BRIAN & ERICA

HELLO!

We are Erica and Brian from Minnesota.

Thank you for taking the time to consider us as parents for your child.

WELCOME INTO A GLIMPSE *of our life*

What you are navigating requires a kind of love and selflessness that humbles us deeply. We are genuinely touched that you're considering us, and we don't take that lightly for even a second. Wherever your road takes you, our hearts are with you fully.

Your sacrifice is a gift that we will treasure forever, and we promise to raise your child knowing the strength, bravery, and love that brought them into our family.

HOW WE MET: We met in 2004 at a college church event. Brian was playing guitar and singing in the band and Erica was helping with audio-visuals. We knew almost immediately that we had found our lifelong partners! Brian was attracted to Erica's cuteness and kindness. She has a gentle, calming personality that people are drawn to. Erica loved that Brian was kind, funny, and musical. We got engaged in 2008 and married in 2009. Since meeting over two decades ago, we continue to learn more about each other every day and grow deeper in love, all while keeping our early traditions like visiting our favorite dive restaurants and taking annual road trips to the places we went when we first started dating!

WHY ADOPTION?

After years of infertility, we welcomed our daughter, Peyton, in 2019. While we have continued to experience infertility and have not been successful in growing our family further, we have an abundance of love still to give. We both cherished growing up with siblings and value the lifelong support system those relationships provide. We have always dreamed of a home where our children will have each other to play with, learn from, and support throughout their lives. A child entering our home will be deeply cherished in a family already filled with so much warmth and love.

VALUES THAT WE WILL TEACH OUR CHILDREN

- Eat healthy and be active
- Be a compassionate person
- Explore the world and ask questions
- Never stop learning, even as an adult
- You are loved unconditionally and to love unconditionally

Rocky Mountains

MEET ERICA

FACTS ABOUT ME

Occupation: Elementary School Math Teacher

Degree: Masters of Arts in Teaching; Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Siblings: One older brother & one older sister

Silly Obsession: I am obsessed with playing pickleball!

Hobbies/Interests: Taking walks in the neighborhood, traveling to new and familiar places, enjoying the arboretum, baking bagels and making waffles with our daughter, trying new coffee shops, playing piano and singing

Personality: Encouraging, kind-hearted, compassionate, supportive

Season: Fall
Color: Green
Vacation: La Jolla, CA
Musician: Sons of Serendip
Food: Pasta, Ramen, Pho
Candy: Matcha Kit Kat Bars

SOME of MY FAVORITES THINGS

Exercise: Pickleball, walking, tennis
Cartoon Character: Peppa Pig
Holiday: Thanksgiving
Time of Day: Morning
Ice Cream: Coffee
Sport: Pickleball

Peyton & Erica baking

Erica with pickleball friends

5 RANDOM FACTS ABOUT ME

ONE My first job was teaching tennis to little kids.
TWO I am a lefty and love the art of hand-lettering and calligraphy.
THREE I am a pickleball instructor, coaching new-to-pickleball enthusiasts.
FOUR I love napping. I can make it through the day with coffee, but we joke that I still have not dropped my nap.
FIVE I am really into cars and grew up reading The Consumer Reports, especially the section where it reviewed cars based on reliability and performance.

MEET BRIAN

FACTS ABOUT ME

Occupation: Business owner in finance consulting

Degree: Masters of Business Administration; Bachelor of Science in Finance

Sibling: One older brother

Silly Obsession: I am very quirky when it comes to clothes- when I find a shirt/pants/shoes that I really like, I'll buy a few years supply of them!

Hobbies/Interests: Traveling, playing guitar, golfing, woodworking

Personality: Loyal, lifelong learner, logical, goofy

Color: Blue
Season: Fall
Candy: Kit Kat
Sport: Soccer & golf
Vacation: London & Paris
Ice Cream: Strawberry Chocolate

SOME of MY FAVORITES THINGS

Musician: Bruno Mars; Eric Clapton; BB King
Cartoon Character: Woody Woodpecker
Exercise: Soccer, biking, swimming
Food: Steak, Burgers, Ramen
Time of Day: Afternoon
Holiday: Christmas

Peyton & Brian in Paris

Brian coaching soccer

Building a playhouse

5 RANDOM FACTS ABOUT ME

ONE I learned to play the banjo in college and managed to win a talent show at my dorm!
TWO Soccer has always been a huge part of my life. I still play as often as I can and have coached for over 15 years. Being part of a team and watching players grow is amazing.
THREE One of my favorite ways to spend time is working on projects around the house. I'm pretty much always building or fixing something to make our home a little more comfortable.
FOUR I am a master marshmallow roaster and have spent many years and countless marshmallows perfecting the timing and rotation for the optimal texture!
FIVE I became an Eagle Scout when I was 17 and learned so much about perseverance, preparation, and surviving in the woods.

Brian talks about Erica

Erica is very kind and generous. I love that she has devoted her life and profession to teaching children; she uses those same skills to help our own children thrive. She balances my quirky tendencies - sometimes I can overthink things and she keeps me grounded! She is already an exceptional mother and so in tune with our daughter's feelings. She always shows up for our family and made the selfless decision to stay home for the first three years of Peyton's life, which allowed us to develop an incredibly close bond during those formative years.

Erica talks about Brian

Brian takes initiative to get things done and is always willing to help and support our family's dreams. He is committed, loyal, and takes time to understand people's feelings and perspectives. He is a fabulous father to Peyton and will undoubtedly love our future child with his whole heart. Recently, when Peyton had a hard morning with lots of tears, Brian surprised her with an "after school ice cream date" to give her a safe space to talk about why she was sad. Brian is always present, patient, and dedicated to our family!

TOP 5 THINGS WE HAVE ENJOYED ABOUT BEING PARENTS

- Our family is very artistic and we are always drawing and making projects together.
- The everyday moments - seeing our daughter learn new words, cooking together, and watching her grow and mature.
- Traveling as a family and discovering new places together for the first time is always magical. In particular, our 2-week trip to Europe in 2025 was incredible.
- Playing music together - We have both played guitar and piano for decades. Peyton loves to sing and is learning to play piano - making music together is a blast.
- Teaching our daughter new things - not just academically, but also how to do things like hammer a nail, ride a bike, doing puzzles, and working through conflict with friends.

meet PEYTON

I am excited about becoming a **BIG** SISTER.

Things that Peyton enjoys

- **Swimming, art, gymnastics, math**
- **Play dates with her friends**
- **Eating ice cream with Brian**
- **Baking with Erica**

Peyton is very kind, observant, and a good listener. She enjoys building Legos and learning in kindergarten and also at kid's church, where she has made sweet connections with peers. She works her world out through play. Her current favorite play time activity is "setting up birthday parties", where all the attendees are stuffed animals. She speaks very tenderly to the stuffies and ensures they are well cared for. She serves up play food, sets up activities, makes sure everyone line-up, and asks them to take turns. She loves repeating what she learns and observes at school. Peyton is excited to become a big sister and understands that every family is unique and special in how they are created.

Ice cream in London

Vacation in Paris

THINGS WE LOVE TO DO TOGETHER

Travel

Pickleball

Golf

Walking

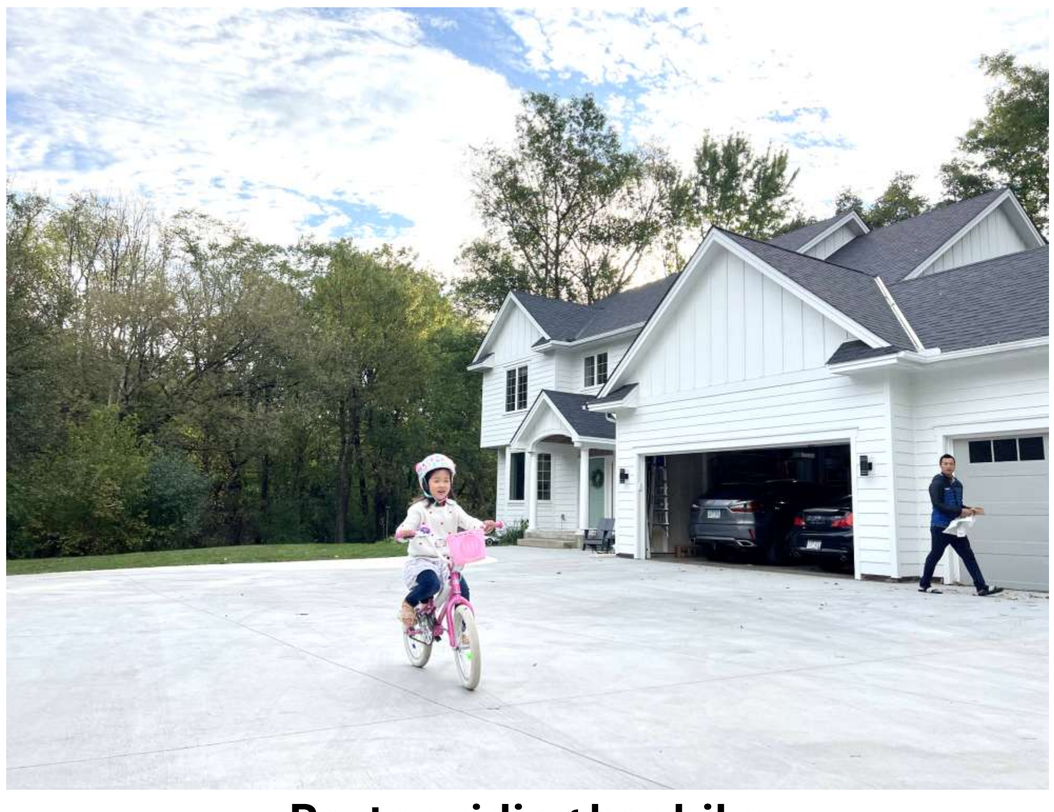
We love to try new restaurants and eat at familiar ones. We love to go swimming, sledding, and join in on play dates with our daughter's friends.

WHERE WE LIVE

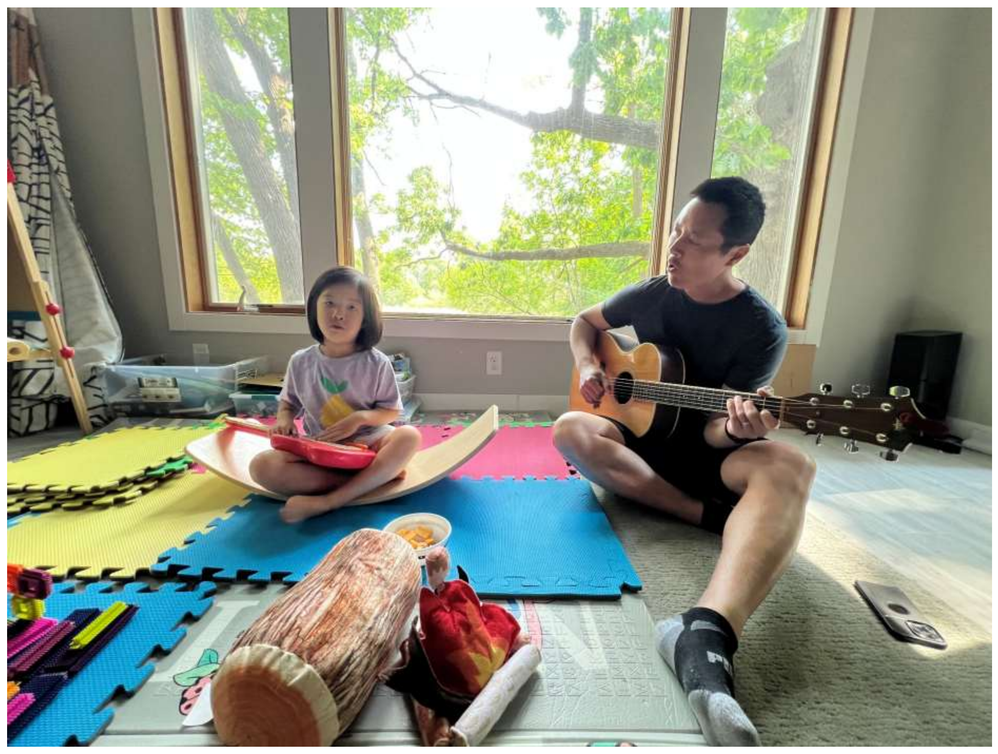
We live in a suburb of Minneapolis on a quiet cul-de-sac that we moved into in 2024. Our neighbors are extremely kind and we talk with them daily. Our home sits on just under an acre of land carved into one of the most picturesque settings. We wake up every morning and pinch ourselves that we get to live here! We are on the tail end of two full years of remodeling to make this our forever home.

Our school district is consistently ranked as the top district in Minnesota and one of the best in the country. It offers tremendous educational opportunities, which is one of the main reasons we moved here before Peyton entered grade school.

We live close to several parks as well as the largest recreational lake and bike trail system in the area. Staying healthy and active is very important to us and we are always walking, biking, or playing/swimming/working out at the nearby Lifetime Fitness. We are close to the Minnesota Children's Museum and Minnesota Zoo (both of which we are members of), the Mall of America, and countless bike trails and other kid friendly amenities. We could go on, but we feel so lucky to be in one of the most incredible and accessible areas to raise a family.



Peyton riding her bike

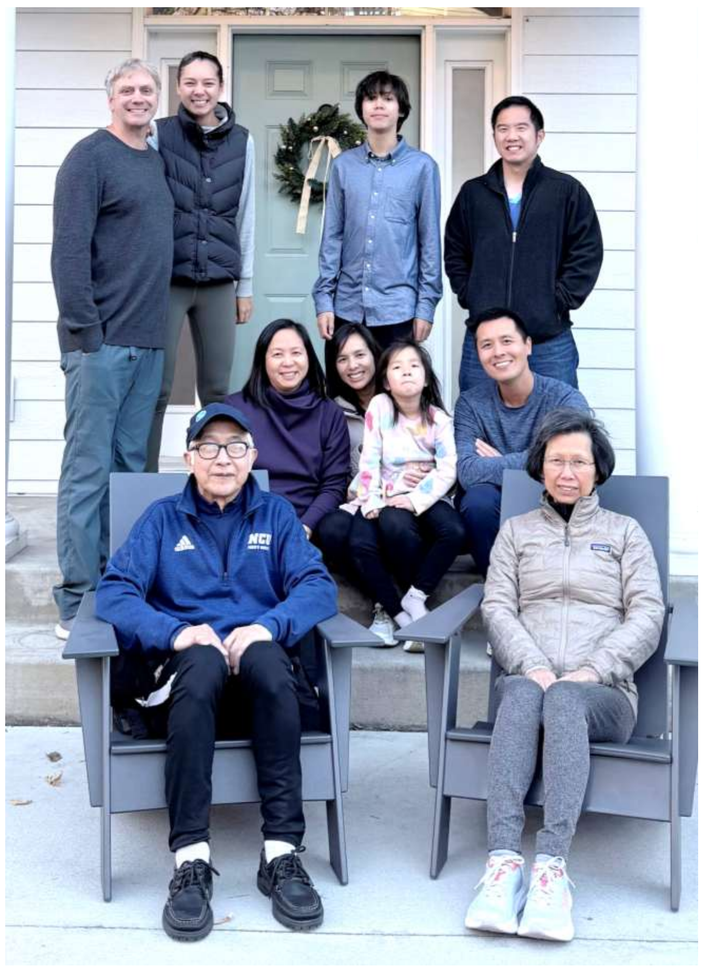


Peyton & Brian playing the guitar in our basement

OUR FAMILIES

ERICA'S family

I grew up in a close-knit family of five in a suburb of Minnesota. We all currently live within 30 miles of each other and are grateful to celebrate holidays and birthdays together. My parents have been married for over 50 years and are wonderful grandparents to their three grandchildren. My closest friend is my sister, and my brother is my second closest friend. I can rely on my sister to answer my call for anything, at any time - as an older sister, as an aunt to Peyton, and as an advocate.



BRIAN'S family

I grew up in a suburb of Minnesota with my parents and older brother. I was very close to my older brother as well as my maternal grandma, who lived with us for much of my childhood. My grandma was my favorite person growing up. Both my parents worked so my grandma took care of me when I was a child, but our roles reversed when I was in high school and got my license. Up until her passing when I was 25, I would see her once a week to have dinner and go grocery shopping together. My parents and brother's family live close by and we see them often.

THE KIND OF PARENTS WE WILL BE

Our parenting is rooted in unconditional love and creating a deep connection with our children. We recognize that every child is unique and our most important job is to know them deeply so we can meet their physical, social, and emotional needs. Spending time with them to develop a meaningful, trusting relationship is the foundation of everything we do.

Our goal is to allow our children to experience as much of the world as possible to see what resonates with them, encouraging them to become the best versions of themselves. We hold education in high regard while recognizing that each child learns on their own timeline. Our promise is to create the best possible environment for them to grow, learn, and thrive.

WE PROMISE THAT OUR CHILD WILL...

- Laugh often
- Be loved unconditionally
- Become a kind and responsible human
- Be provided for generously and without reservation
- Develop their sense of value, pride, and voice from a young age

THANK YOU

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT YOU'VE TAKEN

THE TIME TO READ *our profile*

Thank you for considering us to raise your child. We would love to meet you and hear your story, and also tell you ours. We deeply admire your courage and the love you have for your baby.

We promise to provide a life of unconditional love and the joy of growing up with the best big sister! We promise to love them with all our hearts, guide them with patience, and celebrate the unique person they are. We will fill our home with laughter, adventures, and special moments, and we will always honor the gift and trust you've given us.

We are full of so many emotions growing our family through adoption, but the most overwhelming is gratitude. They will know how incredibly loved they are by their biological parents, and they will know that your love brought them to us.

Sincerely,
Erica and Brian