



MARY and JOSE



FOR THIS CHILD  
I have prayed.

1 SAMUEL 1:27





# Hello!

IT'S SO NICE TO "MEET" YOU.

We are Mary and Jose (and Charlie!) from California. Thank you for taking the time to look through our profile book. We have immense respect for your courageous decision to consider an adoption plan. We can't imagine how difficult this journey must be for you, but we deeply admire your strength.

Our hope is that this book gives you a glimpse into the love we share as a family and our excitement to grow it. We cherish our small family and have longed to welcome another child into our lives.

**Adoption has already brought incredible joy to our extended family through Mary's sister, and we have seen firsthand the love and happiness it brings. We cannot wait to expand our family and share our love, devotion, and unwavering commitment with another child.**

Mary & Jose

# our story

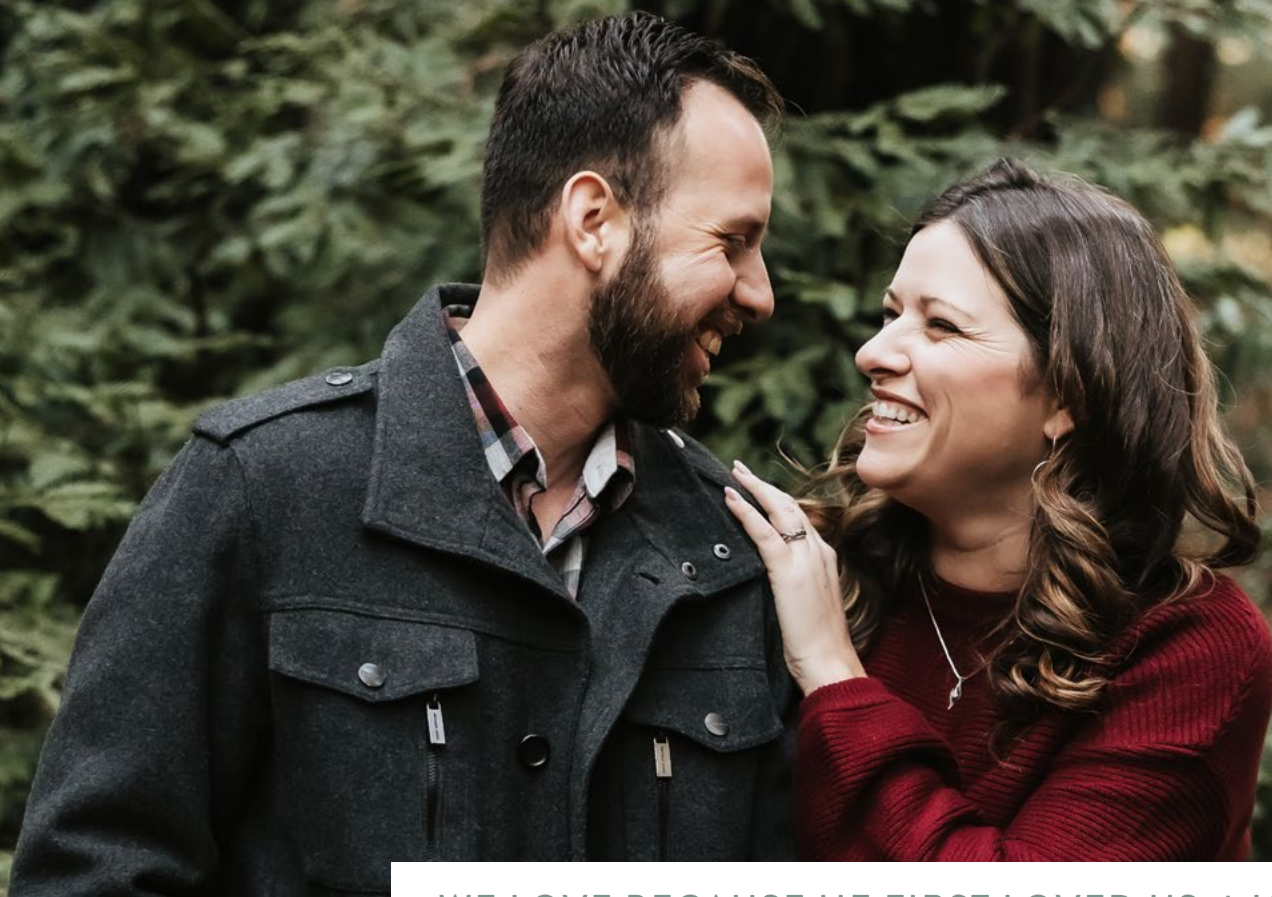
## HOW IT STARTED

Our love story began when Mary's twin sister started dating Jose's brother. The four of us quickly became inseparable, spending weekends at the beach, playing volleyball, and swimming in the ocean together.

It wasn't until our siblings' wedding that something truly sparked between us. We ended up dancing the night away, and Mary's sister still teases us about stealing the spotlight on her big day! After a year of dating, Jose proposed in Santa Cruz, the place where our friendship had blossomed into love over countless summer weekends.



Over the years, we've developed a deep connection based on shared values, mutual respect, and a love for adventure. Our relationship continues to be filled with laughter, unwavering support, and a solid foundation of love. We are excited and ready to see where our next journey leads!



WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US. 1 JOHN 4:19

# Why adoption?

**WE'VE BEEN LONGING TO GROW OUR FAMILY, AND  
AFTER MUCH PRAYER, WE FEEL CALLED TO ADOPTION.**

Watching Mary's sister's family grow through adoption has been a beautiful experience. She has welcomed four children, and we've seen firsthand the love, joy, and strength that come with this journey.

Our nieces and nephews are incredibly special to us, and we are honored to be Godparents to two of them. They are also Charlie's best friends, and since they live just five minutes away, we're lucky to see them often. Through Mary's sister, we've learned how to embrace a child's cultural background, honor their unique story, and make adoption a seamless part of a loving family.

Our family is excited and fully supportive of our adoption journey, and Charlie is thrilled at the thought of becoming a big brother. We can't wait to welcome another child into our home, surrounding them with unconditional love and a family that will cherish them forever.

# meet Mary

written by Jose



MARY IS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, MY BEST FRIEND.

One of the things I love most about Mary is how incredible she is with Charlie and all of our nieces and nephews. I could fill a book with the countless activities she plans for Charlie, from daily adventures to weekend trips. But my favorite part of the day is calling her on my way home and hearing Charlie laughing with his cousins or excitedly telling me about his fun day with Mom.

**Mary's kindness and generosity are boundless.** One example is her dedication to baking birthday cakes for non-profit organizations supporting underserved youth—she never even meets the children. Every time she finishes a cake, Charlie and I are in awe, knowing her small gesture is bringing joy to a child on their special day.

**I honestly don't know what I would do without Mary. She is the most amazing and special person I know, always planning something fun for our family. And yes, her baking—especially her raspberry cheesecake—absolutely won me over!**



JOSE IS A KIND, GENEROUS, AND THOUGHTFUL MAN.

## meet Jose written by Mary

I have always admired Jose's unwavering dedication to his family. When he was young, his father left their home in Guatemala to find work in the U.S., working tirelessly to save money and reunite the family. I believe this deeply shaped Jose, instilling in him both strong family bonds and a remarkable work ethic.

Working in sales, Jose has the flexibility to set his own schedule, allowing him to be home after school and attend all of Charlie's practices. Every day, he calls me on his way home, eager to hear about my day—and, of course, to ask if I'm baking cookies (I think my baking skills are real reason he married me!).

With his son, nieces and nephews, Jose's playful and warm nature shines. His nieces affectionately call him "Coco" and are always excited to see him. He's handy around the house, always looking for ways to transform our space with landscaping and woodworking projects.

**As a hands-on father, he loves spending quality time with Charlie—playing baseball, soccer, drawing, teaching Spanish, and solving puzzles. He is already the best dad that any kid could ask for, and I can't wait to see his love and joy multiply with the addition of another child!**

# Meet our son!



## CHARLIE

Our son, Charlie, is an energetic, loving, and sociable 6-year-old with a big heart. He absolutely loves school, making friends, and staying active.

Whether he's playing baseball and soccer with dad or baking in the kitchen with mom, he brings joy and enthusiasm to everything he does. He's also a little artist, often found drawing and coloring his latest masterpieces.

The only challenge we foresee when welcoming a baby is Charlie's impressive dinosaur roars—we may need to work on toning those down during nap time!

He adores his cousins and has playdates with them multiple times a week. He is especially sweet and gentle with his 1-year-old twin girl cousins, always finding their giggles contagious. Charlie often asks for a baby brother or sister, and we know he will be overjoyed when we bring a little one home.





FARMER'S MARKET



RIDES AT THE COUNTY FAIR



SAFARI WEST

WE WANTED TO SHARE SOME  
PHOTOS FROM A FEW OF OUR  
FAVORITE PLACES THAT WE  
SPEND A LOT OF TIME AT!



BOWLING ALLEY



CHRISTMAS TROLLEY



BASEBALL GAMES



LOCAL ZOO



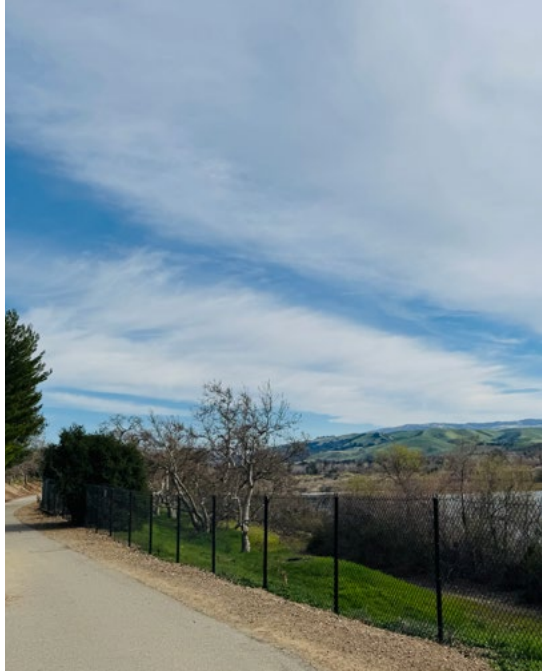
GILROY GARDEN THEME PARK



# our home

WE'RE LUCKY TO LIVE IN SUNNY CALIFORNIA  
IN A SAFE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY CITY.

Our three-bedroom, two-bathroom home is filled with love, laughter and fun. Thanks to Jose's woodworking and landscaping projects, our fenced front yard and spacious backyard are perfect for entertaining, with a sandpit and trampoline for kids. We can't wait to turn our extra bedroom into a nursery!



## MARY'S CHILDHOOD HOME IS JUST AROUND THE BLOCK, AND WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY.

Our neighborhood is walking distance from three great schools. Charlie attends our local K-8 school, which offers an International Baccalaureate program and Spanish language learning. Mary went to this school as a child, and it's been amazing to see it grow into a diverse, welcoming community.



**Our home is a short walk from parks, trails, restaurants, and downtown.** We're also close to the beach, mountains, and Disneyland, making family trips easy. We can't wait to explore the city more and bring another child along on all our adventures!

# things we love

JOSE LOVES: YARD WORK • WORKING OUT • WATCHING MOVIES •  
DRAWING • PLAYING SOCCER • COOKING • GOING TO BASEBALL  
GAMES • CAMPING • GOING DOWNTOWN FOR COFFEE



MARY LOVES: BAKING • YOGA • HIKING • GOING FOR  
COFFEE • GARDENING • SMORES AROUND OUR FIRE PIT • BEACH  
DAYS • FAMILY OUTTINGS TO DISNEYLAND!



CHARLIE LOVES: PLAYING WITH COUSINS & FRIENDS •  
DRAWING • LEGO'S • SUPERHEROES • BASEBALL •  
BOWLING • SWIMMING • RUNNING ON THE BEACH •  
AND MOST OF ALL - GOING TO DISNEYLAND



YOSEMITE



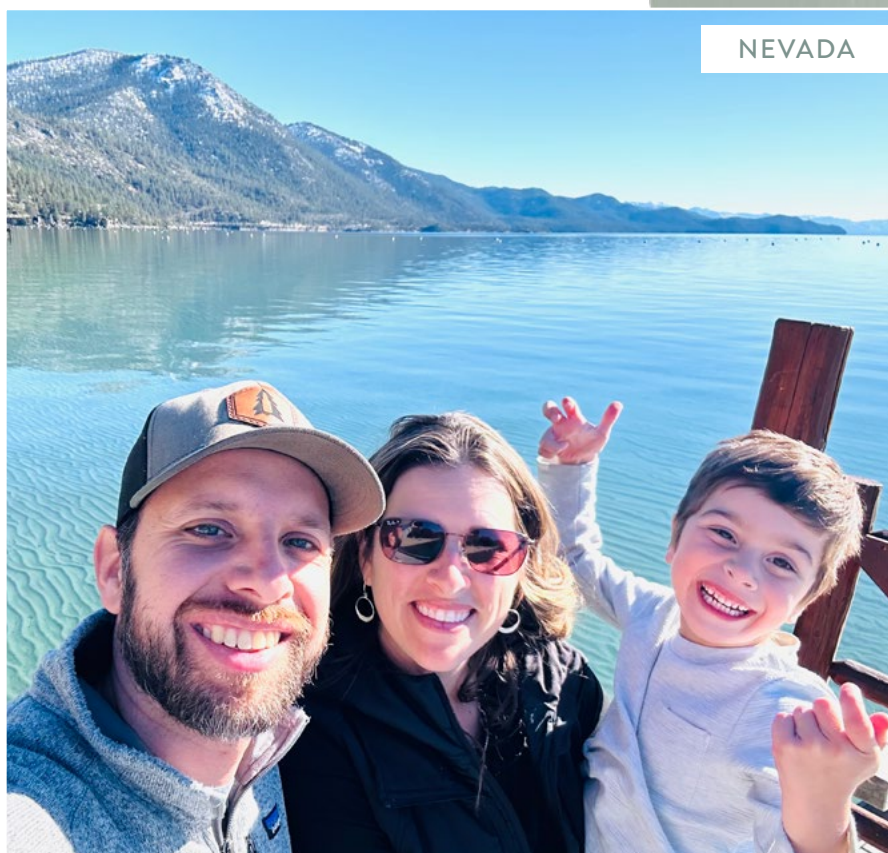
PORTLAND



HAWAII



PHILADELPHIA



NEVADA

## our travels

WE LOVE TRAVELING AND BELIEVE IT'S ESSENTIAL FOR  
BROADENING OUR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING.

Before having Charlie, we explored various destinations, and since becoming parents, we've continued to travel throughout the U.S. with him. **Our dream is to take a train ride through Europe, exploring diverse cultures and landscapes.**

Jose looks forward to visiting soccer stadiums, while Mary is excited to explore museums. We're eager to visit Portugal, where Mary's family roots trace back. We can't wait to keep traveling as a family, creating lasting memories along the way.

# Ten fun facts

## 1 • MARY HAS AN IDENTICAL TWIN SISTER, ANA.

When they were younger, they loved to confuse people by switching places. Twins run in the family - Ana has twin daughters, and their brother, Josh, also has twin girls.

## 2 • MARY'S TWIN SISTER IS MARRIED TO JOSE'S BROTHER, ALEJANDRO, STRENGTHENING OUR FAMILY BOND.

## 3 • JOSE IMMIGRATED FROM GUATEMALA AT AGE NINE.

## 4 • MARY'S GRANDFATHER ACCIDENTALLY GOT OFF THE TRAIN IN LIVERMORE INSTEAD OF LEMOORE, LEADING TO HER FAMILY SETTLING THERE.

## 5 • MARY HAS BAKED AND DECORATED OVER 40 CAKES FOR NONPROFITS, BRINGING JOY TO KIDS ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS.





**6 • JOSE'S DAD IS A FORMER MEMBER OF GUATEMALA'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM.**

Jose's soccer team was ranked 4th in the nation for three consecutive years, a testament to both his talent and his dad's dedication as a coach and mentor.

**7 • MARY AND ANA ONCE RAN A BAKING BUSINESS CALLED DOUBLE TROUBLE DESSERTS.**

**8 • WE BOUGHT A HOME NEAR MARY'S CHILDHOOD HOME, AND NOW OUR SON ATTENDS THE SAME SCHOOL SHE DID.**

**9 • WE PAINTED TWO MURALS IN OUR HOME—A WHALE THEME IN CHARLIE'S ROOM AND A SAFARI SCENE IN THE PLAYROOM.**

**10 • MARY WAS AN ALL-AMERICAN WATER POLO PLAYER AND HELPED LEAD HER TEAM TO A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY.**



Ten fun facts



## our extended family

### JOSE'S FAMILY:

Jose has a smaller, close-knit family. His brother, married to Mary's sister, lives nearby, making family gatherings even more special. His mother, Abuelita, is a loving grandmother who always offers to babysit. Jose's late father watches over them, and they enjoy visits from his cousin and her kids in Southern California.

## MARY'S' FAMILY:

Mary comes from a large, loving family, the youngest of seven kids with 48 first cousins. She cherishes fond memories of Christmas mornings with her siblings and now loves living in the same town as her parents and three sisters. Her parents are incredibly supportive, often helping with childcare.



Together, we have ten nieces and nephews, and our son sees his cousins often, forming lifelong bonds. Mary's sister has adopted four children, and we embrace their diverse cultural backgrounds. We are open to transracial adoption and are committed to connecting our child with their cultural roots, as we've seen Mary's sister do so beautifully.



# our promises

IF YOU FEEL A CONNECTION WITH US AND  
DECIDE THAT OUR FAMILY IS THE ONE FOR  
YOUR CHILD, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW...

**We promise to** be open to the relationship you wish to have with your child, honoring your role in their life.

**We promise to** foster a home filled with love, laughter, and unwavering support.

**We promise to** encourage connections with their birth culture through language, holidays, and community involvement.

**We promise to** provide opportunities for them to explore their passions and discover what brings them joy.

**We promise to** encourage creativity through storytelling, dress-up, and make-believe adventures.

**We promise to** ensure they always know they are loved unconditionally and supported in every stage of life.

all our love,  
MARY, JOSE & CHARLIE



TOGETHER IS OUR FAVORITE PLACE TO BE!

