



Huey

Lara + Jonathan

We knew we wanted to have a family when we first moved in together, in 2011. After we were married, we learned that we couldn't get pregnant. After we explored our options we realized a biological child wasn't necessary to grow our family. We will love and care for any child placed with us. Keep reading to see if we're a good fit.



Lara:

- Played roller derby for five years
- A fan of good typography/design
- Loves cheese
- Taught herself how to crochet
- Favorite Book: Stephen King's Dark Tower Series

Jon:

- Taught English in China for a year
- Is a black belt in Jiu Jitsu
- Loves to explore foods from around the world
- Once hiked part of the Appalachian Trail
- Favorite Movie: The Royal Tenenbaums

We're *delighted* you're taking time to learn about us.

Our *message* to you:

We have a lot of love to give, and can't wait to share that love with a child. We know this is a very challenging decision, but we're here for you and will be as supportive as possible. We can work together to see what the best openness plan looks like for all of us.

Lara + Jon

About Us

We met in 2009 when our friend Sara introduced us and we started dating that year. We moved in together in 2011, got engaged in 2013 and got married in 2014. That same year we bought a house near a major metro area. We're proud of our community and wanted to stay close to the heart of the city. When the weather cooperates we ride our bikes or scooters to explore our surrounding neighborhoods, or visit the local metroparks. In the summer you might find us on our paddle boards, at the beach, or camping. We're members of the local Art Museum and the Natural History Museum and visit as much as possible throughout the year.

We love, love, *love* to travel. Typically we plan one big trip a year. Some of our travels have taken us to Europe, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Nicaragua, and Iceland. We dive right into the culture and history - visiting museums, eating local cuisine and exploring the landscape. One thing we can't wait for is traveling with our child and sharing the world with them. We think it's important to provide children with multiple perspectives and cultures to make them a more well-rounded and tolerant person.

When we stay closer to home you can find us exploring Ohio and visiting neighboring states.



With our friend Sara, who also married us.

Some of those adventures include car camping through Michigan, visiting rural areas in Eastern Ohio and Pennsylvania, and enjoying the musical history of Kentucky and Tennessee (Jon plays the banjo after all).

When we're being homebodies our favorite room is our front porch. As long as the weather is decent we're sitting out there watching the world go by and socializing with our neighbors. When it's cold or late we're usually in the dining room playing board games or living room catching up on our favorite shows or movies. Many of those nights are fueled by an amazing meal Jon whipped up... sometimes trying to mimic a recipe or meal from a trip we took.

We're a team. They say opposites attract and whoever "they" are were right. Lara reads directions, rules, and instructions thoroughly. She's always prepared for everything and is very organized. Jon, on the other hand, likes to wing it and enjoys the unexpected. He's very resourceful. We're good at dividing and conquering any task - whether that's grocery shopping, setting up a campsite, or packing for a trip.



Jon, Matt (bro), Lara, Cori (twin sis), + Cathy (Jon's Momma)



Ugly Sweater Party w/ Sam (sis)



First Camping Trip w/ Niece + Nephews: Avery, Carter, + Nick



Pool Hangs w/ Nick, Tom (Lara's Dad), Avery, + Mike (bro)

Family + Support System

We spend a lot of time with Lara's immediate family, as they only live about 40 minutes from us. Dinners, BBQs, birthdays, holidays, camping trips, and when everyone can manage the time off, we go on vacation together. A few times a year we have a sleepover with our niece and nephews where we give them a taste of our life - hiking in local parks, seeing Santa at the winter parade, cooking their favorite foods, a slumber party in the living room and staying up past their bedtime. Don't tell their parents :) We are happy we have our Ohio family nearby and can't wait to have our child interact with their new cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

Jon grew up in Delaware, so we make the trip back east a few times a year for Christmas or Thanksgiving or just in the summer to enjoy the beach. While there, we spend time with his family (mom, twin sister, brother and sister in law, 3 nieces and a nephew). Jon also calls his mom on Sundays, because you always have to call your mom no matter what, and occasionally they cook together over the phone. He also has a brother who lives in Wisconsin, so we make sure to

visit with him when possible, or decide to meet in a new city to vacation together.

We have a lot of friends that, though we're not related, over time have come to be thought of as family. Besides spending time with our friends over dinner or a bonfire, we think of them as our support system. One family of note lives just around the corner. Brian and Mel have two kids - Clover and Maceo. We are going to rely on them for all of their tips and recommendations on raising children because theirs are really great. They're both respectful, inquisitive, and creative. Characteristics that we hope to instill in our child.

Lara – by Jon

If you leave Lara alone in a room with 20 people she'll have made 20 friends in about 10 minutes. LuLu (a nickname her grandma gave her) jumps right into every situation, she is so personable and easy to talk to and gets along with everyone. She is down for any and all adventures, including our next adventure of being future parents! Lara has all her ducks in a row, she is ultra organized and that skill is very helpful as her co-life teammate and husband. That asset will also be very helpful raising children, I know when the times get tough she'll be able to get stuff done. Lu is always the one to call her family to schedule a get together, she cares deeply about our parents, siblings, and our nieces and nephews. She always makes me laugh and has a great sense of humor, there are so many times we've sent each other to "giggle town" (where you can't stop laughing and your stomach hurts). When we got married, my little brother and best man Matt stated that Lara will either make you laugh, or she'll think she said something funny and laugh at herself and that will end up being funnier than what she actually said. Lara also enjoys quiet reflection, I often catch her crocheting or writing in her journal, I feel those hobbies help her stay centered. I'm smiling right now as I'm writing this, I love this woman so much. She's going to be a great mom.



Hiking a Volcano in Nicaragua



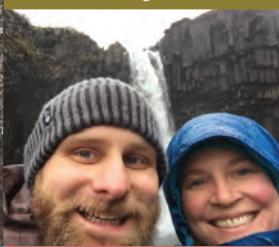
Lara + Huey Camping



Our Wedding Day



Jon Fishing in Alaska



Iceland Waterfall

Jon – by Lara

What can I say? He's my best friend. We met through our friend Sara when she told me Jon needed a dodge ball partner. Spoiler alert – she would be the one to marry us. When it comes to our partnership, Jon is thoughtful, crafty, and hilarious. He's always ready to cook us an amazing meal – making sure to cover some of my favorite foods. For our 5-year anniversary gift he hand made a narwhal horn (out of wood). One of my favorites is when he leaves little funny notes in my luggage for me to find when I go out of town. I know he'll be a marvelous father and parent. He's good at turning any hard task into a game, and if we're already playing a game you know you'll go to giggle town. If the zombie apocalypse happened you'd want Jon on your team. He's a brilliant outdoors-man and problem solver.

While we do a lot of things together, there are quite a few hobbies Jon has that helps us keep our partnership in balance by not losing ourselves in each other. Jon is an avid cyclist, he plays bike polo, rides trails, and commutes to work via bicycle. He also teaches and practices Jiu Jitsu, does orienteering races, enjoys fishing, and picking up new crafts every so often.

If you get the chance to meet him all of the above would be obvious within a few minutes. One thing that might be my most favorite trait (yes, even over his cooking) – he'll be your champion no matter what the situation. He will help push and guide you through any challenging situation. His loyalty and dedication to our family is an honor to be a part of, as his partner, and as his best friend.



Jon & Cori at Twins Days

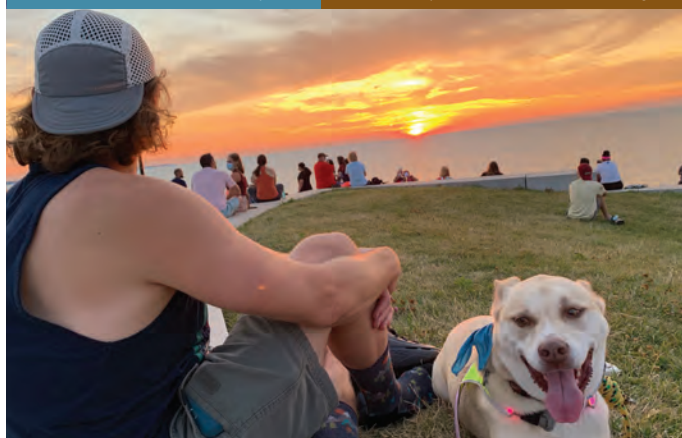


All Fancy for a Friends Wedding

How we will raise our child

We believe in a child's freedom and would like to give them as much space as possible to learn and grow, with buffers in place (mentally and physically) to keep them safe and make sure they know they are loved. We want our child to explore and ask questions, and be self sufficient. Our child will be exposed often and early to the outdoors, so they get exercise, fresh air, and a respect for nature. As mentioned before, we like to travel, so as soon as they're ready they will be our adventure partner, going camping and hiking, and learning about the world.

We can't wait to help our kid with their homework and encourage them to do their best in school and find their passion. If their race or culture is different from our own, we will do our best to honor their background and find ways to keep them in touch with their traditions, whether that's language, food, celebrations, or history.



Sunset at Our Local Park



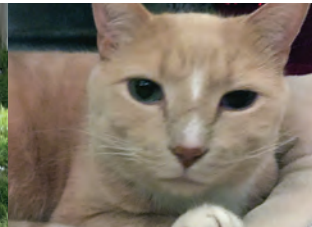
Lara + Huey



Huey



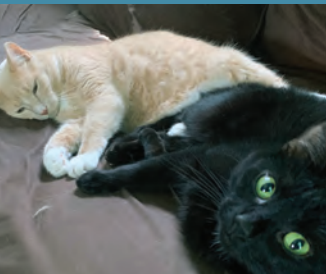
Fairy Dust, Carla, + Goldie Locks



Scrappy



Huey + Jon



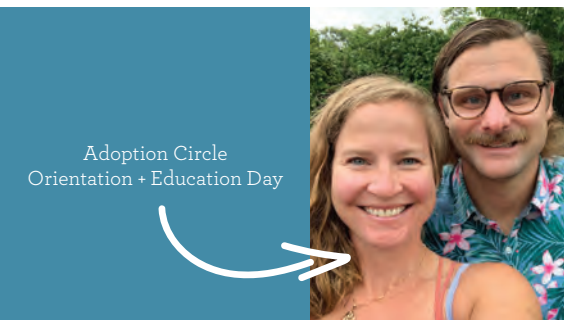
Scrappy + Bowie

Our Neighborhood

We love where we live. It's a very walkable neighborhood – there aren't even buses because the schools are all spaced evenly and all the kids can walk or ride bikes to their respective schools. We have to get in our cars occasionally, but we mostly do all of our shopping or dining out by foot or bicycle. Our neighborhood is very similar to how it was when we grew up, kids are hanging out and spending time with friends. There are numerous parks within walking distance and we're very close to some of the city's metroparks where we expect to hike and enjoy nature with our child. Additionally, our city is very progressive, we've attended local rallies for racial equity and the city council is on record supporting a progressive agenda and equality for all. It's really important for us to live and raise our family in a community that accepts all races and people.



Our Favorite Art Mural



Adoption Circle
Orientation + Education Day



HOLIDAY FAMILY HANGOUT

Left to Right Adults: Mike (Brother), Claudia (Mike's Wife), Sally (Kristi's Wife), Anna (Kevin's Wife), Kristi (Cousin), Kevin (Cousin), Lara, + Jon.
Left to Right Kids: Carter (Kevin), Avery (Mike), Reagan (Kevin), + Nick (Mike).