

# HELLO! WE'RE BEN & MICHELLE and Zeke!

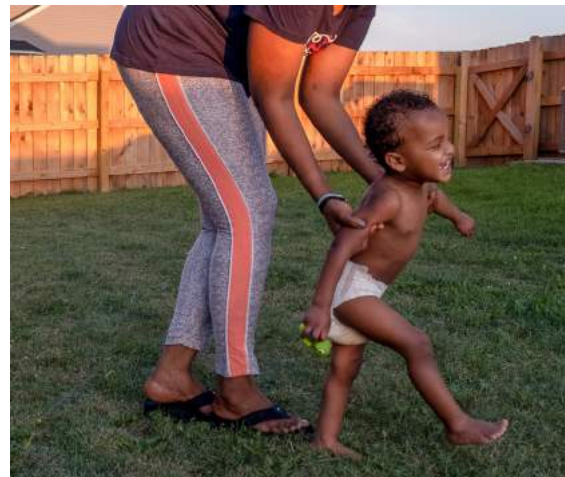


WE'RE HONORED THAT YOU ARE TAKING THE TIME  
*to read our letter and learn about our family.*

We have an open adoption with our son's birth mom, we love her and consider her family! Together we have built a relationship that works for all of us. We've done visits, an overnight visit at our house, and holidays together!

Ben and I would love to discuss whatever level of openness you are comfortable with.

Love,  
*Ben & Michelle*



### How our family came together - by Michelle

Ben and I met in 2007 and got to know each other while working together at the local Starbucks. We married in August 2009, and both of us had a desire to have biological children and to adopt. Pregnancy did not happen for us, and we pursued adoption in 2016. We adopted Zeke in January of 2018 and have an open adoption with his birth mom. We love his birth mom, she is a cherished and respected part of our family.



### How we spend our days - by Ben

Time together is the biggest priority to us. Michelle stays home with Zeke, and I am home by 6 every week day and I have weekends off. We have dinner together, play in the backyard, and go on walks in our neighborhood. The weekends are filled with spending time with family and friends and playing outside. We get together with my mom and step-dad or Michelle's family at least once a week. We go to a great nondemoninational church every Sunday where we volunteer, and we spend time with our small group once a week. They have a really fun kids ministry, too, and Zeke loves being in it! We love going to local community events like festivals, parades, apple picking, the Pumpkin Show, and county fairs. We celebrate every main holiday with both our families, and we take a family vacation once a year, whether it be a beach trip or just a small adventure out of town to explore a new place!



Halloween



Picking out pumpkins



First birthday smash cake!



Putt-putting on vacation- a family tradition!

### Our Home

Our home is in a safe neighborhood with lots of other kids to play with. There are safe sidewalks for biking or walking together, and it is right next to an elementary school with two playgrounds! We spend a lot of time at the school playing with Zeke. We also have a big fenced in backyard. Countless hours are spent in our yard running through the sprinkler, playing with the dogs, and kicking a ball around.

We have a cat and two dogs who bring us much joy! They are loyal and loving companions but are also quite silly and playful! They enjoy cuddling with us on the couch and chasing each other around the house.



Bentley, Cami and Farrah



Our home



Our toy-filled living room



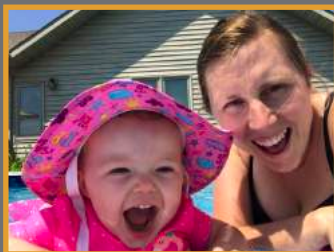
Wagon ride around the neighborhood





Hugs and kisses

Michelle and her niece



L.O.V.E.



Fun at the fair!



## About Michelle - by Ben

Michelle is the kindest, most loving person I have ever met. She is such an amazing mom! She is a strong, Godly woman, and is a great parent and role model for Zeke. She is always doing everything she can to help him grow and learn. Michelle is caring and dedicated to her friends and family. She is active in our church's kids ministry, where she dances, plays, and helps kids learn about the Bible. Michelle loves to laugh, loves to be surrounded by our family, and loves being a mom! Since before Zeke was born, she has loved his birth mother deeply and is always building our relationship with her. This selflessness and care is so inspiring, and perfectly sums up who she is!

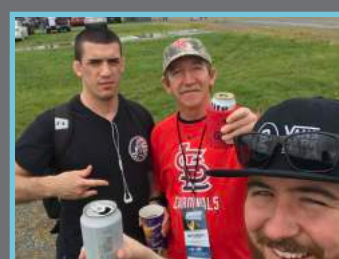
## About Ben - by Michelle

Ben is the most passionate person I have ever met. He has stellar work ethic as a data scientist and gives 100% every work day. Ben loves his family and friends fiercely and looks for opportunities to support them. He is such a loving father and a helpful, supportive husband. Every day, Ben gets home from work and spends as much time as he can playing with Zeke before bedtime. We take turns getting Zeke ready for bed and reading him books before laying him down. Ben is a strong spiritual leader and keeps us focused on our relationship with God. He volunteers both services at our church almost every Sunday. My husband is the best father and husband that I can imagine, Zeke and I are incredibly blessed to have him.



The shark says ROAR!

Ben, His Dad, & His Brother



Date night!



Matching hats!



## About Zeke - by Michelle

Zeke is such an amazing, sweet, energetic, and loving little guy! He loves dancing and Mickey Mouse, and he adores every animal he sees. His laugh and smile are truly contagious, and every room he goes into instantly becomes a room full of new friends to him. He has a joyful and adventurous spirit, which has been so fun to watch develop day after day! Every day is a new and exciting story with him. He loves being around other kids, and has recently been enamored with every baby he sees. He will be such a helpful and loving big brother!





# Our Families



Ben's mom and step dad



Ben's dad and stepmom



Ben's sister



Ben's brother

## Ben's Family

I have a large, loving, and incredibly supportive family. My parents divorced when I was young, but both remarried and I have fantastic relationships with my step-parents—I even got two siblings (a brother and a sister) out of their second marriages! All of my parents love being grandparents, and have been so incredibly loving to our son! My mom and step-dad like to be called Nana and Papaw, and my dad and step-mom are Pop-Pop and Nonna. My mom and step-dad live close by and we see them often, and my dad and step-mom live in Virginia which gives us great road trip opportunities every time we visit! Zeke gets to see his Nana and Papaw often, and we FaceTime with Nonna and Pop-Pop every week! Zeke is so loved by his grandparents and my siblings, it is truly amazing!

## Michelle's Family

My family is small, but very close! I have one brother, he is 5 years younger than me. He has a daughter who is 2 years old, she and Zeke see each other often and play hard when they get together! My mom and dad set such a healthy example for marriage and parenting, and we are so fortunate to have them as a support system. My extended family members live far away, but they all love Zeke so much, and are all supportive of our open adoption with Zeke's birth mom. We have some great traditions as a family. We go out to eat for everyone's birthdays, we go see Christmas lights every year, we all go to the Pumpkin Show together, and we gather together for every holiday.



Michelle's mom and dad



Michelle's brother



Cousin time!



Gigi with both grandkids

## Thank you

for taking the time to read about us! Ben and I hope to meet you and share more about our life and answer any questions you have for us.

