

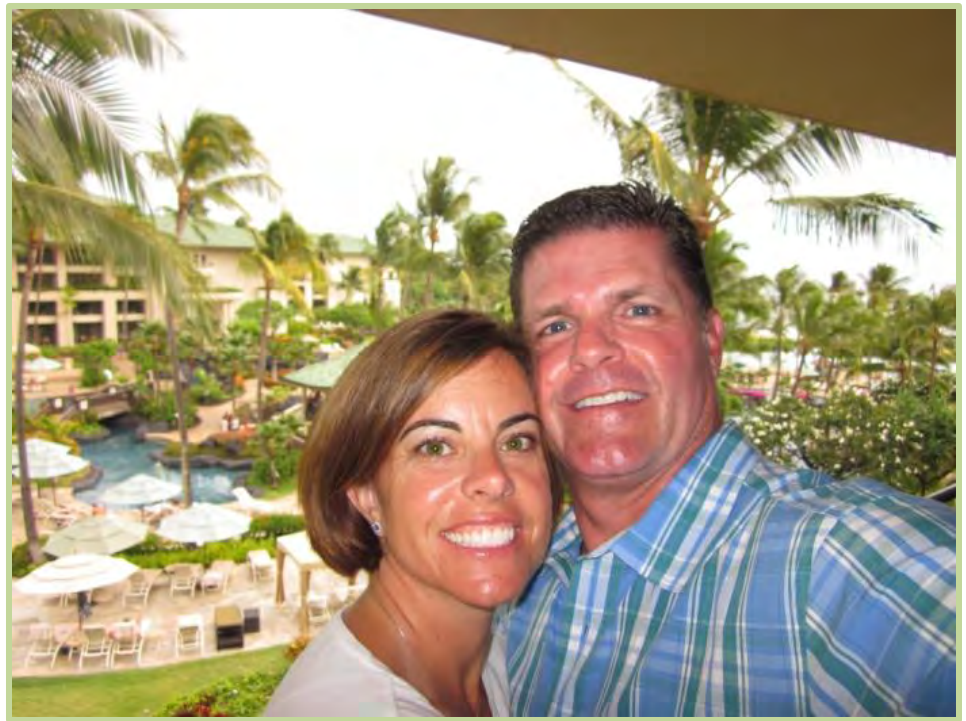


**Mike and Vikki**

# Our Letter to You...

We are looking forward to meeting you. Even though we don't know you, we have so much respect for you and are so thankful you are considering adoption.

We are a happily married, energetic, loving couple hoping to grow our family through adoption. We know that you have given this a lot of thought and that your decision is difficult. We are sure that you have many hopes, dreams and expectations for your child and we want you to know that we will give your child love and all the best that we are able to provide.



We have been married 12 years but have been together 17 years. We love and respect each other and are blessed to have wonderful family and friends that support us in all we do. They are all very excited to welcome a child into our lives. We live in a very "kid friendly" neighborhood in northern Virginia with great schools and access to all sorts of activities. We can't wait to share our lives and love with a child.

While we are excited and hopeful about adoption, we know that you are making a very tough decision and that you want the very best for your child. We have tremendous respect and admiration for your decision and will do our best to honor your wishes. We hope you will consider us.

*Mike and Vikki*

# Our Story

We met at work in 1994 in Boulder, CO. We became friends, often talking for hours about our dating situations, what our "types" were and about the relationships we had been in. We spent a lot of time together and got to know each other, we never considered we would be anything but friends. About a year after we first met, we were at a party at a friend's house and we kissed. This kiss surprised us both and we quickly realized we weren't going to be able to "just be friends" anymore. Apparently, all that time getting to know each other was the beginning of our love story.



In 1999, Mike got the job he wanted with the US government. We knew we wanted to be together as he began his new career. In January 1999, on his birthday, he proposed. Vikki was totally surprised. In May 2000, we got married in front of our close family and friends at a celebration that lasted 4 days.

We ended up relocating to Los Angeles, CA and that is where we began our married life together. This also meant a career change for Vikki. She was very lucky to find a great job in the hair care industry. We lived in the Los Angeles area for about 4 years and we loved it. We loved the warm weather and sunshine and being able to play tennis, ride horses and BBQ outside year round. We made lots of friends there who we stay in touch with today. Being around those friends and their kids helped us to decide we wanted to start a family.

Twelve years later, Vikki is still with the company, she loves her job and has the great opportunity to work full time from home – a great thing for family life.

In 2004, Mike's job moved us to the Washington, DC area. When we first moved here we put off having a family because Mike's job had him traveling a lot and neither of us wanted him to miss a minute of a pregnancy or the baby's early months of life. Once his travel slowed down we began thinking about starting a family but having a baby wasn't in the cards for us.



# Our Story

We have always been interested in adoption. Over the last 4 years we've been involved in an emergency foster care program in our area. Soon after entering the program, a 20 month old little boy and his 5 month old sister were placed with us for respite care. After a couple of respite visits we were asked if we would take the little boy for an emergency placement – his home life had become unstable. He stayed with us for 5 days. We had an instant connection with him and absolutely fell in love. We knew then adoption was for us. We would've adopted him if it had been possible, but it wasn't. When we had to take him to his permanent foster home, Vikki cried, he cried. Our hearts were broken. Vikki cried about it for at least a week – we still think about him and hope that he is okay.

We have friends that adopted and we know we don't need to give birth to a child to be able to love them with our whole heart and soul. We are ready and able to grow our family and can't wait to welcome a baby into our lives.



Wreaths Across America Event  
Arlington National Cemetery



Cherry Blossoms Washington, DC



Virginia Gold Cup Races



Our favorite holidays  
Christmas and Fourth of July





# Vikki's Story

Like Mike, my dad worked for the government so we moved around a little and I grew up in a few different areas. I enjoyed moving around. I got to live in different places and as a result have friends all over the country. I grew up playing tennis, skiing, swimming, doing plays, dancing and singing. We traveled a lot as a family and still laugh about our "road trips". While my theatrical career didn't pan out, I played tennis in college and still play tennis regularly and ski when I can.

My parents have been married 45 years – they are great parents and we are a really close family. I have a younger sister who is my best friend – it wasn't always that way but we both grew up and now have a great relationship. I don't know what I would do without her. She is a great mommy to my favorite and only nephew who I absolutely adore. My favorite thing to do since he arrived is visit with him, squeeze him and spoil him. I talk to my parents and my sister at least once a day. I wish we lived closer but we do our best to visit often and we love Skype and Facetime. They are all very excited about having another baby in the family to love and spoil.

My parents gave me and my sister lots of opportunity, support and love and I hope to be able to offer those same things to a child of my own. I can't wait to share adventures, activities, sights, experiences, love and laughter with a child.



My sister, me, my sweet nephew and my mom



He loves to  
"swim, swim"  
with auntie



Me and my nephew the night he was born

# Mike's Story

I grew up in small towns in southern Colorado. My parents married right after high school, unfortunately they divorced when I was about 2. They both remarried and I have 2 step parents that I am very close with. After my parents divorced, I lived with my mom and my grandfather. He was a huge influence on my life. I got my love of horses, ranching and the outdoors from him.

My mom remarried when I was about 4. I lived with my mom and step dad the majority of the time and visited my dad and stepmother regularly. My dad worked for the railroad and so he lived in a few different places which were fun to visit. I think I get my love of trains from him. I was very fortunate to have 2 sets of loving and supportive parents.

I was a very active kid. I rode motorcycles, played sports and enjoyed the freedoms that growing up in a small town allowed. As I was starting high school, we moved to a suburb of Denver. This was a bit of a change from small town living but I made friends, got involved in sports and quickly learned the advantages of living in a larger community. My new friends introduced me to rodeo and I began competing and traveling to rodeos throughout the western US. I don't compete anymore but I still ride. We have a horse named Gunner that I have had for 18 years. We board him about 20 minutes from our house at a beautiful family owned farm.

I am really looking forward to sharing my love of horses with my daughter or son and experiencing life through their eyes. Since I am an only child, ALL of my parents are very excited at the prospect of finally being grandparents. They have been patiently waiting for a grandbaby to love and spoil for many years.



My buddy Gunner



Feeding our 1 month old nephew



At the farm



# Our Home and Community

We live in a great community in Northern Virginia. There are a lot of families with kids in our neighborhood. We have access to community indoor and outdoor pools, tennis courts, playgrounds, parks and great schools. We are not far from Washington, DC and we try to take in the sights or a show as often as possible. We take advantage of all the things this area offers and we look forward to experiencing them through the eyes of our child. Our 5 bedroom house has plenty of space to accommodate our growing family. We have already started turning the bedroom next to ours into a nursery and our finished basement will make a perfect play room. We can't wait for the pitter patter of little feet to turn our house into a home.





# Our Family and Friends

We are fortunate to be blessed with wonderful family and great friends. While some are spread out across the country, we remain incredibly close. We all do a great job keeping in touch and try to visit and spend time together whenever we can. When we can't be together face to face we share photos, text, email and talk on the phone as much as possible.

We can't always be together to celebrate birthdays and holidays on the actual day, but do our best to celebrate when we are together.

One of our traditions is hosting Thanksgiving dinner for our in town friends that won't be with their family for the holiday. I cook the main meal and invite them to bring a dish that is traditional to their family. It always makes for good food and fun times.



Friends  
Aggie  
and  
Karen



Easter with the Butcher family



Good friends Lisa and Scott



Vacation with our best friends from Colorado



With my nephew Ford

# Our Family Photos



Family vacation Hawaii 2011



At the farm with Gunner



Going to a friends wedding



Mike's parents at Mt.  
Vernon



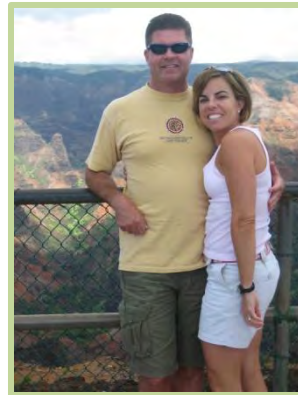
Legg Mason Tennis Tournament



# Fun Facts About Us

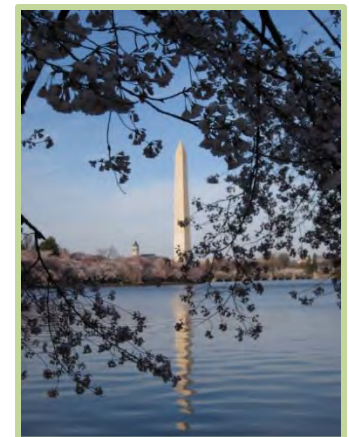
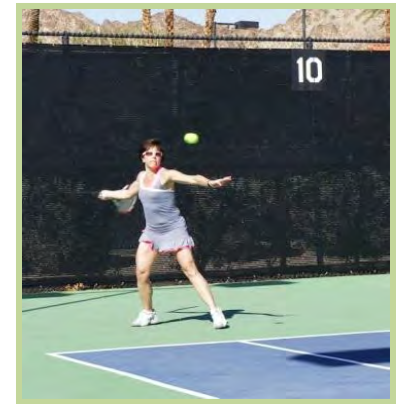
## Mike

- Fun loving
- Generous
- Thoughtful
- Loves animals
- Afraid of snakes
- Loves all kinds of music
- Wants to learn to play guitar
- Likes Butterscotch topping on his ice cream
- Butterscotch dipped cone from DQ is a favorite treat
- Fan of the Miami Dolphins but has never lived in Florida
- Played Santa for a friend's Christmas party 3 years in a row
- Rode Bulls
- Dunkin Donuts coffee is his favorite
- Loves Oreos especially Double Stuffed
- Could spend hours in a bookstore



## Vikki

- Kind and caring
- Helpful
- Creative
- Compassionate
- Teaches junior tennis
- Plays competitive tennis
- Is in her college Hall of Fame
- Speaks Spanish
- Loves to bake and decorate cookies and cupcakes
- Loves fireworks – especially on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Very patriotic
- Has a fear of frogs
- Loves Romantic Comedies
- Favorite holiday is Christmas
- Loves 80' music – especially Bon Jovi
- Loves pie
- Loves cotton candy and most "fair foods"



# Thank You

We are very excited about starting a family. Thank you for reading our book, we hope it helped you to get to know us a little. We realize it may be hard to get to know someone in just a few pages and you will likely have some questions for us. We are happy to share more with you about our lives and answer any questions you have.

We can only imagine what a difficult decision this is for you but hope that our story and commitment to give your child a home full of love and laughter will help put your heart at peace. We are thrilled to finally be embarking on the journey to parenthood. We will cherish this precious gift of life and will surround your child with love and support.

We are so grateful that you are considering adoption and that you are considering us as adoptive parents.

