



Gina & Tony
with
Julien, Penelope & Rhys



We Speak Conversational French, Spanish & Malayalam

Hello

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! We hope that by reading these pages, we'll give you enough insight into our lives to see who we are as individuals and parents.

For us, the adoption journey has been both a challenging and humbling experience. We can't imagine how difficult it might be for you as you consider adoption for your child. Speaking from experience, the best parents weigh all of their options and then make a decision based on what's right for their child. We believe, that is what you're in the process of doing right now. Regardless of what you decide, we consider you to be brave, strong, and a great mom, already. If we are given the honor of raising your most precious gift, your child will be cherished. They will be provided all the love, support, and stability they'll need to lead a wonderful life.

No matter where this journey takes you we wish you clarity, peace and happiness in your decision.



Who We Are



We are a multicultural family. Tony was born in India, his parents immigrating to Canada when he was a child. When Tony first brought Gina home and introduced her to his family, his mom cooked an amazing family dinner; preparing two versions of each dish. One, very spicy version, for Tony and the rest of his family; and the other, with less spice, just for Gina. Tony's mom wanted Gina to feel included during dinner, without it being too spicy for her. This simple, but inclusive act, set the tone for our relationship, with both cultures being not just accepted but equally considered and celebrated.

We feel strongly about doing what we can to help those in need. This summer, we took the kids to visit a Sea Turtle Rescue where they introduced us to injured turtles in various stages of rehabilitation. We learned this rescue was in need of funds so they can transport injured turtles via plane on short notice and pay for their emergency medical treatments. Understanding their needs, we let the kids pick out a bunch of items from the gift shop and signed up for monthly donations. We also encouraged our friends to check it out! We left feeling sad for the turtles who won't be able to return to the ocean but, ultimately, so impressed by their rescue operation and grateful to be able to help these ancient creatures in our own way as well!



Gina is a stay at home mom. Growing up, her dad's profession allowed him to have a flexible schedule so he was present at every single one of her volleyball matches. Senior year, her team beat a local rival that hadn't lost in five years. What she remembers most from that game is her dad jumping out of his seat and running onto the court to share in her excitement when they scored the winning point. She'll never forget that hug! Your child will know that someone will always be there, celebrating and rooting for them!

About Gina... by Tony



Gina has always been **creative**. She loves using her creativity to make gifts and throw parties for loved ones. She recently constructed a 7ft flower wall for a surprise baby shower. Because every flower had to be pinned, individually, it took over 3 weeks to complete! Danielle, the guest of honor, was absolutely floored when she saw it. She made everyone stand and take photos with the flowers as the backdrop and said it was one of the highlights of the party.



Gina always puts herself out there and **isn't afraid to fail or look silly**. When we were in Ireland, she volunteered to help a 4th generation sheep herder command his herding dogs during a demonstration. She couldn't whistle, and didn't speak Gaelic so, outside of it being absolutely hilarious & entertaining for the crowd, she was no help and failed miserably at the task! Even though she wasn't much help, Gina was so thankful for the experience that she high-fived everyone on her way back to her seat and we laughed about it for the next week straight! Your child will be taught 'not knowing' or failing isn't wrong, it's opportunity for growth. They'll be told to 'go for it!' and have fun every chance they get!



Gina grew up playing sports and leads a **very active** lifestyle. I came home the other day to find everyone (including the dog!) in the gym 'working out'. Gina was giving instructions to the kids, who were using child weights, while walking on the treadmill. Gina is the person that signs up for the 5K on Thanksgiving morning with the neighbor, and turns an entire bay of their garage into an at home gym!

About Tony... by Gina

Tony is **passionate about giving back**. Last year, he participated in a very unique and rewarding medical mission in Africa. A company who is charged with caring for the health of the local wild rhino population hosted a safari. They load up a vehicle with medical supplies, veterinarians, and a few tourists that fund the mission and head out into the dense bush to locate the rhinos. During the physical exam, because he is an ophthalmologist, they tasked Tony with helping the medical team by applying medical drops to the Rhino's eyes so they stayed lubricated. Tony was not only thrilled, but humbled to have a part in caring for such a majestic animal. Your child will learn love of self through doing good deeds for others.



Tony is **incredibly supportive**. He goes out of his way to make sure the kids' ideas come to fruition. In 2021, Penelope decided she wanted to be the 'CEO' of her own company. Tony guided Penelope through the entire process. They figured out what needed to be purchased, discussed cost, put together the stand, and then got up early and made fresh lemonade together the morning of! This has led to her hosting a VERY successful lemonade stand for 3 years running! For the last 2 years, Julien has also run his own baked goods stand alongside her. Their largest turnout, this past summer, was 90 people and they made over \$250!



Tony's great love, outside of his family, is **fishing**! One time, he was deep sea fishing in Mexico, and caught a 90 lbs Marlin. It took him about 25 minutes to bring it on board. Because we either throw back or eat what we catch, we brought the fish to a local restaurant and they cooked it for us. As a thank you for all of their help, we invited the entire boat crew to eat with us and enjoy the catch!



Our Story



We met at a Mexican restaurant in Austin, Texas. Gina was standing with her friends, waiting for a table when Tony arrived. As he walked in the front door, we made direct eye contact, and then Gina watched as Tony tripped over himself and knocked into the person in front of him. This was, of course, absolutely hilarious and embarrassing all in the same vain! It was also the perfect excuse to make introductions. Tony likes to say **he LITERALLY fell in love right there at the hostess stand!**

From the beginning, we bonded over our love of adventure and trying new things. Although it took us a bit to find a hobby we both love doing together that really stuck, the moment we went fly fishing we were absolutely hooked! One time, when Tony was trying to reel in a really big fish, he lost his balance and fell into the water. He stood back up and gained his bearings, absolutely soaking wet and fuming because the fish got away. Gina couldn't help it; she started laughing so hard that **she slipped on a rock and fell in right after him!**



Adoption is something that's been in our hearts from the very beginning of our relationship. As we've grown our family, this hasn't changed. Close friends of ours adopted a baby girl about 6 years ago. They have a great relationship with her birth mom, and have remained open through letters and yearly visits. They've been an inspiration to us by demonstrating, every day, that **love is thicker than blood**. It would be an absolute privilege to grow our family with you.

Penelope, Julien & Rhys

Our kids LOVE music. Their favorite bands are Imagine Dragons & Coldplay. Imagine Dragons is playing in Salt Lake City on our anniversary this year so instead of celebrating just the two of us, we're taking the kids to the show! We are currently designing a big sign we can hold up at the concert that says 'Our Cat's Name is Thunder!' since Thunder is one of the band's biggest hits, and coincidentally, the name of Penelope's cat. It will, of course, have a picture of him on it as well! Your child's interests will always be supported.



When we were planning our family, we kept going back to: **Is there anything better than a built in best friend?** When Tony moved from Canada to America for college, he really struggled. He was 20 years old and pretty much on his own in Houston. He still credits his brother, Terry, with getting him through the move. Terry texted Tony daily, sometimes just a quick check-in, giving him the opportunity to talk to someone and feel the connection to home he desperately needed. If Tony hadn't had his constant support, he would have, most likely, returned home after his first year.

Penelope, with the help of her brothers, drew this photo for your baby. **They're very excited to complete their 'Super Kids' foursome and teach your child everything they know!** One day, we were at an indoor play place, and a little girl was blocking Julien from playing in a particular part of the play space. Instead of coming to one of us, he immediately told Penelope what happened, who then went to find Rhys. They, as a unit, confronted her with Penelope in the lead. She told her that she "isn't the boss of the playground" and that her little brother can play wherever he wants.



Family

If you choose us, your child will grow up with 3 siblings, 4 Grandparents, 2 Aunts and 3 Uncles!



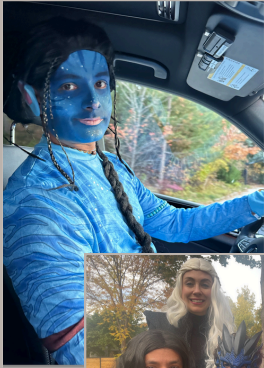
Our family **always shows up**, especially for the kids. Aunt Nicole and Uncle Nick gave Penelope Alligator teeth on one of our trips to Florida. When we returned to Boise, she excitedly brought them to school to show her friends. A boy in her class didn't believe they were real and said she was lying. Shocked by this accusation, Penelope immediately called Aunt Nicole for help. Within 5 days we had a 'Real Life Alligator Teeth' certificate in the mailbox, which looked shockingly government official and was signed by them both! The next day, Penelope brought her 'proof' to school and won everybody over! Your child will grow up with a family that shows up for them, regardless of how big or small their needs are.

Our family is **close by**. In fact, Gina's parents live **within walking distance** of our house. We feel so lucky to have them close by. One year, Gina ended up with the flu the night before the kid's Christmas concert at school. Although she was already planning on attending, Meemaw got there extra early so she could snag a front row seat, and brought everyone flowers and balloons to celebrate their performances. The kids were so excited by the fact that they could not only see her during the show, but that she had brought them gifts, they didn't think twice about Gina missing the performance (tears were only shed on her end!).



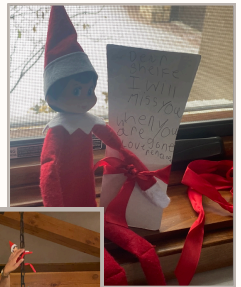
Our family is **playful and lighthearted**. Aunt Mackenzie, in particular, always has some silly new idea and keeps everyone laughing. Growing up, she was gifted a 'Boo basket' every year the week before Halloween. These baskets, filled with Halloween toys and candies, are left on the recipients front porch as a surprise. Last year, she decided to make them for our kids and, a week before Halloween, placed them on our porch. Unfortunately, not only had we never heard of a Boo basket before, but she forgot to tell us what she was doing! This led to us embarking on a completely unnecessary 2 day search of the neighborhood, looking for the 'owners' of these random Halloween gifts that had suddenly appeared in front of the house!

Traditions



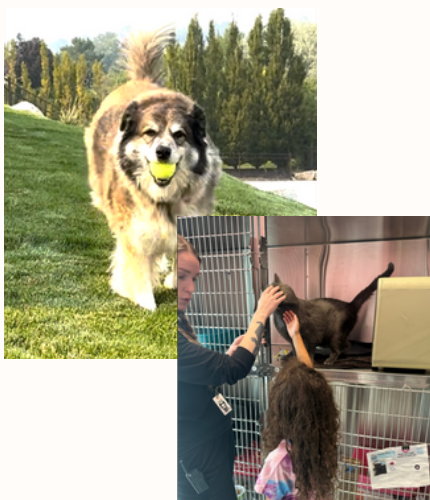
We're known for our annual family Halloween costumes! We've been everything from 'Hotel Transylvania' and 'Ghostbusters' to 'Avatar.' The best part about family costumes is that Tony almost ALWAYS ends up having to wear a wig! One year we went dressed as 'Game of Thrones' characters. Tony was Jon Snow, so he was sporting the most luscious, jet black locks! Initially, he felt a little weird walking around with his wig on, however, the moment we got down the street and **started trick or treating**, it was like **he turned into a celebrity!** We've never seen someone get so many high fives and compliments on their hair!

Our Elf on the Shelf's name is 'Shelfie.' Unlike most other homes, **Shelfie 'seems to forget' to go back to the North Pole at night** so she travels during the day, when the kids are at school (we cannot for the life of us remember to move her at night!). Thankfully, they think it's cool she's on her own schedule and isn't concerned with what the other Elves are doing! This past year, the kids were so upset about Shelfie going back to the North Pole that they wrote her letters to make sure she wouldn't forget them. We added them to the pile of artwork and report cards that will end up in a scrapbook! We look forward to bringing some of your favorite traditions into our family for your child.



We have **family game night every Tuesday**. Gina's parents think we're crazy because it gets very competitive, but we've created some of our favorite memories playing board games. One game night, we were playing Operation. Much to Tony's disappointment, Gina pulled 11 of 12 ailments in one go. From that day forward, the kids have not let him live it down. According to them, he is 'not good at games' and mom is 'the best in the world at all games.' Gina, obviously, brings this up every chance she can!

Our Pets



Gina grew up with animals, so when **we got married, we knew we'd have animals in our home**. When we lived in Austin, Gina was a volunteer foster coordinator for the Great Pyrenees Rescue Society. Lilith was brought into GPRS as a stray puppy, and became an instant foster fail at our house! With her fluffy hair, sharp mind & wild-woman ways, it was impossible not to keep her forever! Penelope rescued Thunder from the Humane Society last year. When we showed up at the Cattery, we told the volunteer we didn't care about the cat's age, sex, or coloring, they just **HAD to LOVE kids!** An hour later, Penelope walked out of there with her new best friend in tow. She was so excited that she cried in the car on the way home.

Thunder is 25 lbs and has **6 or 7 toes on almost every paw**, so his feet look like oven mitts. We still can't believe he only cost \$15 due to his 'old age.' To us, he's priceless and we feel lucky that he chose us! Lilith is a total goofball and sweetheart. She thinks she's a lap dog (she's not!) and loves to give kisses! It isn't rare to see the kids running in a circle with Lilith chasing close behind, trying to lick them.



Lilith is **in her element around children**. Tony had a gathering of about 40 people, including young kids and babies, one day at the house. By the end of it, everybody wanted to take Lilith home! She sat in the backyard and let the kids crawl all over her, enjoying their sticky hands and awkward hugs all afternoon!

Home



Our absolute favorite part of our Idaho home is our backyard. We spend countless hours there; grilling, watching movies, and throwing a ball to Lilith. One evening, Gina's cousin came over for dinner and Tony decided to grill brisket, which takes about 7-8 hours. He spent the entire day grilling; finally taking the meat off and wrapping it in tinfoil so it could sit. Around 30 minutes later, we all went outside to have dinner and realized **the brisket was missing!** By following a trail of aluminum foil we realized Lilith had taken it off the counter, and eaten the ENTIRE thing! We couldn't believe it. After getting over our initial shock, we ordered pizza and called it a night.

We love our neighbors, Mr. Brian and Ms. Linda, who are in their late 50s and constantly dote on the kids. One time, we went to their house to swim and have dinner, and **Julien ate every single mini tomato Miss Linda had in her garden!** Gina almost had a heart attack when she realized it! Thankfully, Linda couldn't have cared less. She was so happy someone enjoyed something from her garden, she sent him home with a basket full of vegetables!



We're extremely lucky to have a community pool within walking distance of our house. Rhys learned to swim here this summer. The first time he swam the width of the pool, **all of the neighbors** that happened to be present **cheered for him and jumped up and down** when he reached the side! He was so excited and proud! Your child will have a community of people celebrating their successes.

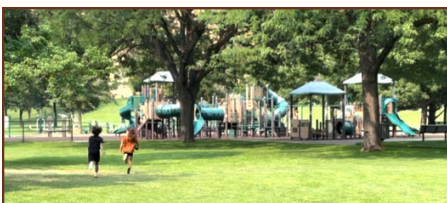


Neighborhood



We e-bike absolutely everywhere! We'll never forget, the first summer we moved to Boise, we decided to buy two e-bikes after trying out a friend's. We were riding down the hill into town and Penelope threw her arms up in the air and shouted "Woohoo! I love Boise!" After spending about three years visiting various states, looking for the best place to raise a family, that felt really great.

We live within walking distance of a cute street is filled with coffee shops, restaurants, and unique stores. One of our favorite shops is Goodys, the ice cream parlor. This is because last summer, Penelope discovered the banana split! Since that day, one of the kids always orders and attempts to finish the entire thing each time we go. **So far, we're not even close**, but it's really fun to watch the kids try!



We have a lot of amazing parks within walking distance of our house. Camel's Back park is one of the largest, with hiking trails, soccer fields and a huge playground available to the kids year round. When we came to visit Boise for the first time we stumbled upon this particular park and we remember sitting on a bench thinking to ourselves, **'This is where we want to be.'** Four short months later, we moved right down the street. Your child will grow up in a close-knit community, where they'll feel comfortable and free.

Community



Our absolute favorite community event is Trick or Treating on Harrison Street with around 6,000 trick or treaters every year! The street is lined with DJs & bands dressed up handing out king sized candy bars to the kids. Last year, there was a home owner dressed as **Michael Jackson, standing in his front lawn pretending to be a DJ** with 'Thriller' playing on repeat. We stood outside of his house for at least five minutes watching kids grab candy and dance on his front lawn!

We love the annual Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic! This year, we left the house around 6:50am and headed to the launch site on our e-bikes. We had a blanket with us and stopped for hot chocolate along the way. When we reached the park, **we were able to stand in the middle of about 30 hot air balloons**, watching as they inflated and took off into the air. Although it's an early morning, and every year we think to ourselves 'why do we agree to do anything this early in the morning!?' it's truly magical. We're always humbled by this experience, as it reminds us that we're just a small part of a vast and complex world. Your child will be taught to always remember where they came from, and to dream big.



We go **tubing every Sunday** with very close friends of ours. One time, while we were floating, we decided to pull off in a sandy section so the kids could swim. An adult, who was standing on the river bank, handed Rhys a stick and told him to throw it into the water so his dog could fetch. Unbelievably, Rhys hit someone's tube instead of the water and popped it! Thankfully, the person was very understanding and laughed it off. We ended up giving him one of our tubes, so he could continue the float down the river. Being down a tube, Julien rode the rest of the way on Tony's lap!

An Ordinary Day



Gina has been a **stay at home mom** for the last three years. She drives the kids to and from school, helps with homework, attends all school activities, and makes a healthy family dinner almost every evening. Last year, Julien was diagnosed with a mild sensory disorder. He goes to both speech and occupational therapy appointments once a week. Of course, they're scheduled mid-day, on different days of the week. Thankfully, Gina is home and able to get him whatever extra help he needs to be successful and happy.

Tony sold a chain of eye care clinics about three years ago. Now, he **works from home** managing our commercial real estate properties and investing. This means that, like Gina, he has a **flexible** schedule throughout the week and is free to attend any school events, sports games, or piano recitals! He wakes up early every Wednesday to make pancakes and take the kids to school. It's their favorite morning of the week! It was always our dream to have kids and be present.



When we pick the kids up from school, we ask the same three questions on the way home every day: **What was your favorite part of the day?** How were you kind or was someone kind to you? And, lastly, what mistake did you make and what did you learn from it? By asking these questions, the kids open up to us about what they have going on at school and whatever else happens to be on their minds. Recently, Rhys told us that he learned about the planet Mars at school. This led to a debate about the order of the planets, and whether they'd like to space travel or not when they're older. Later that evening, we watched a video about the planets together as a family. Your child will have meaningful, quality family time each and every day.

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. While we are excited and hopeful to add to our loving family, the difficulty of your journey is not far from our minds. If you choose us, we will love your child unconditionally. They will grow up with more people to rely on than they can count. They will also understand your love and your sacrifice.

We are committed to sharing the parts of you that you want your child to carry with them, always; and you will be spoken of with nothing short of the utmost respect and admiration in our home. **We are happy to follow your lead when it comes to openness**, as we understand you are on your own journey and have your own needs.

We wish you only happiness, love, and peace in the upcoming months.

Tony & Gina

