



Raquel & Isaac

hello

Hi there! We are Isaac, Raquel and Solomon! First of all, we just want to say thank you so much for taking the time to learn a little bit more about our family. We can't begin to imagine the love and courage it takes to make the decision you're considering, and we're deeply humbled by it. We hope that by sharing our story, you'll get a glimpse of the love and support that fills our lives, and the kind of home we long to provide for another child.

We moved to Michigan from Wisconsin a year ago and have quickly fallen in love with the natural beauty and community here. As a family, we enjoy spending our days at the beach, hiking, camping, biking, and taking our dog, Buck, on long walks. We also spend lots of time with friends and family!

Throughout our lives, before we met and throughout our marriage, we've faced various struggles that have shaped who we are today. Raquel lost her dad suddenly during her senior year of high school, and Isaac's brother underwent multiple major heart surgeries in their childhood. During Raquel's pregnancy with our son, Solomon, she was hospitalized, and we faced the challenges of having him in the NICU for two months. We have also experienced the heartbreak of multiple miscarriages.

These hardships and moments of grief have created a culture in our home filled with richness and deep love for one another. They have made us more resilient and strengthened our faith and relationships. We've learned to slow down and appreciate the beauty in each day, recognizing that, though life is filled with lots of hardship, it's also filled with so much joy!

As we look ahead to expanding our family through adoption, we carry these lessons with us, and look forward to welcoming a child into our family that is filled with so much love!



OUR HEARTS FOR ADOPTION

Adoption has always held a special place in our hearts. For Isaac, it became part of his life story at a young age. When he was 12, his family adopted his youngest sister from China. She was 2 years old at the time, and their bond grew quickly. To this day, they remain incredibly close, and that experience shaped Isaac's deep appreciation for adoption.

Raquel's journey toward adoption began through her work in India and Haiti, where she spent much of her teen years and early 20's serving children in need of care and support. Each child she met left a lasting impact on her, and those experiences solidified her desire to adopt one day. She saw firsthand how love and care can transform a child's life, and it became her dream to offer that same love to a child in need of a forever home.

MEET RAQUEL,

I'm Raquel, a 32-year-old stay-at-home mom to our amazing 6-year-old son, Solomon, whom I homeschool. I'm so grateful to spend my days with him! Before becoming a stay-at-home mom, I worked with children in various roles, including as a paraprofessional at an elementary school, providing in-home ABA therapy for children with autism, and directing after-school programs.

I grew up in southern Wisconsin in a large, close-knit family! I lived close to my grandparents and cousins and had the privilege of spending a lot of time with them! Our family's cultural diversity—relatives from Venezuela and Lebanon—enriched my upbringing, inspiring a love for learning about and embracing new cultures!

I've always been very active, especially with running, and I recently completed a full marathon in Michigan. I also love camping and traveling, having explored countries like Spain, Mexico, Haiti, India, Panama, and many places throughout the U.S.

While I absolutely love adventure, I'm also extremely passionate about hospitality and creating a warm, inviting home! Most of our days are spent at home making things, playing, learning, playing with friends and biking through the neighborhood! Being a mom is the greatest joy of my life and I am so excited to be a mom to another child!



-Raquel



MEET ISAAC,

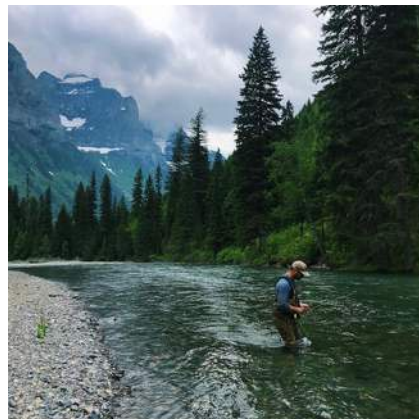
My name is Isaac. I'm 31 years old and I own a company that does digital marketing, primarily for outdoor brands. The work I do allows me to work from home, which means I have a lot of flexibility. This has been such a blessing, especially as a dad. I'm able to spend quality time with my family throughout the day and be present for so many big and small moments I might miss otherwise if I didn't have a job with flexibility.

I'm really passionate about the outdoors— fishing, hiking, hunting and camping are some of my favorite hobbies. I also love playing and recording music. I spent many years leading worship at church and still serve on the production team. It has been so fun getting to do so many of these activities WITH Solomon as he's gotten older and makes them even better!

My greatest joy and passion in life is being a dad and I am so excited to grow our family!



-Isaac





our love for each other

WHEN WE FIRST MET

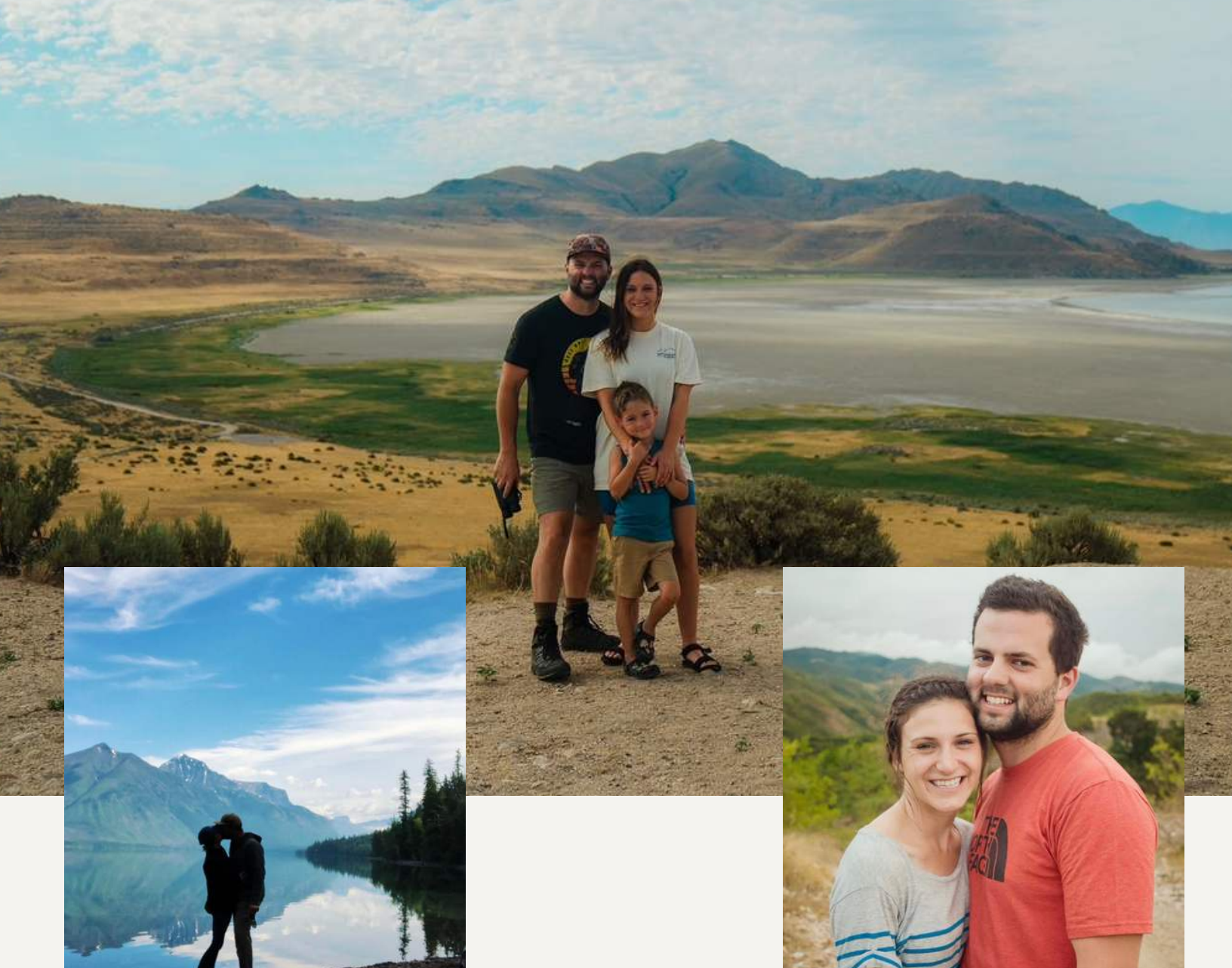
We met in our late teens, working at a summer camp for kids in Wisconsin. We dated for three years and had a short 2-month engagement.

THE LOVE STORY

We just celebrated 10 years of marriage! Though life has thrown us some challenges, our relationship and love for each other has only grown stronger in every season.

OUR WEDDING DAY

We got married at Isaac's childhood home, in his parent's barn. It was a party! Just our families and close friends added up to over 200 people on the day!



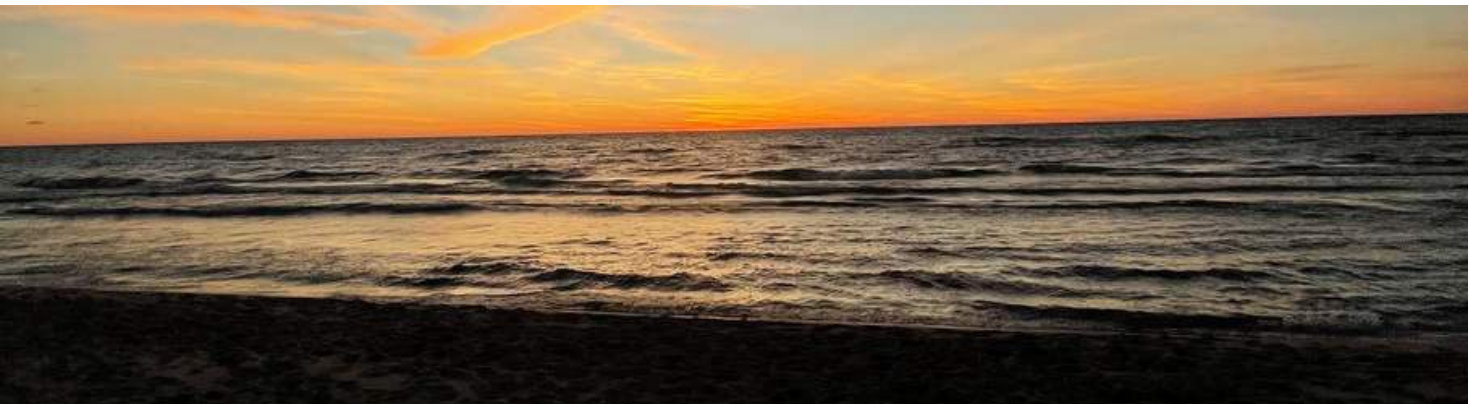
Before welcoming our son, we had lots of incredible adventures together and promised to continue exploring as a family once we had kids. Last year, we took on a big adventure, traveling the country together. Between moving from Wisconsin to Michigan, we bought a camper and spent six months on the road!

We camped on the beach near Houston, explored the Smoky Mountains, visited family on the East Coast, camped in Colorado's stunning mountains, and finished with a trip to Zion National Park in Utah. Each place held its own beauty, but Michigan called to us most and we were so excited to plant deep roots here. Michigan is beautiful, but our leading motivation in moving here was to live close to family and an incredible support system as we embark on growing our family!

This is home

We are very passionate about creating a home where people feel comfortable and cared for. Hospitality is a huge part of who we are. Our home is a cozy, welcoming place where friends and family love to gather. We find joy in making our space beautiful, whether it's through crafting or working on house projects to make it feel more like home.





Our home in western Michigan is cozy, quiet, and close to nature. We're a mile from the coast, so in the summer, beach visits are a daily occurrence! Our neighborhood is safe, peaceful and perfect for bike rides and playing in the yard. Since we're on the edge of town, deer and turkeys often wander through our yard.

Our days are filled with outdoor adventures, home-cooked meals, tending to our mini homestead (8 chickens and a large garden), campfires, playing on our playground and lots of family time.

our son Solomon



Our son Solomon is an incredible 6-year-old, full of life and joy. He is compassionate, funny, expressive and he carries a maturity beyond his years. Born prematurely after a complicated pregnancy, Solomon spent his first two months in the NICU. Every single day, we're reminded of the incredible miracle that his life is and we thank God for him.

Solomon has an infectious joy and a heart that naturally draws people in. Parents frequently tell us how much their own children speak about his kindness and how he's always making everyone laugh!

He loves adventure—whether it's biking, climbing, exploring nature, creating, or learning something new. Solomon is passionate about Taekwondo and playing ninjas! He loves to learn and is always asking questions about animals, space, and how things work. At home, he's a wonderful helper, always respectful and eager to listen.

He is absolutely overjoyed to be a big brother and talks about it nearly every day! His kindness, patience, and empathy shine through in everything he does, and we know he will be a loving and protective older brother!



our support system



Both of us come from very large extended families with lots of cousins, many of whom we see often and consider our dearest friends. We have been so blessed with incredible family and close friends that support us, encourage us, and have walked with us through so many of life's ups and downs. We are grateful to have so many people in our life that we trust to reinforce the values we want to teach our children.

Isaac's parents live only 3 houses down from us and are a consistent and positive presence in our lives, often having dinner together, stopping in for quick visits, taking Solomon on bike rides, to the park, or playing with toys at their house.



Though Raquel's family doesn't live in Michigan, we still get to see them often and we talk on the phone regularly! Raquel's mom, sister and cousin (pictured below) are her best friends. We have one awesome nephew, Wesley, who is 9 years old! He and Solomon have such a sweet friendship and talk often even though they live in different states!



our hopes for the future

Our greatest hope for the future is to grow our family through adoption, welcoming multiple children into our lives and putting deep roots down here in West Michigan.

We want to create a home where our kids feel loved, encouraged, and supported in every way. Homeschooling is important to us, as it allows us to nurture their curiosity and guide them to be bold, entrepreneurial, and grounded in our family's values. We envision a future full of adventure, deep connection with each other and our community, and simple but rich days spent together.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us and for considering us as part of your journey. We can only imagine how deeply you care for your child, and we are honored that you would consider us as potential parents. In our family, your child will be cherished, encouraged, loved and surrounded by an amazing community that shares our values. We are committed to celebrating their story and honoring the beautiful connection they will always have with you.

Whatever path you choose, we admire your courage and wish you peace and strength along the way.

Sincerely,
Isaac, Raquel, and Solomon