ball and he just watches it!
- He loves cucumbers, blueberries, and peanut butter.
- He loves running in fresh snow and burying his nose in it no matter how cold it is.

“Dogs are not our whole life,
but they make our lives whole.”





WE ARE BLESSED WITH AMAZING FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

We are thankful that we each have our parents, Sheldon and Lenore (Joe), and Terry and Sally (Courtney). We see both sets of our parents frequently and are thankful for our close relationships with them. Joe's sister is Liz and she lives in Tacoma, Washington with her husband, Mike, and our two nieces, Brooke (5) and Hailey (2). We have frequent video chats with them to stay connected. Courtney's brother is Kyle. He passed away unexpectedly in 2019 and she misses him dearly. He is survived by Courtney's sister-in-law, Dee, and Kyle's children; Penelope (7) and Jackson (5). They live in a neighboring town, and we often spend holidays and celebrations together. They love hanging out with their Aunt Coco and Uncle Joe. We also have a large extended family. Courtney has dozens of aunts and uncles, thirty cousins and their children. Family gatherings are frequent and full of laughter, but a bit crowded when everyone is together. Joe's family is smaller, but still tightly knit.

OUR TRADITIONS

- 4th of July at the lake house in northern Michigan with Courtney's extended family.
- Rosh Hashanah, the celebration of the Jewish New Year that we celebrate by eating apples and honey to wish for a sweet new year.
- Annual apple picking, apple cider, and donuts.
- Summer trips to Traverse City in northern Michigan.
- Christmas gatherings with extended family, lots of food, cheer, and creating memories.
- Halloween visiting a local "haunted" trail walk with friends and their children for a spooky night out.
- Sunday night dinners with both sets of parents at our home.
- Thanksgiving dinner with Courtney's parents.
- Wild Lights at the zoo with Joe's parents.
- Making latkes and matzo ball soup for Hannukah.
- Birthday celebrations where the birthday person gets to choose their favorite meal.



Our friends are considered family as well. We have a large group of friends who we have known for decades. Most of our friends have young children so when we are able to begin our family, our child will already have friends and cousins to have a shared childhood with. A few of the most recent things we've done with our friends include lake/boat days, trips to the zoo, hosted parties for big sporting events, and celebrating the latest birthdays of our friends' children.





Thank you so much for reading our book and giving us an opportunity to show you our hearts. We hope this allowed you a window into our lives and that you felt a connection with us, our home, and our family. We know you have a big decision and hope that we have an opportunity to meet you. We'd love to hear about your hopes and dreams for your child's future.



WE PROMISE

We promise to care for your child as our own.

We promise to love your child unconditionally.

We promise to protect them.

We promise to give them a happy life, full of laughter and joy.

We promise to instill a sense of family and kindness in them.

We promise to share with him or her the story of you, that you were the first person to love them and that your love and generosity created our family.

WITH LOVE

Joe and Courtney 



**"Celebrate we will ; because life is short
but sweet for certain. We're climbing two
by two to be sure these days continue"**

Dave Matthews Band