

GREG *and* MIKAYLA



OUR NOTE TO YOU



HELLO

it's so nice to "meet" you

Dear Beautiful Soul,

You are so brave. You are the strongest person we know and yet we have never met. We can not imagine how you must feel going through this process but please know we are praying for you, rooting for you and are in awe of you. It takes a special kind of person to be willing to make such a difficult decision as you are, and we are humbled that you are considering us to welcome you and this baby into our family.

We intend to honor your wishes for how you would like to proceed with this process if at all feasible. Should you decide you would like an open or semi open adoption, we would be happy to accommodate your requests in any capacity that we can. We understand that this is not a choice you are making lightly and we want you to have the peace you deserve.

We are hoping to adopt a child six months old or younger. We each come from families with siblings and value close family connections. Any child that we have the privilege of parenting will experience so much joy, love, peace and laughter in our home. We aim to cultivate a loving and supportive environment where anyone can live authentically and without judgement. We believe that faith can move mountains and our relationship with God influences our daily lives. Thank you for taking the time to get to know us!

WITH LOVE & APPRECIATION

Greg + Mikayla



OUR STORY

We met when we were eleven years old while we attended the same middle school. A rock solid friendship suddenly turned into a middle school romance in 2008, but fizzled out when we later attended different high schools. We kept in contact all throughout high school and rekindled our burning flame during our senior year right before going off to college.

We remained in a long distance relationship all throughout our undergraduate years and finally had the opportunity to be together during our last year of graduate school in 2019.

Seven years after our official “in a relationship” date, Greg proposed during a surprise photo shoot picnic! We later got married during a week long Nigerian/American celebration in 2022.



WHY WE ARE ADOPTING

As a young black couple in an ever changing (and often scary) world, we take nothing for granted.

We feel very fortunate to be where we are in our careers at such an early age. We truly believe that God has blessed us more than we could ask or imagine. We understand how challenging it can be to raise a child and we want to take on that challenge if a birth parent is unable.

Being that we are immensely grateful for all that God has done for us, we feel called to share in these blessings with a child that could benefit from them also. If there is a little boy or girl out there that needs a loving and safe environment to grow up in, it just makes sense to us that we would extend our love, home and hearts to them.

**DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE.
CORINTHIANS 16:14**



MEET *Mikayla*

I am the youngest and only girl in my family. I have two older brothers, Mario and Corey, one brother in law, Steve, and two sisters in law, Holly and Kim. My mom, Angel, is the nicest person you'll ever meet!

I consider myself to be an easy going person and love a laid back lifestyle. I often prefer to go against the grain and rock to the beat of my own drum. I don't always find it necessary to do what everyone else is doing. I value inclusivity, my vegetarian diet, and learning about different cultures! .

In 2019 I received my Master's of Science in Anesthesia and now practice as a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA). I work in the operating room providing anesthetic care for surgical procedures such as knee replacements and trigger fingers.

My favorite thing about myself is my commitment to personal development. I strive to continuously grow in my faith in God, my love for my family and my empathy towards others.



WHAT I LOVE ABOUT *Mikayla*

WRITTEN BY GREG

I love Mikayla's driven attitude. She is very detailed and organized! She has a kind soul and heart. Mikayla is a pleasure to be around and always knows how to make me smile. She is an amazing cook who keeps me happy and full!



SOME OF MY FAVORITE HOBBIES

My favorite hobbies include: exercise, yoga, meditation, reading, cooking and gardening.

I am the middle child of my family. My parents, Steven and Philomena are from Nigeria, making me first generation Nigerian- American. I have one older brother, Steve, one sister, Kim and two brothers in law, Mario and Corey.

I am a peacemaker and I often prefer not to rock the boat. Being the middle child of my family has given me the ability to see both sides of every story. I value education, integrity, respect and honesty.

I obtained my Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2020. I now practice as a Physical Therapist. I currently work with a home health service. My job entails visiting patients to complete physical therapy evaluations and treatments in the comfort of their homes.

My favorite thing about myself is how mellow I am.

MEET *Greg*



WHAT I LOVE ABOUT *Greg*

WRITTEN BY MIKAYLA

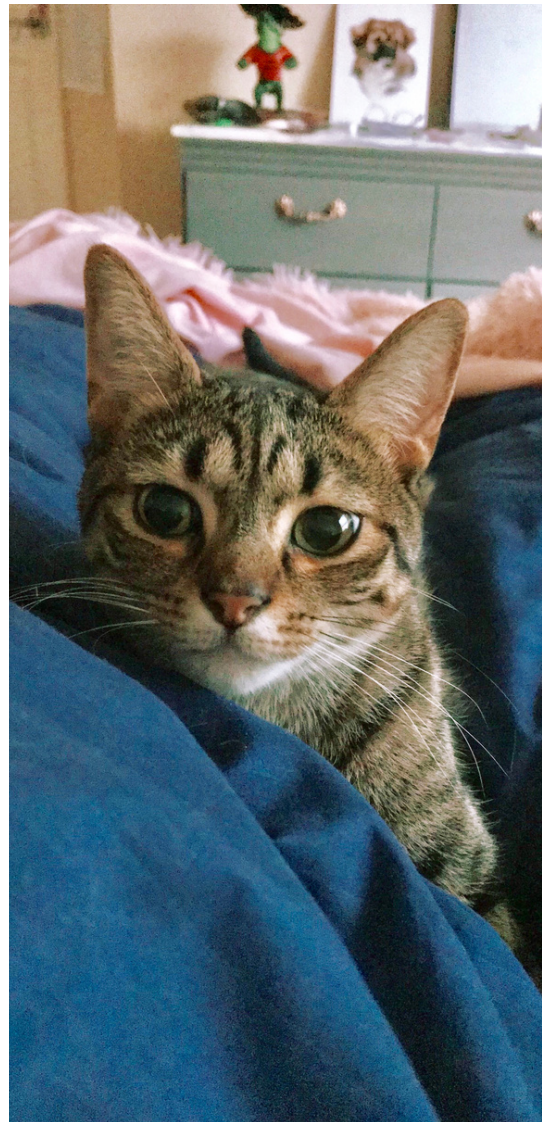
Greg's heart is pure and his love knows no bounds. His infectious laugh and sense of humor shift the energy in a room, instantly putting everyone at ease. It's truly a privilege to not only call him my husband but my life long best friend. I love the pure essence that Greg just is. I've seen him grow from a young boy into a strong man that simply exudes "black excellence". He will be the most incredible father to any child and I look forward to experiencing parenthood with him.



SOME OF MY FAVORITE HOBBIES

In my free time I enjoy exercising, hanging out with friends and golfing. I also like watching sports and movies on tv.

ANAKIN



MEET OUR PET

Anakin was adopted as a three year old while Mikayla was in graduate school and living alone. Anakin has provided us with the best companionship! He offers the warmest bed time snuggles and rainy day cuddles. Don't be fooled though, Anakin is also a ball of energy ! He loves to play with his toys and engages in games of tag on a daily basis.

HOME

Our home is 3,200 square feet. It has 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. It is a single story floor plan with a bonus room above the garage. We had the opportunity to put so many personal touches into our home as we renovated it prior to moving in. We really feel like we belong here! We were able to put emphasis on things we enjoy in the home such as a pool area that will be great for summer fun and a gardening space where we can grow our on produce.

Our favorite thing about our home is it's location. We are conveniently located next to three great schools, and can even walk to the elementary school! The best part about our home's location is by far the fact that our parents live nearby! We love being close to family!





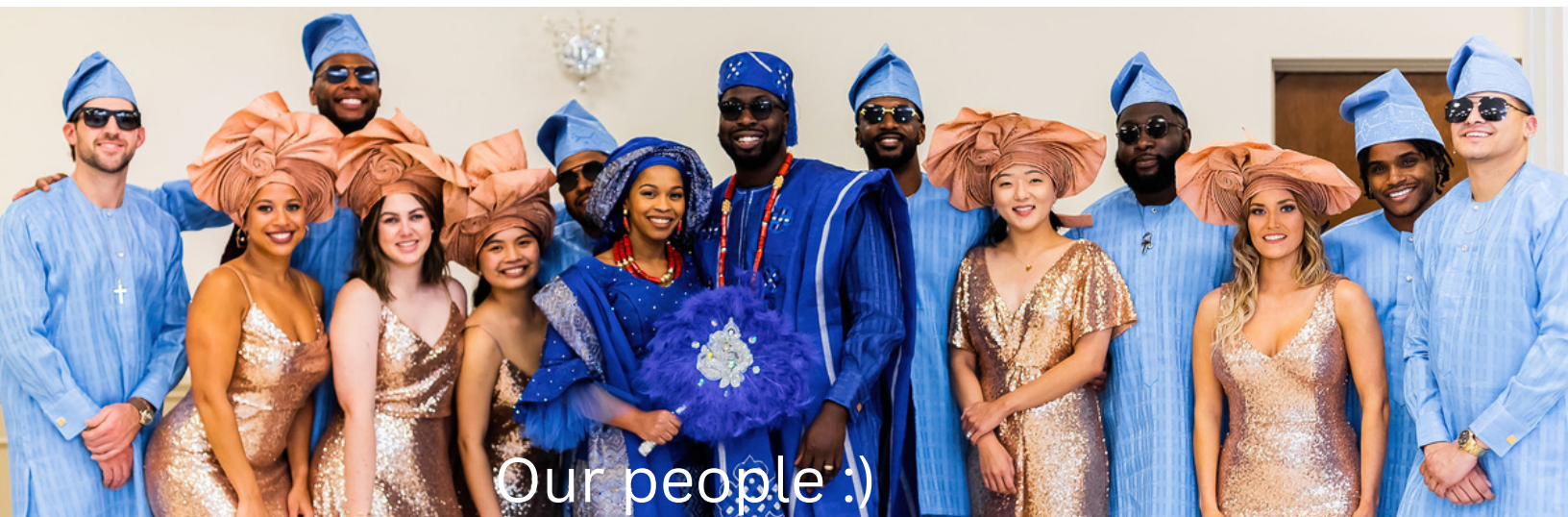
OUR COMMUNITY

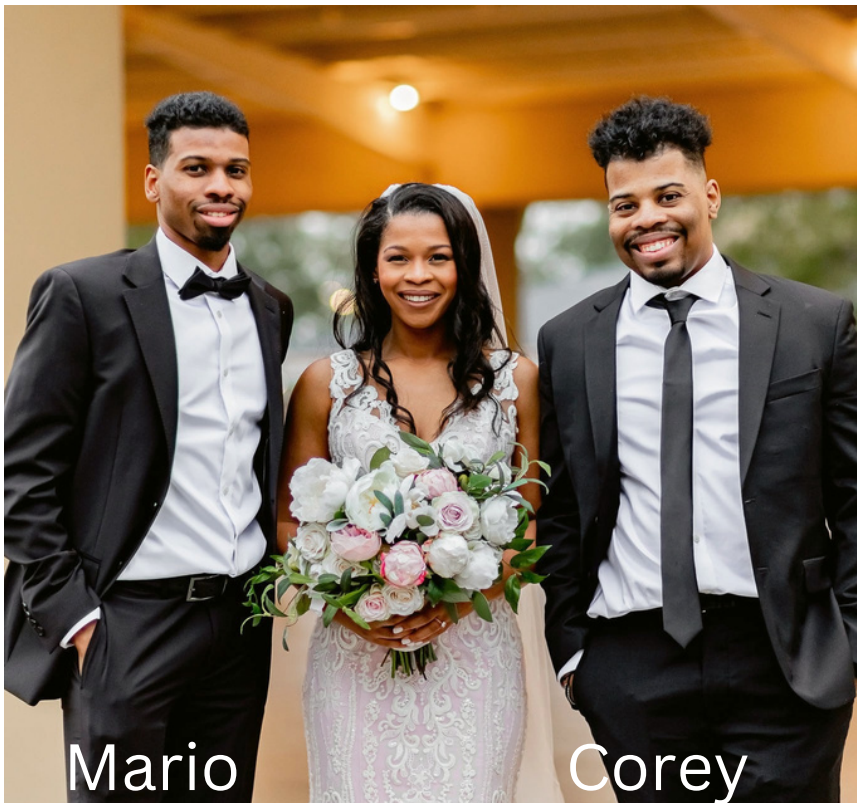
We are so grateful to be surrounded by the most incredible people. Throughout the years we have made connections that span locally and throughout the country. We could not have asked for a better group to stand by our side not only on our wedding day but through every season of life. We also have found a community through our online attendance at church.

In 2022 Mikayla started a book club that allows women to come together and bond over their love for books while also walking through life together. With each meeting much insight and support is shared for life's challenges and victories.

Mikayla also remains in contact with friends she met in middle school, a high school summer college program and her college roommate. Mrs. Bentley, Mikayla's academic support teacher and high school cheer coach is near and dear to our hearts as she continues to nurture and guide us in reaching our highest potential. Though there is a distance between us, we aim to visit our friends in their respective locations at least once during the year if possible.

Greg has always been a charismatic spirit. He is a loyal friend that also remains in contact with his best friends from high school and college. Greg enjoys growing alongside these individuals to continue developing into the high value men they aspire to be.





MEET OUR FAMILIES

MIKAYLA'S FAMILY

Angel, the matriarch of the family, is a homemaker and faith filled woman. She is a pillar of strength in our family as she continues to exemplify perseverance through any obstacles that come her way. She leads by example and has shown us the importance of an active relationship with God.

Mario is the eldest of the three children. He and his wife Holly, enjoy watching basketball and spending time with their golden doodle, Ferguson.

Corey is the middle child of our family. His closeness in age to Mikayla has contributed to a close friendship with her. Corey enjoys playing video games, screen writing and acting.

Kevaughn is an honorary third brother to Mikayla. His family has welcomed her as their own and introduced her to their Caribbean culture from St. Maarten. Kevaughn is our oldest and longest friend that we met while we were all at the same middle school. He was even the Man of Honor at our wedding!



GREG'S FAMILY

Steven Sr. and Philomena are Greg's parents. They emigrated from Nigeria in their twenties before getting married and having three beautiful children. They are active members of the local Nigerian community and both work in healthcare. Their faith is also an influence to us all.

Steven Jr. is the eldest of the three children. He is a teacher for special needs children at a middle school.

Kim is the youngest and only girl of the children. This is something Mikayla and Kim often bond over!

Steven Sr. + Philomena

STEVEN, PHILOMENA,
STEVEN JR., GREG,
KIMBERLY



Kimberly

Steven Jr.



Blue Lagoon, Iceland



Traditional Nigerian
Wedding



Kim



Holly

Mario

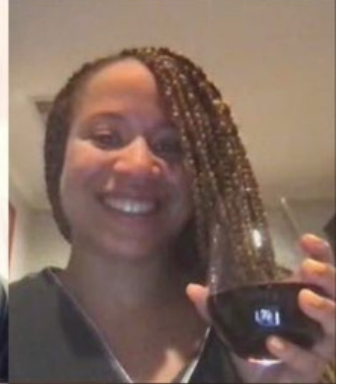
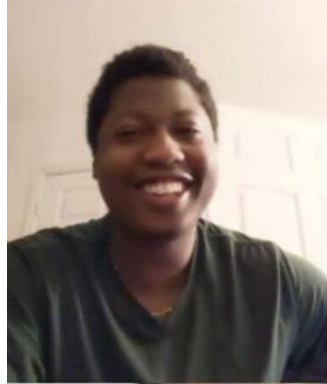


Vacationing in
Arizona!





Mr. Bentley



Joanna's video is connecting

Forever friends!



IN OUR *Family*

We believe in love and compassion. We believe in taking accountability for our actions and being the best versions of ourselves that we can be. We listen to understand and not just to respond. We welcome communication even when the topics are difficult.

In our family we believe in second chances, giving people the benefit of the doubt and loving our neighbors as ourselves. We find our strength through our faith and put in the work behind it.

IF YOU CHOOSE US, WE COMMIT TO:

- Unconditional love for you and this child
- Honoring your wishes regarding open, semi-open or closed adoption
- Providing a safe and loving environment for a child to grow and develop in
- Encouraging contact and relationships with siblings if applicable
- Ensuring good health measures and safety precautions in our home
- Educational development and support
- Swim lessons for summer fun
- Traveling as a family and showing this child the world!



ONE LAST THANK YOU

Beautiful Soul,

We can't even begin to express our deeply rooted gratitude and respect for you. A child is truly the grandest gesture you can give someone, and we are moved to be considered for this great honor.

We cannot promise that this child will have a perfect life with no disappointments. We can promise you that we will encourage and support them through whatever curveballs come their way. We will love them unconditionally, no matter what. We will keep them safe, cherish them, and protect them at all costs.

We want you to know that we love you unconditionally as well. We will carry you in our hearts always. We value your presence in this child's story. We will never shy away from telling them the many wonderful things about you that shaped how they came into our lives. We will tell them of the most selfless decision you made from a place of love and compassion. We hope we will always be the kind of parents you wanted this baby to have.

LOVE ALWAYS,

GREG *and* MIKAYLA

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU; THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; THE LORD TURN HIS FACE TOWARD YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

