

# brent & jay





thanks  
for opening our book



# hello

Hello, thank you for your time and effort in opening our book, we appreciate you getting to know us.

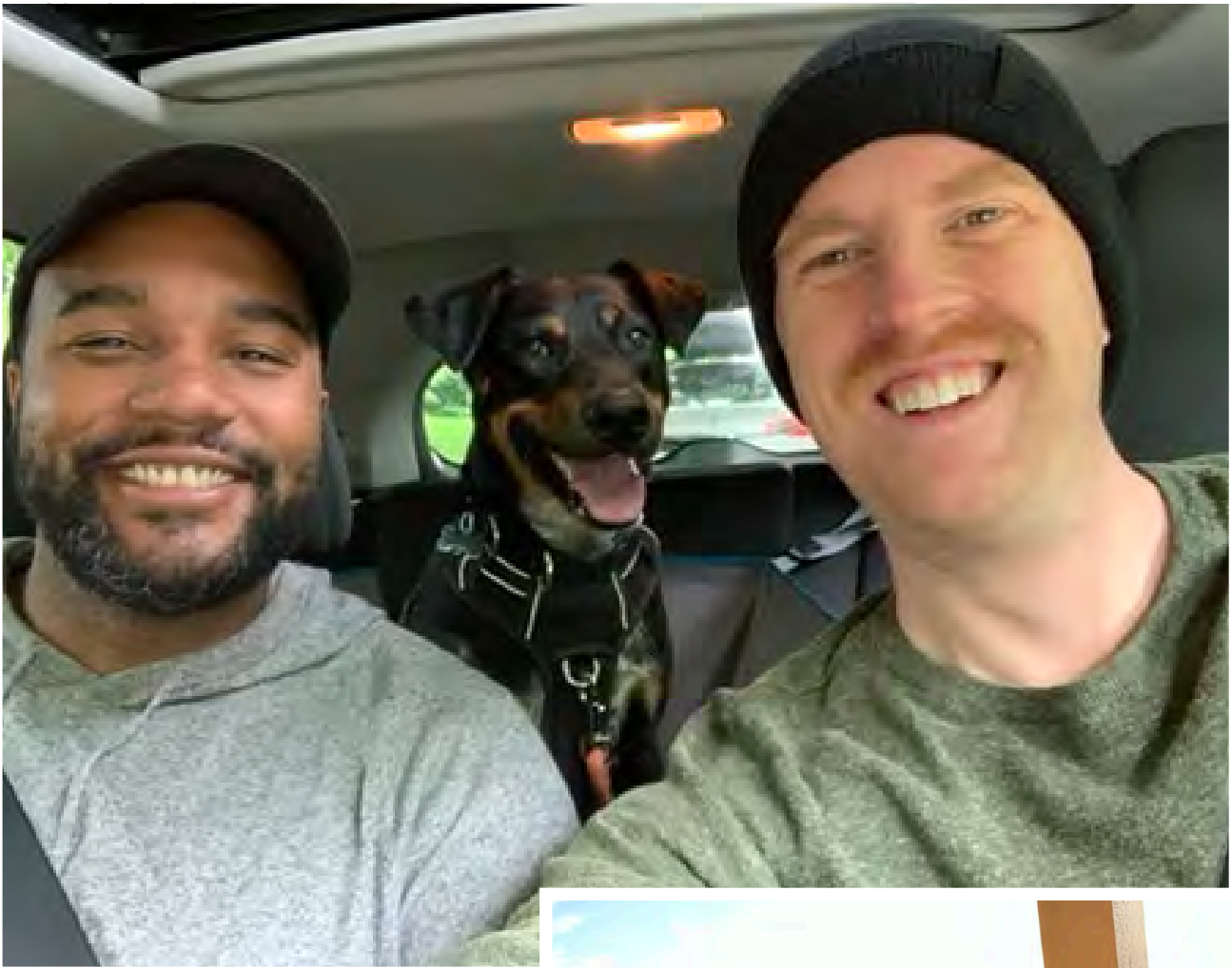
We're Brent, Jay, and Stout [dog], an adventurous and fun-loving family living in the Pacific Northwest. Brent works in mental health and Jay works in tech, and Stout lives rent and carefree as our current family favorite.

Growing our family through adoption has always felt like the right choice for us and has been a guiding star in our relationship. In learning more about adoption, we have come to think about family as “biology and biography”. Biology being our ancestors and those who came before us and biography being those who make up the day-to-day moments of our life story. **When we think about becoming parents through adoption and raising a child, it is our hope that we can teach them to appreciate that they're as much a product of the love, strength, and resilience of their birth family (you) as they are of those around them (us).**

We deeply appreciate your consideration and care for your child, as you make your decision. Our hope for you and your child is as you work toward a final decision whatever it may be that it feels effective for you both and invites peace.

Sincerely,

*Brent and Jay*



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# our story

We met in summer 2020, outdoors, with our masks, hand sanitizer, and individually wrapped snacks for a socially distant picnic. As cliché as it is, let's just say sparks flew. That first date we bonded over our shared love of the CBS show Survivor, our shared love of our chosen city, and a love of dogs. **From that summer day on, the adventures continued with us navigating a socially distant world together.** It was during this time Brent would come to appreciate and love Jay's sensibility, genuineness, and overall ease to be around. Simultaneously, Jay would come to appreciate and love Brent's focus, self-assuredness, and desire to make big moments out of the mundane. In a time of great global strife, meeting and falling for each other was our greatest silver lining.

Today, the initial qualities that drew us together have only deepened our bond as we navigate life. **One of the things we have come to appreciate in our marriage is how we complement each other in diverging strengths and areas of growth. We are excited to use these strengths as we navigate our biggest adventure yet parenting.**

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why we are

# adopting

For us, as a same-sex couple, we've always felt growing our family through adoption has been the best and most natural choice for our family.

In our life together, we hold the value that the most meaningful part of our life is the rich tapestry of biological and chosen families who help make up our world. **We love sharing stories, making memories, and maintaining traditions; therefore, when we think of sharing our life with a child, we are so excited at the notion of being able to do all three of these things with them.** For Brent, this means passing on family traditions (like new PJs on Christmas), adventuring to the Children's Museum, and reading books together that he read as a kid (e.g. James and the Giant Peach, Stuart Little, Holes, and Harry Potter). For Jay, this means frequent gatherings with those in our community (BBQs, play dates, and birthday parties) and sharing his love of science with them (nature walks and conducting homemade science experiments).





meet  
**brent**

**FRIENDS SAY I AM:**  
Measured, steadfast,  
and genuine

**FAVORITE MEAL OUT:**  
Pizza (Detroit style)

**FAVORITE PASTIME:**  
Fitness classes and  
working in the garden

Growing up I moved around quite a bit and saw many different parts of the country before my family landed in the northwest. Following a brief stint in North Dakota for graduate school I came back to the PNW to officially settle down and lay my roots. I'm passionate about people, I love learning about different cultures, languages, and customs. This love of people, and frankly of school, has led me to my dream job of being a licensed psychologist. I'm very lucky to say my days are filled with a lot of learning, meeting with new people, and some of the mundane tasks of running your own business. **One of the things that excites me most about being a parent is the idea of getting to share some of my passions with a child. I'm very excited to share new experiences together, adventure, and see the world around us through the eyes of a child.** When a child enters our home, our plan is to focus on creating a warm, stable, and loving home, with routine and just enough uniqueness to keep things



interesting. We're fortunate that my job allows me the flexibility to be home much of the time and for times I'm not we have a great daycare just up the street from our home who are eagerly awaiting us.

## FIVE THINGS BRENT LOVES:

Bookstores, Plants, Coffee, Breweries, and the Dog Park

meet  
**jay**

**FRIENDS SAY I AM:**  
Empathetic, hardworking,  
and curious

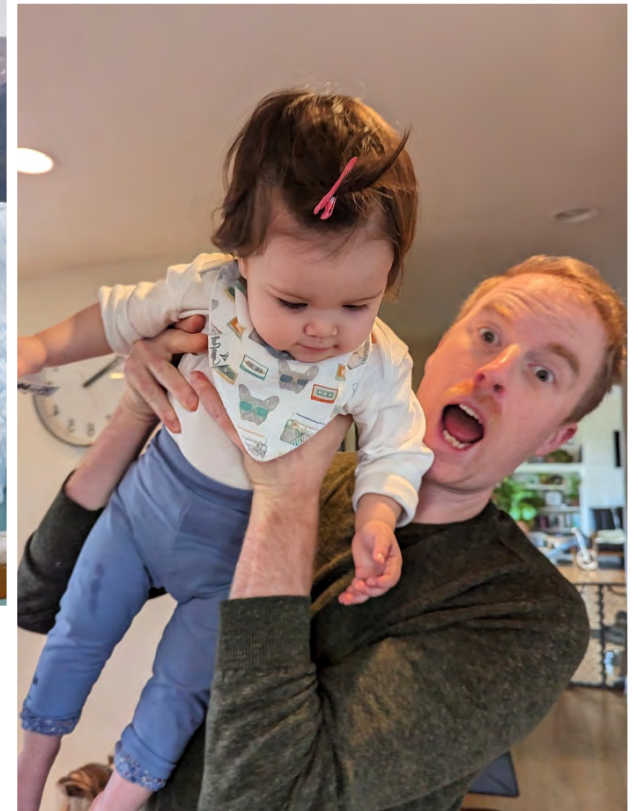
**FAVORITE SHOW:**  
Survivor

**FAVORITE PASTIME:**  
Weekend coffee meet  
ups and getting outside  
the city to connect  
with nature.

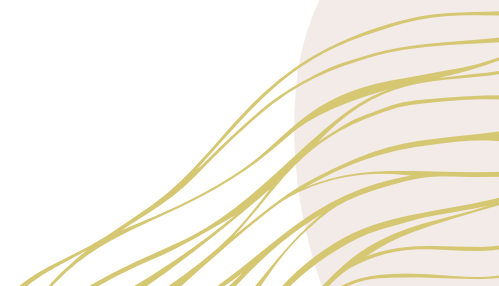


I grew up in a small town in the Midwest where I was fortunate to have the support of a large extended family (my Mom has 14 siblings and my Dad has 5). This provided me with a community network that included frequent family and social gathering and I want to re-create that same sense of community for a child. I moved to the Northwest when I was 23 to explore a new part of the country and I've considered the Northwest a second home ever since. When I arrived I quickly found a community who became my chosen family and fell in love with the natural beauty of the region. I'm an engineering project manager in my day to day job, which means I work to support my team with my engineering skills and personal connections to help us ultimately reach our goals. **I've always wanted to be a parent and look forward to creating a supportive and stable home where a child can explore their curiosities and be**

their authentic self. My most important goal will be making sure that any child I care for knows they are loved and has permission to chase their personal passions so they can live a life full of joy and pride.



**FIVE THINGS JAY LOVES:**  
Home improvement projects,  
weekend getaways,  
baked goods, playing fetch  
with our dog, and staying  
connected with old friends





## jay in Brent's words

**Jay is a breath of fresh air. The things that continue to amaze me about him is his pureness, curiosity, and willingness to learn.** Jay is deeply caring, supportive, and willing to go the extra mile for his loved ones. While life throws so many curveballs for everyone, it is my wish for folks that everyone has a Jay in their life.

# brent

in Jay's words

**Brent makes every moment better and brings joy to daily life. He is smart and hardworking, but what never ceases to impress me is how Brent considers the needs of others.** He is always looking for ways to celebrate and support those around him. In life, if you truly are the sum of the company you keep, we (especially me) are all better off for knowing Brent.



# our home

We bought our first (and dream) home in 2022. It was a fixer-upper with a lot of potential just waiting for our vision (and labor). We live in a very diverse area in Washington State and love the dual experience of the city and nature that exists blocks away from our front door. Our street is close knit and has an annual block party, where the many kids and families get together to catch up. **We especially love that amongst the many families on our block; several are themselves families grown by adoption.**





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## Meet Stout

We've mentioned it a few times, but we are the happy parents to a very special 4-year-old Doberman mix named Stout. He's great with kids and a real blessing in our lives.



# meet our families

**Brent's Family:** Brent has a close family who just happen to live far apart! While Meemoms (Brent's mom) and Papi (Brent's Dad) already have a few grandchildren, everyone in the family is excited about the possibility of adding a new member to the family. Brent's parents live in Florida and love the idea of adventuring to Disney World once the kiddo is old enough to enjoy it. **Brent's family likes to get together annually on a holiday to cook great meals, play card games, and reminisce over family photo albums.** Brent's older sister is a nurse with two kids on the east coast, and Brent's younger brother is a proud-dog dad living in a Midwestern city.

**Jay's Family:** Jay's family also makes sure to stay close despite being split between the Midwest and the Northwest. **We talk at least once a week and are always looking for excuses to visit each other.** Jay's parents are particularly excited to spoil their first grandchild and are already planning frequent visits now that they are retired. Jay's older sister is a Spanish teacher also located in the Northwest and is both active in her church community and passionate about creating supportive relationships with her students. Jay's younger brother will soon be graduating with a degree in occupational safety and shares Jay's love of the outdoors.

Both our families will welcome our new  
son or daughter with open arms.





in our  
**family...**



We lead with curiosity, knowing that the best way to explore the wonders of the world around us is to do so humbly and open to new experiences which help us live in joy and authenticity.



We believe family is a combination of biology (where you came from) and biography (your lived experiences).



We value open communication, even when topics are tough or tricky to manage, we believe that leading with curiosity and openness is the best way to stay together.

# before you go

## we want you to know

We want to thank you for your curiosity and care in getting to know us. We know this must be a huge decision to consider, so thank you for contemplating what your child's future could look like with us.

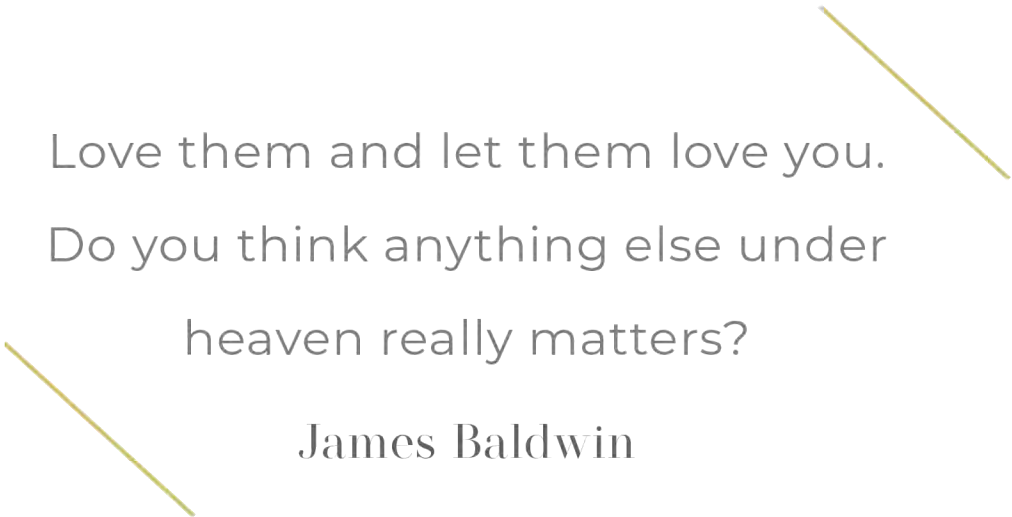
### **IF YOU CHOOSE US WE COMMIT TO:**

- Providing your child with a warm, stable, and loving home.
- Honoring and celebrating your child's ancestry as well as celebrating the stories they make everyday living their life with us.
- Helping your child explore the world around them with love and care.
- Supporting meaningful and sustainable levels of contact. We're open to working on what that looks like for both you and your child throughout their life.

**We know this is a challenging moment, and we want you to know that we support you in deciding what you want for your child. We believe there are no right or wrong decisions in life, we merely look at the information we have and make the best choice we can.** Our hope for you is whatever the ultimate decision you arrive at regarding your child, you feel you made the best decision with the information you had.

*Wishing you light, love, and peace..*

*Brent and Jay (+Stout)*



Love them and let them love you.  
Do you think anything else under  
heaven really matters?

James Baldwin

