

# JIM + LORI

(COOPER, ELLYANA, & JOEY, TOO!)





## Dear Birthparent,

I have tears in my eyes as I try and sit down to write this letter to you. I close my eyes and I can't imagine what today must feel like reading through profiles. I want to reach out and hug you right now and tell you how incredibly brave you are. I admire your strength and your sacrificial love to make an adoption plan for you and your precious child.

As a mom of faith, I want you to know that I have been praying for you. I pray that you will know in your heart the family that is best for you and your precious child. Regardless of any decisions you make moving forward please know you have nothing but love and support from our family. I hope this book provides a little glimpse of who we are and I hope that we get the honor of meeting you.

Prior to having any biological children, Jim and I shared a strong desire to be adoptive parents. Every year, that longing has only grown deeper. We believe that God has been preparing us for adoption all along--by building our marriage, refining our parenting, and growing our community. Our desire to adopt stems from our genuine love for children.

We are not perfect parents. But we promise to be transparent and humble. We promise to create an environment of honesty, grace, and tons of forgiveness. Just this morning, our oldest son dropped a whole gallon of milk spilling it onto his brother and without missing a beat our youngest said, "It's ok, accidents happen!" If you could spend a day in our home, you would see that we have so

many phrases like this. Helping clean up, you will hear "teamwork makes the dreamwork." When arguments happen, you will hear "slow down, take a deep breath." In times of frustration, you will hear "can we redo that?" When opinions differ, you will hear "let's think the best of others and remember our words matter." **More than anything, you will see parents that are present and that deeply care about the hearts of their children.**

If you choose our family to raise your child, your child will be forever seen as a blessing and cherished every day. We promise to love, support, and come alongside you as much or as little as you desire. When your child grows up and leaves our home, we want them to have a strong sense of their identity and to know they are deeply valued. We want them to experience the peace of knowing they are incredibly worthy and loved. We want to equip them to face difficult tasks and circumstances and to reassure them that we will always be there for them. If your child delights in a subject or skill, we want to recognize these gifts and help them to pursue these desires with joy and thankfulness in how they were created.

There are so many other things I want you to know about us, but I know that will come with time. As you look through our book, and consider us as the family for your precious child, **I want you to remember that you are and always will be a HERO in my heart and the HERO of your child's story.**

Much love, Lori

## Dear Birthparent,

Thank you for considering our family to raise your precious child. I am so humbled by your courage and strength in taking this difficult step. I cannot even begin to imagine how this feels for you right now and am humbled to even be considered as an option. **I want you to know that should you choose our family, it is our true desire that you feel loved, and supported throughout this entire journey (not just in the beginning stages).** We promise to respect you and whatever level of openness and contact that you wish to have with your child. Should you desire an open relationship, we would be honored to support that relationship with you and your child to the best of our ability.

As you continue looking through our profile book, my hope is that our photos are worth a thousand words, and you can better understand who we are as a family. All in all, we are not perfect by any means, but we are a family that likes to acknowledge our imperfections and ask for forgiveness and grace when we mess up. We are also a family that loves having dance parties & wrestling matches, we love to go on adventures, we love to celebrate each other's gifts and talents, we love to eat yummy food and play tons of games together. Above all we are a family that loves, values, and respects each other and we cherish the time that we get with one another.

As a father and a husband, it is one of my greatest desires to protect the people around me and to be there for them when things don't go as planned. I take this role very seriously and should you choose our family, I promise to do everything in my power to protect and support your child as well. Being a daddy has brought so much joy to my life. I absolutely delight in every moment I get to spend with my kids. I am so thankful to be walking through this parenthood journey with Lori as we raise our kids together. She is an amazing woman and a fantastic teammate. Lori and I believe it is our responsibility to raise well rounded children who are prepared to navigate the ins and outs of not only their formative years, but also equipping them with the skills and tools to enter the real world as functioning adults.

We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to learn about our family and would absolutely love to meet and get to know you! **And no matter what decision you choose, we are praying for you and your child with the faith that God's goodness and light can be found in the toughest circumstances.**

With love, Jim



### FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS:

JOYFUL + FUN

INCLUSIVE

FORGIVING

PATIENT

ADVENTUROUS

GENEROUS

PRESENT

ACTIVE

HUMBLE

WELCOMING

## our STORY

We met 16 years ago waiting tables together at a steakhouse in Charleston, SC. Jim was a few years out from his service in the Air Force and was also working full-time as a private investigator. Lori had secured a new teaching job and chose to work at the restaurant in the interim. Jim states that it was love at first sight when he met Lori. He convinced the manager to change her training schedule so that she could work with him for the first few weeks. Lori felt safe and deeply cared for and she was initially attracted to the way Jim loved other people and was able to relate to everyone, regardless of their age or background. Jim fell in love with Lori's bubbly and fun personality and her heart for others. Our very first Valentine's Day together, Jim surprised Lori by taking her skydiving. This theme of adventure, openness, and trying new things together has only grown stronger over the years.

In the fall of 2011, we were married and Jim received a big promotion to Seattle, WA. We could not be more thankful to God for this unique opportunity. Through the stresses of building a new business, getting rooted in a new community, and growing a family we have prioritized working together as a team. Strong communication and setting boundaries to protect our family time together is our strength. We sharpen each other daily with sacrificial love, truth, and grace. Navigating the most difficult seasons of our marriage, including the loss of each of our fathers, has only deepened our unity and faith. We desire to make the most out of every day, to meet others in their pain, to grow in our understanding of who we are in Christ, to dream big, to have a lot of fun, and to live with great purpose.

## our EVERYDAY LIFE

- We prioritize time with our kids and being together as a family.
- With Lori's degree in education, she is choosing to invest her gift of teaching at home. Homeschooling while our kids are young has allowed us to meet their individual needs and empower their unique strengths.
- Kids participate in sports and music weekly.
- Cooking and eating meals together are a normal rhythm.
- Evening time is a chance for us to read out loud, play board games, or have dance parties with our kids.
- We cherish our bedtime routine: songs, books, prayers, and snuggles.
- We thrive on relationships, hosting, and bringing people together!



"Lori is my absolute dream girl!!! She is such a good mommy and partner."

HI, I'M  
*Lori*

- I love dance parties
- I'm so grateful I am able to stay home with my kids
- I was born in Alaska
- Staying active is super important to me
- Coffee is always a priority
- Teaching is my passion
- I feel most alive and grateful when I'm in the mountains
- I love bright pink lipstick
- Jesus changed my life
- I really want to get another tattoo one day
- I love to PLAY and gather others to play too
- Quality time with people is my favorite
- I love a good book, the sun, and the beach
- Healthy competitions energize me



**WHAT JIM LOVES ABOUT LORI**

Lori is my absolute dream girl!!! She is such a good mommy and partner. She is silly, easy-going, adventurous, smart, nurturing and a fierce Momma Bear who will stop at nothing to protect her kids. She is genuinely empathetic, displaying a remarkable ability to connect with children, making them feel seen and secure in her presence.



hello, I'm  
**JIM**

- I love to dream and have big ideas
- I was born in Bern, Switzerland but grew up in Rutland, VT
- I am proud to have Served in United States Air Force
- Helping and empowering others brings me great joy
- I don't really have a sweet tooth, but pizza is my kryptonite
- I love to watch movies and play games
- My dream job would be a Treasure Hunter
- I am super competitive
- Halloween is my favorite holiday
- I love trying new things



**WHAT LORI LOVES ABOUT JIM**

Jim dreams BIG! He gets up early and stays up late to make those dreams a reality for all of us. He is a wonderful and attentive father. He never misses an opportunity to slow down, teach the kids, and care for their hearts. He is humble, kind, and full of grace. On any given day after work, you can find him cooking dinner, reading books, going to sporting events, jumping on trampolines or playing monopoly with his family. He delights in his kids. Jim places everyone's needs above his own. He has an unbelievable ability to meet people where they are and to listen, engage, and find a way to care for them. He never grows tired of doing the right thing. He is the anchor of our family, who leads well, serves constantly, and loves to have fun!





## COOPER AGE 10

Cooper is passionate, encouraging, and the life of the party. Not only is he full of joy and life, but he includes everyone in his excitement. Generosity and thoughtfulness rule his heart. He is a natural leader and he makes friends easily. He loves telling jokes, playing basketball, creating crazy comics, building legos, playing the drums, competing in jiu-jitsu, skiing, swimming, playing video games and going to church with his friends.



## ELLYANA AGE 8

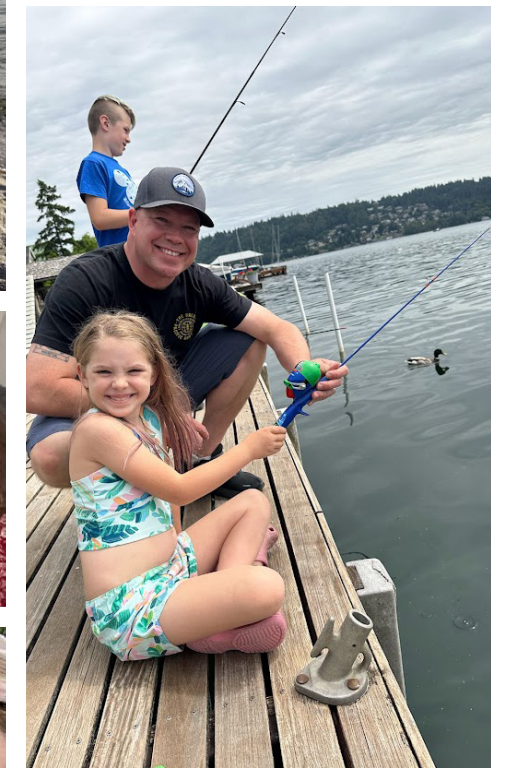
Elly is incredibly kind, nurturing, intelligent and fearless. Her ability to love everyone is truly a gift from God. She has a servant heart that is always in tune with others. Her balance of helpfulness and humor is beautiful. Her hugs are gold. She loves playing games, cooking and baking, puzzles, legos, painting, coloring, playing the piano, taking photos, reading with mommy, listening to music, singing, dancing, training in gymnastics and jiu-jitsu, swimming, and spending time with her family and friends.



## JOEY AGE 5

We refer to Joey as “the unit” because of his strong athletic build and his independent spirit. Joey is loyal, compassionate, and tons of fun. He is competitive, yet kind. Joey is emotionally mature beyond his age; he is always taking good care of his friends, family and doggies. His laugh lights up a room and his loving heart keep his friends and family waiting for him to return from preschool! He loves to help in the kitchen and wrestle with his Daddy and brother. He likes basketball, swimming, ping-pong, playing games, watching football and hockey, baking sweet treats, reading with mommy and daddy, having snowball fights, and singing to AC/DC.

# things we love...



- HAVING FUN
- HOSTING COMMUNITY DINNERS
- HIKING
- GOING TO THE MOVIES
- SKIING
- FAMILY DATE NIGHT AT LOCAL RESTAURANTS

- FISHING
- BIKE RIDING
- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AT THE YMCA
- VISITING OUR CABIN IN THE MOUNTAINS

- GOING TO THE SEATTLE KRACEN AND MARINERS GAMES
- MAKING/CREATING YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS GIFTS
- BOARD GAME NIGHTS
- SNUGGLES

# our family TRADITIONS



- Family themed Halloween Costumes
- Matching Christmas PJ's – we wear them to decorate our tree, watch Christmas movies, to visit Santa, and on Christmas!
- Polar Bear Plunge on New Years Day
- Go to a Local Christmas Tree Farm to cut down our own tree each year.
- Birthdays. They are a really BIG deal.
- Tent Camping every summer.
- Easter Egg dying
- Baking Cookies and delivering to neighbors
- A yearly trip to the state fair.
- Neighborhood Fall Festival.
- A special trip with Mom and Dad at age 10.
- Host a giant Valentine's party each year for the kids.
- Annual Great Wolf Lodge trip.
- Make Lori's Grandma's special homemade chicken popeye recipe with the kids. They love to help roll out the dough and cut the noodles.
- Serve the foster care community as a family through holiday drives, parents night out, and social work support.
- Annual Trips to the Beach.
- Creating our yearly reading chart and fun rewards!



## OUR HOME and neighborhood

In the spring of 2023, we sold our house and moved ten minutes north in order to give our kids more freedom and to promote relationships where they can grow and flourish. Now we live on a safe cul-de-sac, and our kids are known, valued, and deeply cared for by friends whom we respect and trust. **Our neighborhood community is rare and beautiful.**

Everyone in our community is excited to welcome a new child into all the fun! Neighborhood activities include playing basketball, street hockey, tag on the playground, feeding the chickens or the goats next door, movie and popcorn night, baking Christmas cookies, carpooling to sports practices, ping-pong tournaments, going on walks to downtown for donuts, and, of course, light saber battles at night!



### ALL ABOUT MICKEY AND BARRY (OUR PUPPIES!)

Barry is our sweet 11-year-old doggie. He is a mix between a pug and a Boston terrier. When he's not chasing his tennis ball, he loves to snuggle under a blanket with one of the kids.

Mickey is currently the youngest member of the family! He is a 1-year-old golden doodle and he thinks he is one of the kids. Mickey enjoys playing tug-o-war, fetch, and wrestling around with the boys. Mickey is playful, yet so gentle and attentive.

Mickey and Barry are friends with all the kids in the neighborhood. And we are lucky to have plenty of dog-sitters when we go on family trips and vacations.





# Our Families

We are grateful for our extended family. Although we wish our kids had more time with their grandfathers, we are thankful for each of our mom's and their incredible love and support to us and our kids.

Jim's mom lives in Florida and we usually visit with her about once a year. Lori's mom lives in

Lacey, WA and Lori's sister is in Port Orchard, WA so we are able to see them throughout the year.

We get together annually with all the cousins. Last summer, we spent two weeks in Alaska!

## Why we hope to adopt

We have had a heart to pursue adoption since prior to getting married. After having biological children our desire to adopt only grew stronger. We deeply understand the value of family and we are passionate about extending this gift to your precious child. **Our desire to adopt stems from a genuine love for children and a sincere wish to provide a nurturing and loving environment for your child.** Our children share in this excitement, expressing their eagerness daily to welcome a new sibling into our family.



## Things we Promise:

- To cherish and love your child.
- To honor your child's unique story.
- To provide a healthy home where forgiveness and humility and grace are modeled daily.
- To never forget your sacrificial love and bravery.
- To meet your child's needs physically, emotionally, and mentally.
- To provide an environment where your child is safe, loved, supported, cared for, and never alone.
- To respect your wishes for future communication and continued relationship, if desired.
- To do everything we can to ensure your child is able to thrive from childhood into adulthood.



# THANK YOU

FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO KNOW US BETTER!  
WE ARE PRAYING THAT YOU FIND THE RIGHT FAMILY  
FOR YOU AND YOUR PRECIOUS CHILD.



*Love,  
Lori + Jim*