



MYRA & ALAN

Dear Birth Parent,

We have adopted twice previously, and we hope that you will help us complete our little family. Each of our children has their own unique birth story - Jailen's birth mom found us on Facebook when she was 5 weeks pregnant. Ava was born eight weeks early and under two pounds, and spent 40 days in the NICU with us by her side. We know that our third child will have his or her own story, too, and we can't wait to hear it and share in his or her future. Jailen and Ava are also excited to welcome a sibling into our home. Just the other day, Jailen asked, "Mommy, when are you going to find our brother or sister?" We hope that our journey ends with you! Please take a second to read through this and learn more about us. We look forward to the opportunity to learn more about you, too.

Warmly, *Myra and Alan*

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about US

We met in 2004 while both working at a law firm in Atlanta, Georgia. We were assigned to a number of cases together, which took us across the world defending our clients. We quickly formed a close friendship and started running distances races together with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. We were soon inseparable, moved to Chicago together, and got married!

Jailen (turning four in December 2019) and Ava (who will be two in April, 2019) joined our family through adoption. They have made our lives so full, and we cannot wait to introduce them to their brother or sister.

our WORK

We are both lawyers, and, we have heard all the lawyer jokes over the years. (We'll admit, there are some good ones!) Alan represents stockbrokers, and Myra is a sole practitioner providing general counsel to small businesses. *We love what we do, but we view our jobs as just that - what we do, not who we are.* We recognize that our jobs afford us the opportunity to live a good life, but raising our children is our number one priority.



JAILEN AND AVA LOVE JUMPING ON THE BED



OUR DOGS ARE SNEAKY!



WE LOVE PLAYING OUTSIDE



WE SPEND QUALITY TIME TOGETHER



AVA IS ALWAYS HAVING FUN!



HIKING IS A FAVORITE ACTIVITY

our HAPPY LITTLE FAMILY

MEET JAILEN: We were blessed to have Jailen come into our lives in December 2015 through adoption. Jailen is a happy little guy. He loves trucks and trains, and he gets excited to get messy! If there's a pile of leaves or a puddle near by, watch out! *He is growing into a protective big brother, but he also loves to have fun with his sister.*

MEET AVA: Ava came into the world and our lives in April 2017 at under 2 pounds. She is a fierce and determined little girl (or "little girlie," as we say). *She loves exploring her surroundings and is constantly on the go.* She loves to dance, observe what's going on around her, and taste new foods. She is amazing!



ALAN ENJOYS HIKING WITH SEVEN



WE LOVE READING TOGETHER

THINGS WE LOVE to do!

With two young kiddos, we spend a lot of time playing, whether in our play room, at the playground, outdoors, or just reading books in the kids' rooms. Jailen and Ava are absolutely balls of energy, and they constantly have us on the go.

We also love to travel and are getting the hang of traveling with little ones. *We firmly believe that showing our children the world will help them appreciate what they have and give them a greater understanding of others in the world.*

about MYRA (BY ALAN)

If Myra was out hiking and came across a river that was either too broad or too deep simply to wade across, she would still find a way to the other side, somehow, some way. *She is clever, and imaginative, and treats obstacles she encounters as opportunities.* When you combine that with her amazing depth of compassion, which she displays every day with me, the kids, the dogs, her family and friends, she is remarkable. *I feel so fortunate that life brought us together, as I could not imagine experiencing this journey with anyone else.* I cannot wait to see where this journey takes us next, as we continue to build our family through adoption.

about ALAN (BY MYRA)

Alan has this funny saying from a Todd Snider song, "I'm an 'alright guy.'" That's typical Alan to under sell himself. Alan is so much more than just "alright." He is an amazing guy. *He is laid back and easy going, but he is also an involved father, a devoted and supportive husband, and a caring dog dad.* It is so amazing to see him with Jailen and Ava. They both light up when he walks in the room because they know they're about to have fun. *Jailen and Ava love spending time with their Daddy. I can't wait to see the three of them with another brother or sister. It's going to be a party!*

OUR EXTENDED *family*

Our family is currently strewn across the nation. Alan grew up in Long Island, New York, so he has siblings and cousins in the Northeast, although his parents retired in south Florida like many New Yorkers. Myra grew up in Northern Virginia, and she still has cousins in that neck of the woods. Myra's brother and her parents, however, moved to the south: North Carolina and South Carolina.

Having all of our family in all different places gives us the best excuse to travel around the country to visit everyone. We particularly enjoy visiting Myra's brother and his family in North Carolina, and we go there often. When we make it to the Northeast, we generally do a city tour, hopping from one family member's house to the other. We are determined to make sure that Jailen, Ava, and their brother or sister, are surrounded by family as they grow.



EXCITED FOR BABY #3!



SEVEN AND TIGER LOVE MORNING WALKS



WE GATHER THE FAMILY FOR HOLIDAYS FEASTS



VISITING OUR GODDAUGHTER, ELENA



WE LOVE SPENDING TIME WITH OUR NIECES

home SWEET *home*

We live in the heart of Chicago, so we are in walking distance to Lake Michigan, parks, and restaurants. Our house is also near public transportation, which makes it easy for us to quickly catch a train downtown (which Jailen loves to do!). It's great being in the heart of it all. It gives us so many options for how to spend time together. *When we are not heading to the park or out on the town, we love going out for brunch, playing games together, and finding fun activities to do.*



final THOUGHTS

We hope that this has given you a glimpse into our lives, so that you know more about us. But, this is hardly just about us. This is about you, and the decision that you choose to make. We hope with all of our hearts that your decision involves us, and that you will help us complete our family. As far as what that means for the future, we will gladly explore that with you, so you can tell us what makes you most comfortable.

Warmly, *Myra and Alan*



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