

*Melinda  
& Sekou*







“

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends

***1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4-8***

”





# *Dear Expectant Mom,*

We hope that this process, while filled with its own set of challenges, is also one that gives you some hope, clarity and the peace of mind you deserve. It cannot be easy, but we pray that you'll have all you need to support your decision making. We are praying for you.

We hope what you experience in these next pages gives you a sense - even beyond the pages - of who we are, what's important to us and whether we'd be the right match for your child. This is a big step for us, too, so **please know that we are also walking this process one step at a time - by faith.** We'd be delighted to start a conversation to see if we might be the right match for each other.

In the meanwhile, we hope something here makes you smile and makes the process easier. Thanks for considering us to parent your child. It's a responsibility we don't take lightly. We'd be honored to hear from you at your convenience.

In Community,

*Melinda  
& Sekou*



# Our Story



We met at our home church, in New York City. We were both close friends with a couple in our church who played Matchmaker. Although it took some years and pretty extenuating circumstances – it worked! We dated for 4 years before marrying and this September 2023 we will celebrate our 10th Wedding Anniversary!

Our first date ...

*as told by Melinda!*

*I was living in Boston at the time, but on one of my weekends home in New York City, Sekou invited me to see a Broadway play. I remember I was running late, and anxious about missing the opening act, and more importantly, sending the wrong message by being late. Fortunately, I made it into the theater just before the lights went out – and Sekou's big smile when he saw me let me know I had indeed made the right impression! We walked around Times Square and had dinner at a seafood restaurant. It was a great first date.*







OUR  
***Favorite Memories***





AS TOLD BY SEKOU

# Meet Melinda!

Melinda is a woman of faith, a thought leader, an intellectual, a justice advocate, a visionary, a strategist, a creative, a pioneer, a mentor, a teacher, and a problem solver.

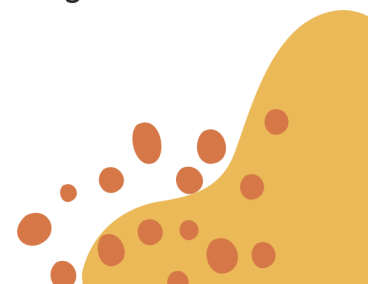


Melinda knows who she is, and works diligently to cultivate and deepen her sense of self whenever the opportunity presents itself. She possesses exceptional intelligence, values quality relationships and has a great sense of humor.

She cares about the well-being of people and supports those for whom she is in community with. She has high self-esteem and is very good about honoring the best version of herself which is evident in her decision making, choice of friends, faith commitments, and community service.

She is wise and emotionally intelligent. She is a leader of leaders, takes pride in being excellent, well accomplished, and yet she doesn't take herself too seriously.

Melinda lives with integrity, and she's intentional about building a legacy that will benefit black people for generations to come. She prioritizes family and her commitment to building a strong community is unmatched.





**Favorite Restaurant**

*Plant, in Asheville, NC.*

**Favorite Movie**

*Sylvie's Love*

**Favorite Song**

*I'll Write a Song for You  
by Earth Wind & Fire*

**Favorite Book**

*This Here Flesh  
by Cole Arthur Riley*

**MELINDA'S**  
*favorites*



AS TOLD BY MELINDA



# Meet Sekou!

Sekou is cool, calm and collected. He is a lover – of God, his life, his family and especially me! :-). Some of the things I love best about Sekou is that he is passionate, a man of integrity and is committed to being and becoming his best Self – even when it might be uncomfortable or unpopular.

**Sekou inspires.** He is wildly gifted – in his craft as an actor, but also as a minister, a friend and a mentor.

**Sekou's favorite pastimes...**

*flying kites and playing basketball any chance he gets.*

**It's important to...**

*maintain a healthy dose of nature and stillness.*

**Sekou is an authentic, caring and thoughtful man.** He loves a good sense of humor in others and is delighted by the simple things that matter most –, the company of genuine people, the beauty of God's creation, good food, humanizing storytelling and living a life that blesses other people's lives.





SEKOU'S  
*favorites*

**Favorite Restaurant**

*Plant in Asheville, NC*

**Favorite Movie**

*Love & Basketball*

**Favorite Song**

*Everything is Everything  
by Lauryn Hill*

**Favorite Book**

*In Pursuit of Purpose  
by Myles Monroe*





# Why adoption?

**We have the heart to parent, nourish, shape, and provide for a child, leaning on the many blessings we have received from our parents, community and throughout our lives.**

We weren't able to have biological children of our own by the time we were both ready and willing to have children.

We believe adoption can be a way God can use to bless us with the desire of our hearts, and be a blessing to the expectant parents and of course, to the child as well. **It is a way of extending, creating, and respecting the responsibility of what it means to make and maintain a family.**

Adoption means an intentional, consensual and sometimes legal agreement to make a family. **It acknowledges that biology is not the only way to make a family.** Sekou's Mom was adopted, and Melinda's aunt adopted many children over the course of her lifetime. Since the beginning of time, people have taken children "under their wings", or single elders have become "Grandmas" "Grandpas" "Aunties" and "Uncles" – even when there is no biological connection.









*We love...*  
ENJOYING THE  
BEAUTY OF  
NATURE  
*and*  
GROWING OUR  
FAITH











## FAVORITE HOLIDAYS

### *Sekou...*

My affinity for the Thanksgiving holiday lies in family and friends coming together for food, and fellowship.

### *Melinda...*

In recent years, I find myself looking forward to the stillness and contemplative season of Lent – especially as an antidote to the busyness of life.





## Melinda's Family

My family of origin is small but mighty. My parents and sister are now ancestors, but their children, grandchildren and great grands are intentional about staying connected as an extended family – celebrating and supporting each other through all of life's phases.



## Sekou's Family

My mother and father are both in Baltimore, MD, but divorced. My father has been remarried for over 25 years. I have a sister who is six years my junior. We are committed to trying to spend time together in some capacity, every year. We all regularly talk on the phone and support each other on special occasions or times of difficulty. Over the years we have all grown, evolved, and come to appreciate each other for who we each authentically are.

*We love the ocean, the mountains and taking in the beauty and wonder of Nature. Our dream vacation would include some time in Turks & Caicos, Greece and the South of France.*











# Our home

## Sweet home

**WE AIM TO MAKE OUR HOME A PLACE OF SANCTUARY FROM THE HARSH EDGES OF LIFE – WHERE WE NOURISH, SEE AND ENJOY EACH OTHER.**

We live in a middle class neighborhood that is culturally diverse. It's largely a quiet neighborhood with a broad range of ages. We live in very good proximity to supermarkets, restaurants, schools, and parks, including the Atlanta Beltline. It's a well kept neighborhood, with yards, neighbors who pride themselves in home upkeep, and the like. We are a reasonable distance from the interstate and can get to all of the city's events with relative ease.

We love to open our home to friends and family. For the last few years, we have started a tradition of hosting a "Game Night" at our house the Friday after Thanksgiving. Its a time for our families, friends, mentees, and members of our "Village" to gather, enjoy each other, eat leftovers and have lots of fun, laughter and enjoy each other in an intergenerational setting.





# This is us

## ***We are a vibrant, soulful, and dynamic couple!***

Often on Sundays, we are in church from late morning until early afternoon.

Afterward, we will go out to eat or go to some kind of event around town in the effort to relax and connect with minimal interruption. Sometimes we stay home and binge watch tv shows, cook, read, etc. **As much as possible we try to make our Sundays a day of rest and connection after a busy week.**

We are rooted in our faith, community and live lives of purpose and service. Our marriage is solid, and the foundation of our family unit. We will share these blessings with, and be blessed by, any children we have the honor to parent.





## PAIRTREE PERSONALITY PROFILES



MELINDA IS A

# Sage

The Sage values wisdom and continuous learning. Committed to gain deeper insight and constantly building on their expertise.

Information fuels them. Excellent at research. Often serving as a thoughtful mentor or advisor, and happy to share their point of view. Almost everything they experience becomes a life lesson, as they're able to identify the obscure meanings behind every event in their lives.

SEKOU IS A

# Neighbor

The Neighbor is the friend you want. Seeks connections and belonging. Supportive, faithful and down-to-earth. Can talk to anyone—one of their most distinct qualities. Neighbors are rooted in an underlying value that everyone matters. They are the building blocks of the world who restore our faith in humanity.





***Before  
you go,  
we want you  
to know...***



One of our desires is to cultivate the innate talent/gifts of our child and eventually support them in pursuit of their dreams/goals as they embark on independence. We will expose our child to potential vocational options and employ our resources and relationships to ensure they have the best possible chance to thrive.



Our goal is to raise a child with a strong sense of self and teach them, to the best of our ability, how to obtain and maintain mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well being.



Our aim is to be a consistent presence in every phase of life for our child; so much so that it mitigates the pursuit of relationships and things that are otherwise harmful.

***Melinda & Sekou***





THIS IS  
**Who we are**





