

MOLLY



hey MAMA

I've been writing and re-writing to you for way too long now, struggling to find the perfect words to share myself with you.

It's crazy, everyone who knows me would say
I'm never at a loss for words!

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I'm both nervous and excited to share myself and my family with you. While it's hard to fit a whole life into a little book, I'll try my hardest to show you all of me, my family and my world.

If I could reach out now to hug you, I definitely would. I'm a hugger! More than words can ever express, thank you for considering me to be a part of your life through the unimaginable gift of adopting your child. In the most wonderful ways, I know how adoption can change lives.

I am excited, honored and filled with gratitude for the possibility.





about me MOLLY

I grew up in a close-knit family with my parents and brothers. There was a lot of love and laughter in our home. Ready for a new adventure, I left Ohio for college, then medical school, then more medical training. It was a long haul, but becoming a pediatrician was an easy choice for me because I have always loved kids. Along the way, I got to experience South America, India, Arizona, Nashville and Chicago. I've always loved exploring new places and meeting new people. Eventually, I found my way back to my family and friends in Columbus, Ohio. To this day, I talk with my parents most days and my brother, Mike, remains one of my best friends. We even live on the same street! Now I'm a neonatologist, so I get to care for sick babies with medical and developmental concerns. I think my job gives me a great sense of perspective. It's a daily reminder not to sweat the small stuff but also to work as a team and be thankful for each day. I'm lucky to work in a place that supports families and working parents, putting the needs of kids first.

My family and friends describe me as full of energy, fun-loving, patient and kind. I jump at any chance to get outside and be active, swimming, skiing, hiking, bike riding and trying new things/places. Weekends are mostly spent with family and friends just playing with our kids and having backyard cookouts, bonfires and movies nights in the neighborhood. I definitely go over the top celebrating holidays, though. I've been known to fill the house with green balloons and Leprechaun shenanigans for St. Patrick's Day and turn it into a haunted house for Halloween parties. That's the silly, fun stuff in life! Around our house, there's always music playing. Whether it's Motown, rock, pop, jazz, or country, "Alexa" gets a lot of airtime! Everything is better with a soundtrack.

MY BEST FRIEND HAS BEEN MY BEST FRIEND SINCE I WAS 12. I LOVE HER BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN THROUGH EVERYTHING TOGETHER, SHE'S LIKE A SISTER TO ME.

REMEMBERING SONG LYRICS IS ONE OF MY HIDDEN TALENTS. I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, I KNOW ALL THE WORDS!

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, I COULDN'T BEAR THE IDEA OF EATING ANIMALS. I'M STILL A VEGETARIAN TODAY.

IF I COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, IT WOULD BE THE ABILITY TO SPEAK ALL LANGUAGES SO I COULD COMMUNICATE AND CONNECT WITH ANYONE AROUND THE WORLD.

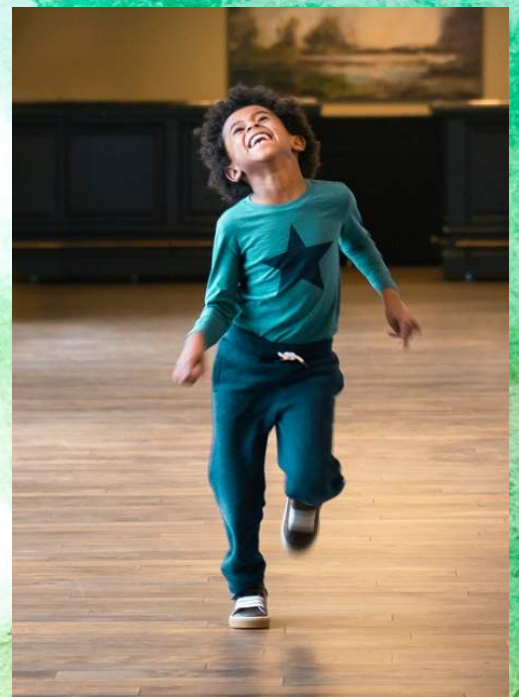
FUN
FACTS



**THIS IS
MAX**

HE LIGHTS UP ANY
ROOM WITH AN
INFECTIOUS SMILE
AND HIS
CONTAGIOUS CHARM

James Maxwell Berhane, born in Ethiopia in 2016, is immediately loved by everyone he meets. Max has boundless energy and excitement and he's both curious and inquisitive. He loves picnics in the front yard while chatting up every passing dog-walker and runner, camping in the back yard with plans to roast marshmallows and smores and everything sports. So much so that we made his bedroom into a Notre Dame football field! He also loves playing with his cousins and cuddling up together to read books before bed. With his Nana (grandma), he loves trips to the zoo. He likes the cheetahs best because they're the fastest land animal! He adores his Babo (grandpa) and watching Notre Dame football, Indiana basketball and Chicago White Sox games together. He's always quizzing me on the players, mascots and their records. He's bright, silly, loving and the most resilient little boy I have ever met. I've learned so much by watching the world through his eyes; he keeps me young at heart and teaches me to live each day to the fullest and to find the fun in everything.



MY HEART IS FULL OF
LOVE TO GIVE
WITH ROOM TO
GROW AND LEARN





W H Y I W A N T T O
adopt
A G A I N !

My dream was always to have a family. More than anything, I wanted to be a mom and build a home filled with a little chaos and a whole lot of love. Two of my cousins, as well as my early childhood best friend, were adopted. I saw adoption from a young age as a very special way to grow a family. I babysat and nannied growing up and even chose a career out of my love for children. All along, I couldn't wait to one day grow my own family. Well, sometimes life throws a few curveballs but everything happens for a reason. I've endured the pain of a disrupted adoption in Haiti, as well as years of failed fertility treatments and empty egg donor cycles but I never stopped fighting to be a mom. The most wonderful gift came when I was chosen to be the forever family for my son through adoption. I love experiencing the world through his eyes, seeing the pride on his face when he does something for the first time and being there to scoop him up when he needs a big hug..or the tickle monster! For me, there's no greater honor than being chosen to be a mommy through adoption. So, of course, I'm all in to be a mommy again! My son is beyond excited for a sibling, too. I am ready to welcome another little one into our family.





H O M E I S N ' T J U S T A P L A C E

it's a feeling

We live in Grandview Heights, a little neighborhood just outside of Columbus, Ohio. It's close enough to the city to be able to get to work in 5 minutes flat and take advantage of downtown, but it's still a small, diverse community where everyone knows each other and looks out for one another. Our community has great public schools, a cute little main street with shops and restaurants, playgrounds and bike paths. Every day, we see our neighbors out and about walking dogs, running or riding bikes with their kids. In our neighborhood, there's always something going on: activities for kids, summer block parties, pool parties, concerts on the library front lawn, a charity bike race, kids triathlon and wintertime festivals complete with an ice rink.

We just moved into a new house this past summer. While I've lived in Grandview since I moved back home from Chicago 7 years ago, we hit the jackpot last summer when a house on the very same street as my brother and sister-in-law came up for sale. It was a no-brainer, we were sold! Our house has 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, so plenty of room for playing and having family and friends over with plenty of room for growth. The best part is our giant yard. It's perfect for playing outside, setting up the bounce house or slip-and-slide and inviting our friends over for movie nights under the stars. The street itself is a beautiful tree-lined street and there's even a fountain in the grassy median in front of our house that the high schoolers "prank" by filling with soap to make it overflow with bubbles!

We have a 9-year-old Bernese Mountain dog named Brooks. He's a beloved member of our family who just can't get enough of riding along in the back of the car, helping me play defense in backyard soccer games, carting stuffed animals around the house and wiggling his way into family group hugs. While giant, he's also sweet, gentle and happily tolerates being dressed up as a superhero, construction worker, football player, you name it! He might just be the best family dog ever.



L I F E I S B E A U T I F U L .
I T ' S A B O U T G I V I N G .

it's about family

- W A L T D I S N E Y

I grew up with my mom, dad and two brothers. My parents taught us to be honest, kind, helpful to others and to always follow our dreams. There was lots of love and fun together as a family. Many of my favorite childhood memories were from family vacations skiing, white water rafting and snorkeling. Holidays were always spent with our grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. I was one lucky kid and always knew that I was loved and supported. We're a family that celebrates each other's successes, helps one another and loves each other unconditionally. We still celebrate holidays together and spend lots of other days and dinners with each other, too!

I've always had a special bond with my brother, Mike. As kids, we got into all kinds of mischief and always had each other's backs. We dreamed about how fun it would be to have our kids grow up together one day. Fast forward to today, I'm back to living just a couple of miles from my parents and down the street from Mike and his family. Even today, we go to each other for advice or to talk things through. Particularly as a single parent, I'm thankful my brother and father are eagerly and effortlessly wonderful male role models in our life. Add in a few dear male friends, coaches and teachers and we have a diverse but committed support system for our family.

F A M I L Y T R A D I T I O N S

Filling out march madness brackets for a friendly family competition. Oh, the bragging rights!

Annual Easter egg hunt at my parents' house.

Road-tripping to South Bend each fall for Notre Dame football game weekend.

Helping a local family in need with a tree, decorations and presents to celebrate Christmas during the holidays. Matching Christmas pajamas too, of course!

Vacation with our extended family - yep, even as grown-ups, we still love a good family vacation! My parents, brothers and their families, sometimes cousins and in-laws' families too. Last year, we went on a family ski trip. This year, we'll be rocking cowboy boots at the dude ranch!



A N O T E F R O M M O L L Y ' S B R O T H E R

"From the time she was a little girl, Molly loved babies and kids. From babysitting to her decision to become a pediatrician, her love of children was evident. Even today, her son, nieces and nephews all adore her. She is fun, creative and energetic but also patient and loving. It is also important to tell you a little bit about Molly's larger family, including her brother, Mike, and me. Our own warm and supportive upbringing is a large part of who we are today. We love each other and enjoy spending time together. In our family, we celebrate each other's successes and pitch in to help however we can. We're a team and always in it together! In our family, family is the most important thing. That is how we were raised by our parents. Without question, we are all excited for Molly to grow her family and we are excited to all gain a new member. Molly's children will always have cousins to grow up with, as well as aunts, uncles and grandparents to serve as role models and a support system. "

friends and family

LETTERS FROM

"Family is one of the most important pillars in Molly's life. She is very close with her parents, brother, sister-in-law, niece and nephews that live in town. Molly has a wonderful ability to talk and direct her son in a positive manner without saying "no!" A gift we do not see very often in parents these days, Molly is always willing to join Max in activities and games that keep him engaged and interested. "

"We have never seen or heard her raise her voice, get upset or talk negatively to anyone. Her approach has always been to understand first before determining the next steps. We are amazed by Molly's parenting skills."



"Molly is an incredible mother! She is very organized and has excellent foresight which allows her to plan for optimal quality time with her son and family. She is creative, energetic and silly."

"Molly has a very kind, caring and thoughtful disposition. She is a very positive individual and when life happens to bend in a different direction than planned, she rolls with it! She shows interest and enthusiasm in everything she does and with those around her. "



"Over the time that I've known her, Molly has demonstrated a great mix of compassion and responsibility. She is patient and passionate and able to recognize when each will be most appropriate. She has been very dedicated to her family, always finding ways to be present in their lives even when she's in a different state. Molly is a remarkably generous human being, she has more capacity to give of herself than most of us. "



"Molly is energetic, fun, caring, a great mom to Max, a great aunt to my kids, hard-working and a generally amazing person."

"Molly is one of the kindest, most patient and loving people I have ever met. Children are drawn to her immediately. She's fun, energetic and incredibly engaging. She gets down on the floor and interacts with them in a way that few adults do, she's not afraid to be silly! Molly is also kind, brilliant, funny and loyal. While she is very hardworking and dedicated to her job, she has always prioritized her family and friends over work. She has always been willing to drop everything to be with a friend or family member who needed her. Adopting children has been something Molly has talked and dreamed about since we were young. "



"When I think of Molly, I think of an outgoing, intelligent, goal-oriented woman who has a positive outlook on life. She is stable, nurturing, safe, welcoming and has a strong set of core values and a moral compass. I have seen her persevere through difficult situations with patience and strength and she has similarly supported me through bumps in the road. She genuinely enjoys being a mom. I'm in awe of her easy-going demeanor while providing the structure that every child needs. "

Molly is patient, a great communicator and gets along well with everyone. She is kind, thoughtful and personable. She has contagious energy which inspires those around her and immediately draws them in. Additionally, she is a great listener and always open to new ideas. She is compassionate and always willing to go the extra mile for her patients, friends and family.







THANK YOU FOR
TAKING THE TIME TO
READ MY STORY AND
LEARN ABOUT ME
AND MY FAMILY.

I hope what shines through our silly pictures is the love we have for one another and how we're in it together through the ups and downs of life. Beyond words, thank you for considering my family to be a part of your life through the unimaginable gift of adopting your child. I wish you good luck on your journey and I hope to be able to meet you one day soon!

WITH LOVE

Molly



“DREAM BIG
AND SET BIG
GOALS FOR
THE FUTURE,
JUST DON'T
FORGET TO
SHOW UP IN
THE MOMENT
TO LIVE FOR
TODAY”

MOLLY'S
GRANDFATHER

Luna
DESIGNS CO.

MADE WITH LOVE BY

evermore
ADOPTION CONSULTANTS