



Karina



Hello!

Thank you for taking the time to look over our family profile. I can only imagine that this is a challenging time for you and your choice is a delicate and complex one. Regardless of where life takes you and your child, I sincerely and warmly wish you both the best of luck.

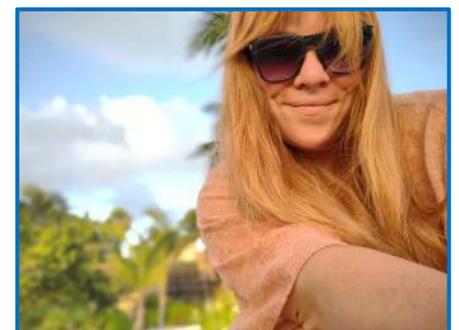


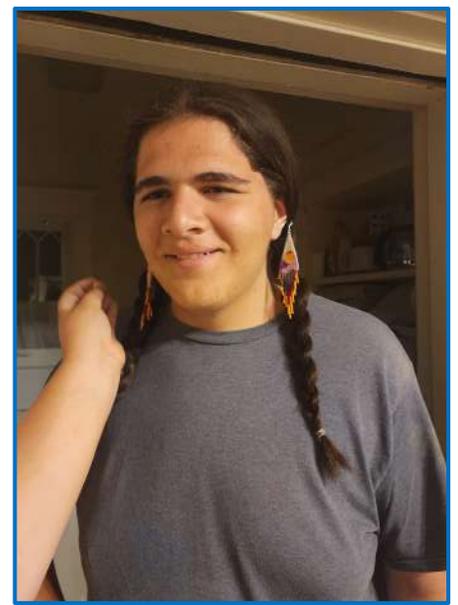
About me:

I grew up between **California**, **Mexico**, and a few other places in the world. I am **ambitious** and **curious** and I love to challenge myself by learning new skills.

I have **many hobbies**, mostly **creative**, including singing, making jewelry, ceramics, interior design, and photography. I went to school for **Psychology**, spending my time focusing on **child development** with an emphasis on racial identity development and gender identity development.

I graduated from a top 20 law school and currently work in civil rights and immigration, but my passion is **making art**, spending time with **friends** and **family**, and **being outdoors**. I love to travel and take my 2 kids on all kinds of **crazy adventures**.





Lucca

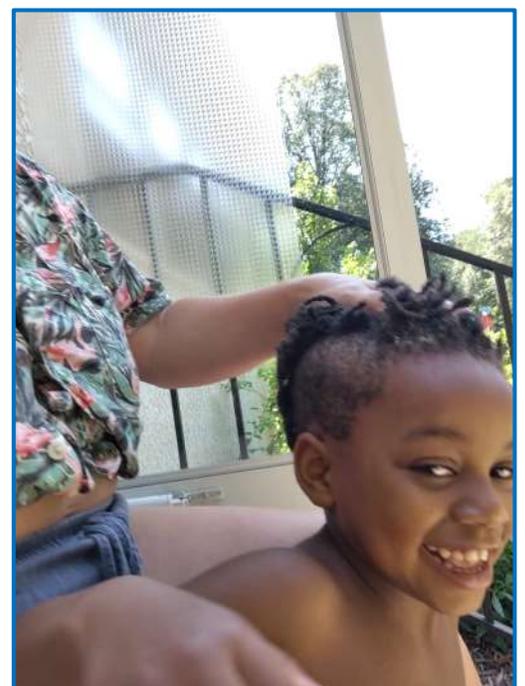
A little about my family:

I live with my two boys, Lucca (16) and Otis (8). They are both **wonderful** in very distinct ways. Lucca is incredibly **kind, thoughtful, and witty**. Otis is **charming, curious, and intelligent**. They are each alike and different from me, and I couldn't **love** them more.

I take parenting very seriously, but I also am a very weird goofball, constantly trying to get a laugh out of the kids. We are always laughing and teasing each other. I also make it a priority that they get plenty of verbal affirmation as well as hugs and kisses, so they know they are **important, special, and very well-loved**.



Otis





In my spare time...

I play games with my kids, we cook and eat together, I make art, garden, and I build things around the house.

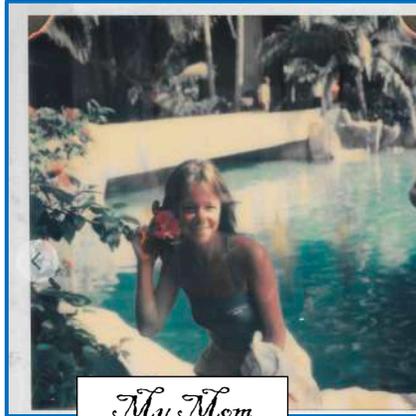
I own several properties and I enjoy doing the repairs and additions myself. It is one of those fun skills I like to learn. I am also an **entrepreneur**, owning buildings and a bar in California, which keeps me busy when I am not working, making things, or spending time with the family.



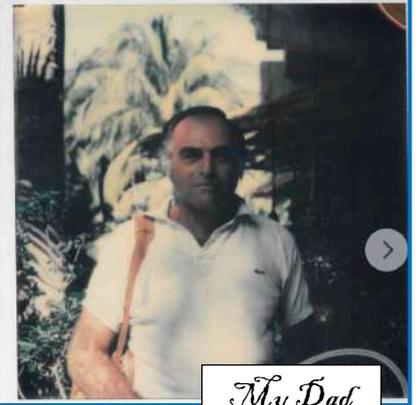
Family

My boys are my life. As you can see from my profile, I have many, **many** hobbies and interests—but my biggest passion is **my children**. I will always prioritize them because I specifically create the time and energy to do so.

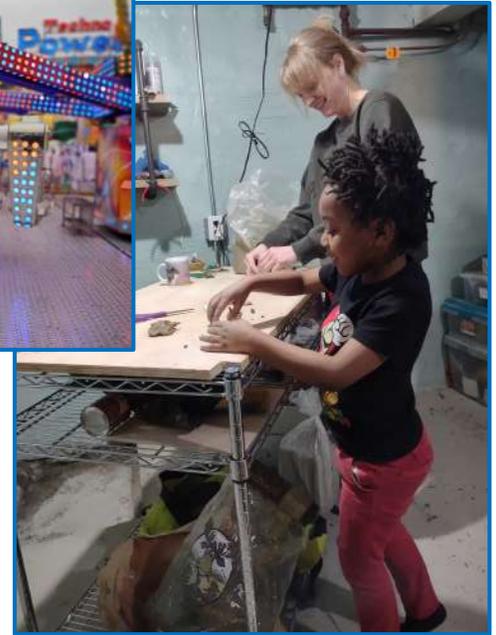
In our home, it is important that the kids are able to express themselves without fear of judgment or anger. They are given plenty space to explore what kind of people they want to become, but I am also always there, gently guiding them and making myself available for advice, **support**, or simply listening. I am so proud of who they are becoming. I am so very eager to expand our family!



My Mom



My Dad



I am **so lucky** to have a huge support system of friends. My kids have around seven “aunties” who they have known their entire lives. I count these women as my sisters and have known some as long as 28 years. Their children have become my god children, nieces, and nephews. We **support** each other, give each other parenting advice, and vacation with our families together.

I often find myself thanking my lucky stars that have secured myself not just one best friend, but seven! All of our children are the real beneficiaries in this, as they will benefit from this **community** for generations.

Recently, I bought a 60-acre piece of land with a river running through its forests and meadows. We are beginning to build tiny homes so we can spend summers together and so that the land can serve as a resting place for us to retire.

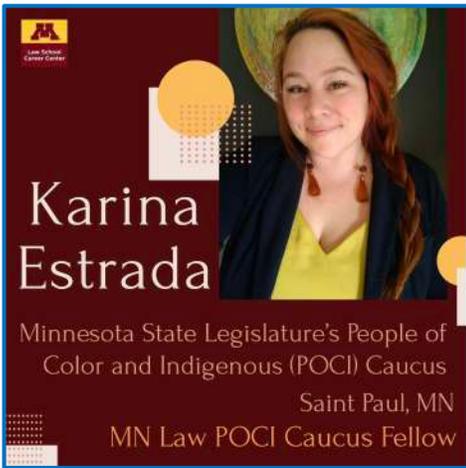


Traditions



We don't follow one organized religion, but we love to **celebrate** as many holidays as possible! Our family maintains a blend of traditions that incorporate the cultural values from each family members' heritage. These might include the solstices and equinoxes (from my Nordic ancestry), Dia de los Muertos (from my Mexican heritage), Children's Day (from Brazil-my elder son's heritage), Juneteenth (for all of us, but especially Otis), and Mardi Gras (Otis is of Creole descent).

I get really into making every holiday **special**, so I love **decorating** the house, **sewing** costumes myself, and **cooking**. Preparing and eating meals together is a special way to be close to my children, teach them important skills, and create vivid, lasting memories. I **love** any excuse to **celebrate** life and try to spread that **joy** to my children.



Why Adoption?

In my decision to grow my family, I have always prioritized adoption. Though I was happy to give birth to my eldest son when I was 23, I never had any particular deep drive to have biological children of my own. Even as a child, I knew I would adopt one day and have welcomed the nuances and challenges involved in the adoption of my son Otis. I am grateful that my family and friends have always accepted and included our adopted family members without hesitation.

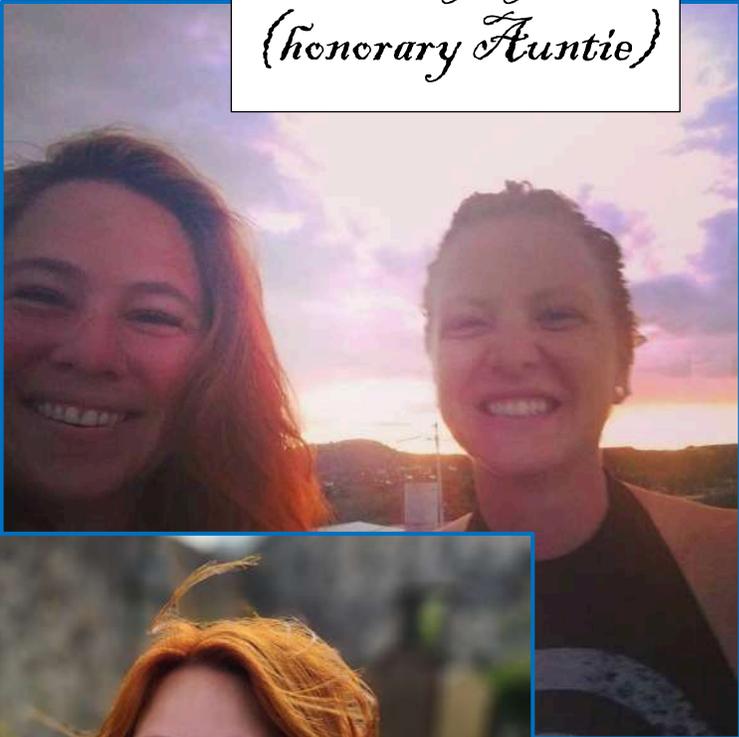
Otis is the only black member in our household. For this reason, I prioritize adopting a child who is also of color. I want Otis and our new child have someone to relate to about navigating this world while black with the added complexity of being raised by a white mother. Interracial adoption is a complicated issue that is different for everyone, and I have many opinions on the matter that I am happy to communicate in conversation, if asked.

Simply, I wish to leave this world better than when I came into. This idea motivates many things I do, including the way I build and raise my family and the path I chose to follow in my legal career. I will always stand up for what I believe is right and encourage my children to do the same.



Our Family

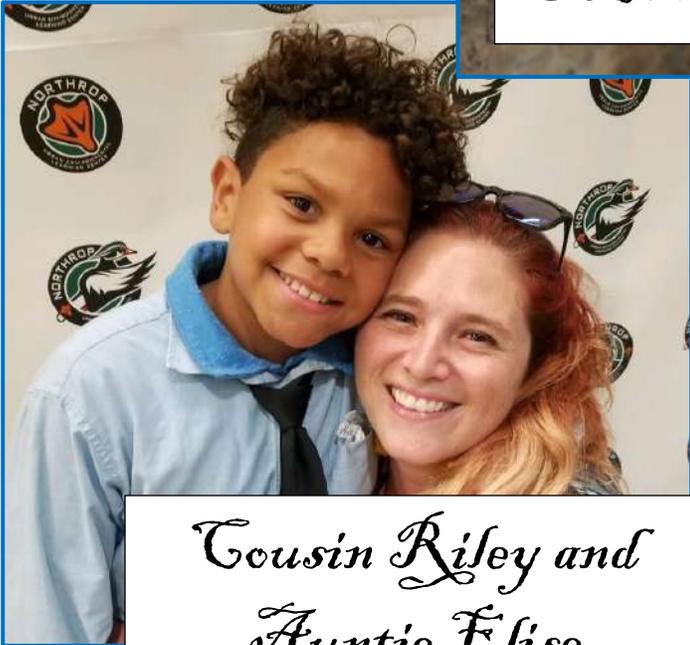
Hayley
(honorary Auntie)



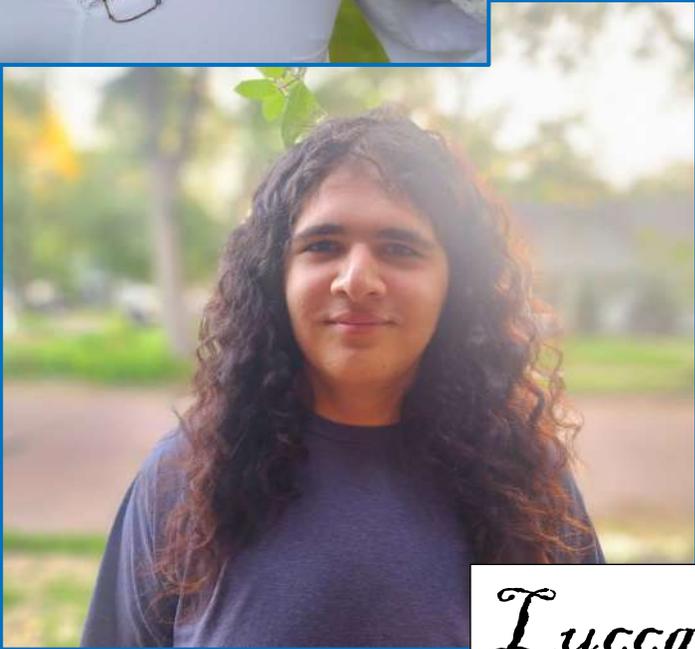
Otis



Me!



Cousin Riley and
Auntie Elise

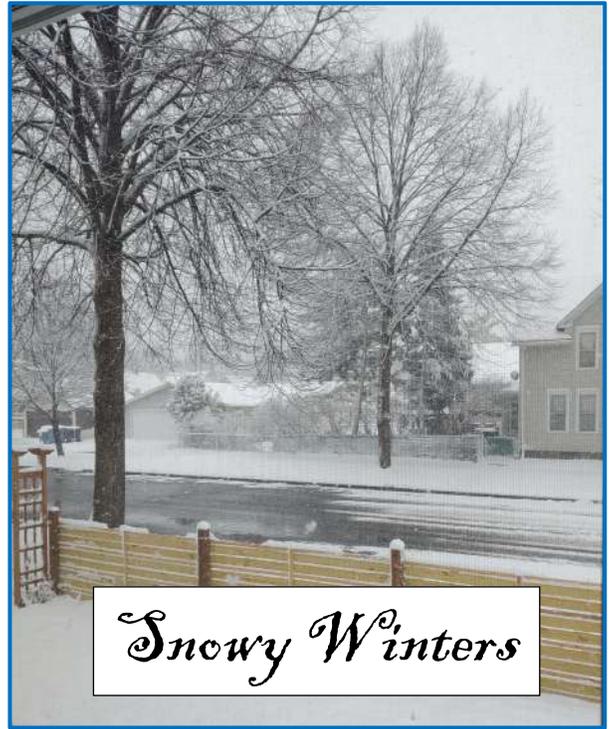


Lucca

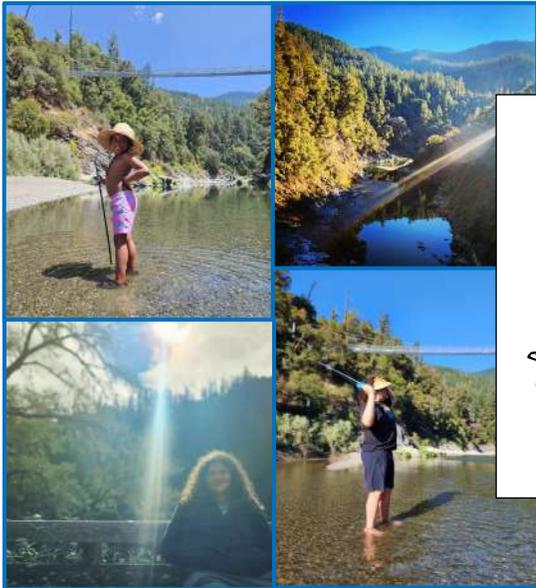
Our Home



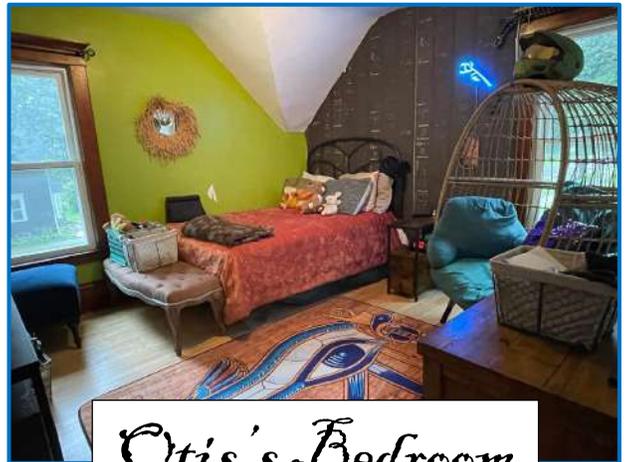
Our Dining Room where all the Celebrations happen!



Snowy Winters



Our River-Front Summer Home



Otis's Bedroom



My Bedroom



My Home Office for my Remote Work



Our Front Yard

Our Pets



August



Puma



Shadow



Little Witch



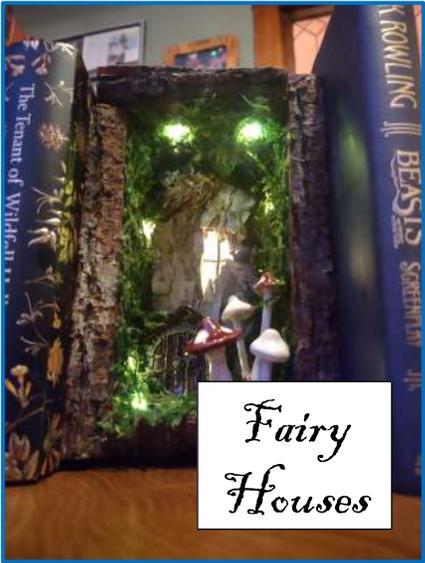
Fostering Cats and Kittens

Every Spring since I moved to Minnesota, I catch feral cats in the springtime near the railroad tracks by my house. People keep dumping them in a scrap yard behind an ice cream truck warehouse. I take them home, give them baths, get them shots, get them spayed or neutered, then the kids and I play with them until they are no longer afraid of people. Then I find them homes! Shadow (above) was the first mama cat I trapped; I ended up keeping her because she grew to like me ☺. It brings me great happiness to see the kittens transform from frightened, wary animals to purring, loveable pets.

My Hobbies



My Jewelry Website



Fairy Houses



A Handmade Altar



My Macrame, pottery, and décor on the wall



In the Zone



My Pottery Studio

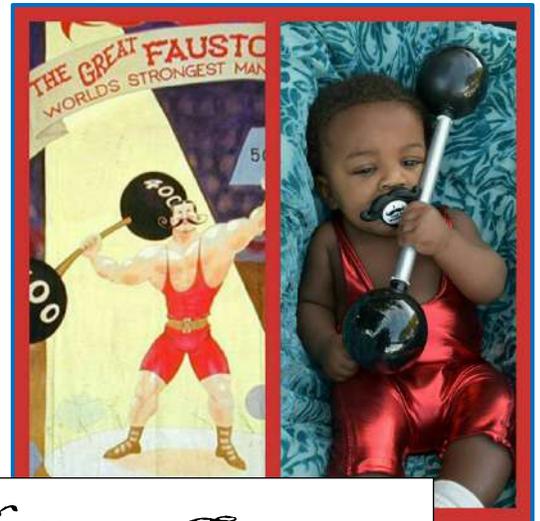


I Love to knit Crazy things each Winter

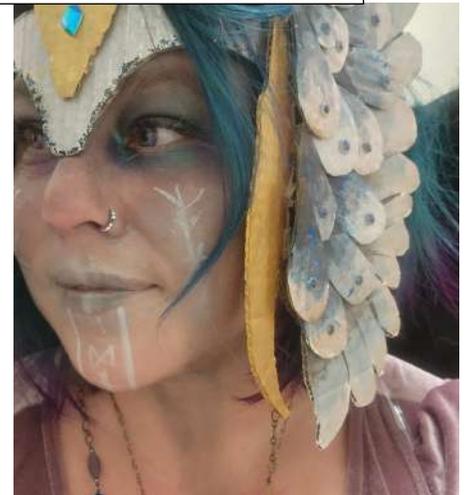
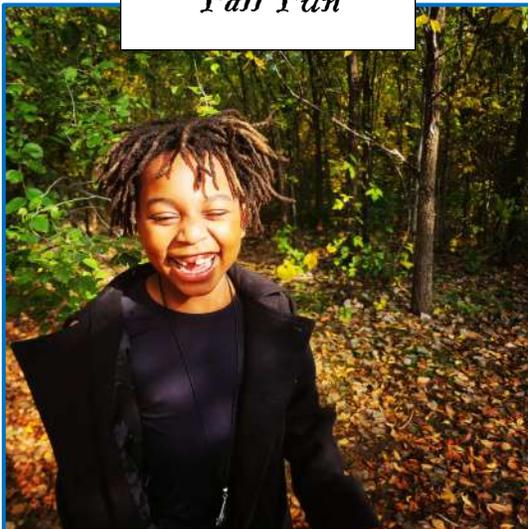


Doing a Pop-Up Art Show

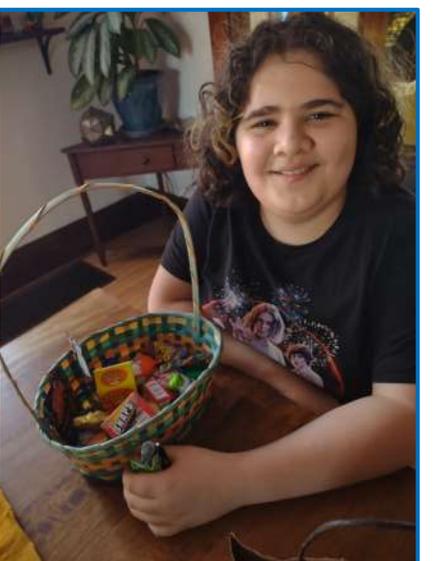
Holidays



Fall Fun

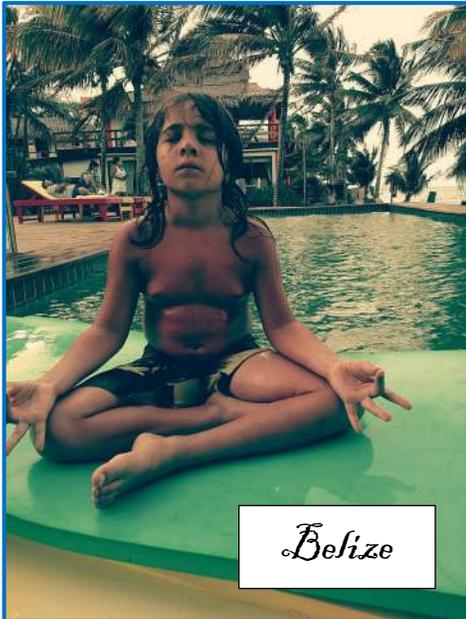


More Holidays

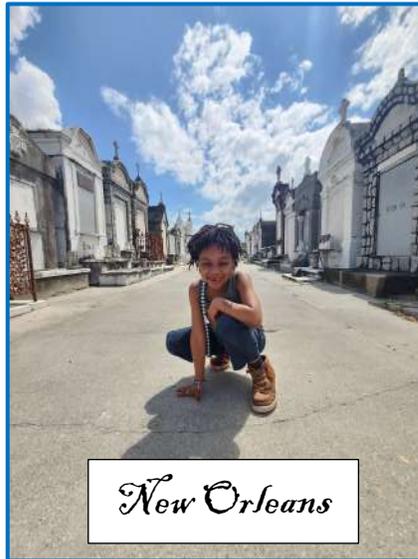


Travels

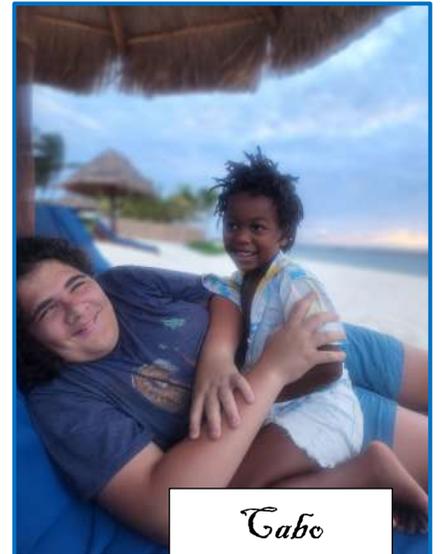
*A film festival in
Portugal
(we won!)*



Belize



New Orleans



*Cabo
San Lucas*



Cuba



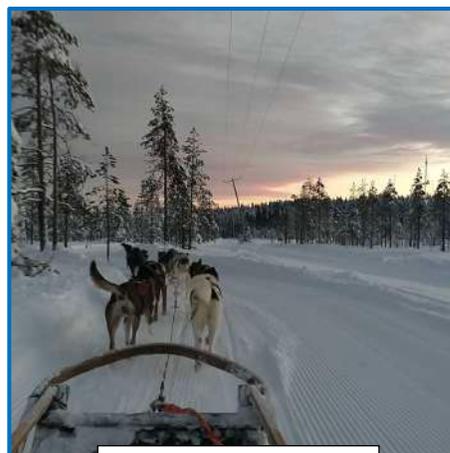
Iceland



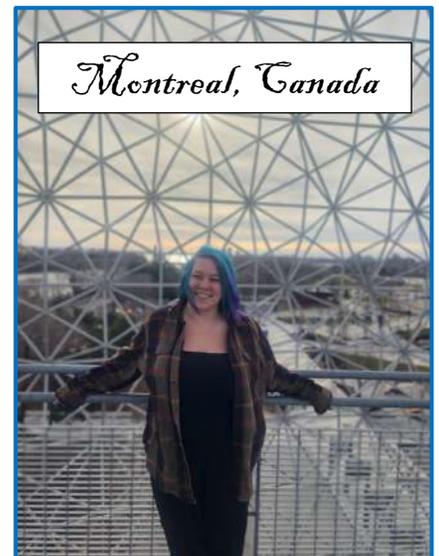
Ghana



*Seeing Harry
Potter in London*



*Dog Sledding
In Finland*



Montreal, Canada

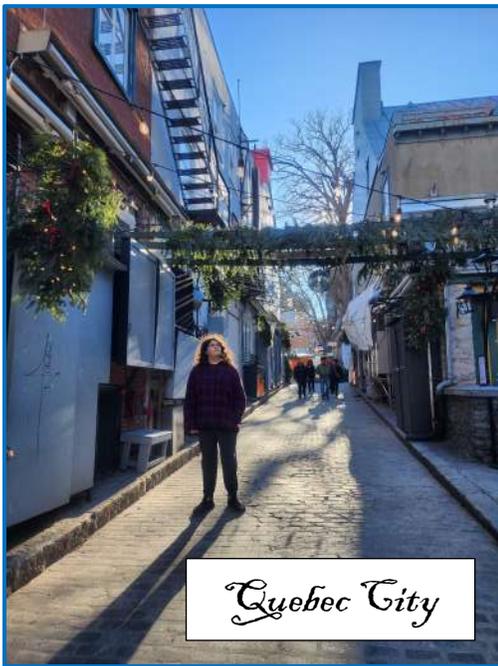
More Travel



Yucatan



Me and my Nerdy Sis Driving Through Ireland



Quebec City



Scotland
Group Trip



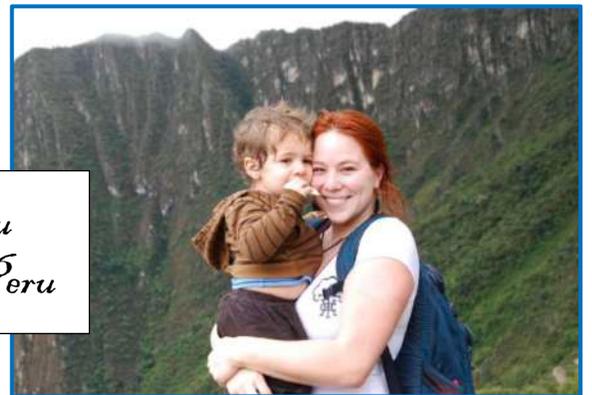
Puerto Rico



A Summer Living in
Dominican Republic



Machu
Picchu, Peru



Color Me Badd
photoshoot in
Iceland



Thank you!

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider our family. We hope all these notes and pictures have given you a feel for the fun, adventurous, loving family we are. We love life and are excited to add another family member.

We are here to answer any questions or meet you in person if you choose. We know this may be a challenging time for you, but we will always let your child know about your brave and loving heart that brought you to an adoption plan for them. You have our respect and love, and we hope you will find peace with whatever decision you make.

