

# Sam & Erin



# Hello &

thank you for taking  
the time to check  
out our profile.

WE ARE

# Erin and Sam

FROM ORLANDO,  
FLORIDA.

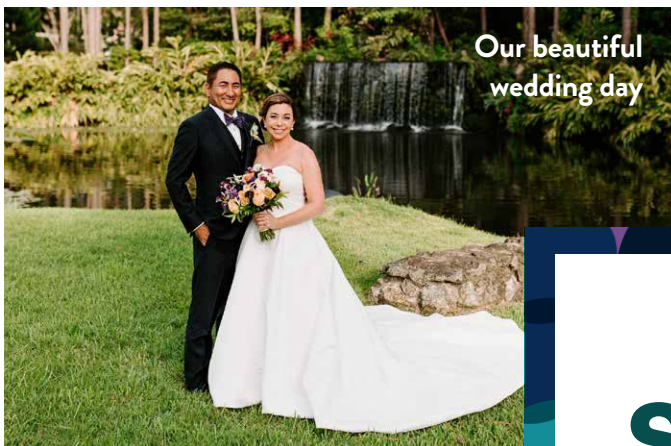


We hope this profile book gives you insight into who we are, what our lives are like, and most importantly, how grateful we would be for you to consider us as you contemplate what we imagine must be an incredibly difficult choice. We imagine that something we share with you right now is a profound sense of vulnerability and we are grateful for your willingness to meet us in this space. **We hope to make an authentic connection in these pages, one that fosters trust and openness, should you choose to learn more about us.**

# WHY Adoption

Shortly after our engagement, we were informed that the chances of conceiving a baby were very low. After much grief, prayer, talking with other similarly impacted couples, and research, we chose

to pursue adoption. This decision brought a great sense of peace and possibility. We are excited to finally be starting the process. The opportunity to love, cherish, provide for, and nurture a child together would help us to grow the unconditional love that we already share for one another. We are fortunate to feel so supported in this process by our network of family and friends.



## OUR Story

**Our love slowly grew out of a nearly decade-long friendship.** Sam was living in Miami and Erin in Orlando when we first met on a camping trip with mutual friends. In 2017, we found ourselves both newly single and began to spend more time together, which blossomed into romance. We found long-distance dating to be a challenge, so Sam moved to Orlando at the end of 2018. We chose to make a home together in 2020, the week that

Florida shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We found ourselves facing a new mortgage, loss of income from the pandemic, and isolation in a world full of uncertainty. That adversity only brought us closer together, confirming that our love is strong enough to last a lifetime, and we were married in 2022. **We now feel stable and ready to grow that love into a family, and cannot wait for the adventure of parenthood!**

# Meet Erin

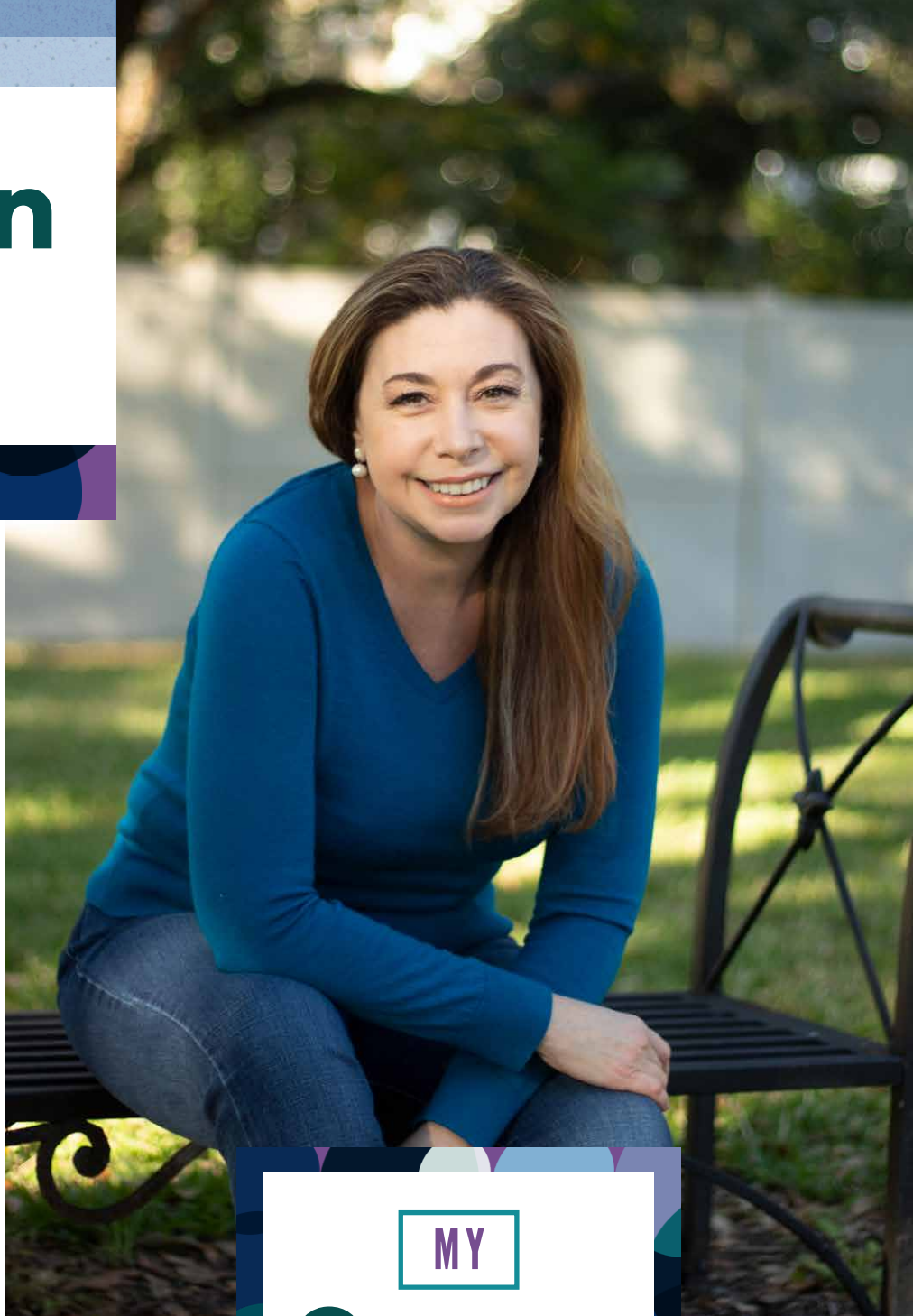
BY ERIN

**FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I HAVE WANTED TO BECOME A MOTHER.**

My own mother and father's joy in parenting must have been infectious. When people asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, my answer was always, "A mommy." So far, this has not looked the way I imagined it...

When my brother became a single father at a young age, I moved back home to help raise my niece for the early years of her life. This taught me so much about both the joys and challenges of parenting that I never learned while majoring in Child Development and Child Psychology in college. My niece is now 18 and we are still very close.

With Sam by my side now, I feel just as passionate about becoming "a mommy" as I did in my youth. The loving life we have cultivated together makes up the kind of foundation I always hoped to be able to give my child.



MY  
**Career**

**I have been a Certified Child Life Specialist for the last 20 years.**

In this role, I get to use play and psychosocial support to help minimize the negative impacts of a hospital experience for children and families. I am honored to help children and families overcome stressful experiences in their developmental journey. I love using books, learning, and play to promote healthy coping and adjustment for kids and teens. I am also certified in infant massage instruction. I hope my skills and experience could help enrich my child's life as well.

# More About Erin

BY SAM



My first impression of Erin was that she is kind, free-spirited and nature-loving. Once I got to know her as a friend, I enjoyed how easily Erin and I could just talk for hours. I came to know how very caring, loving, supportive, and loyal she is. I love that she is confident enough in herself to be silly and playful. She makes me laugh!

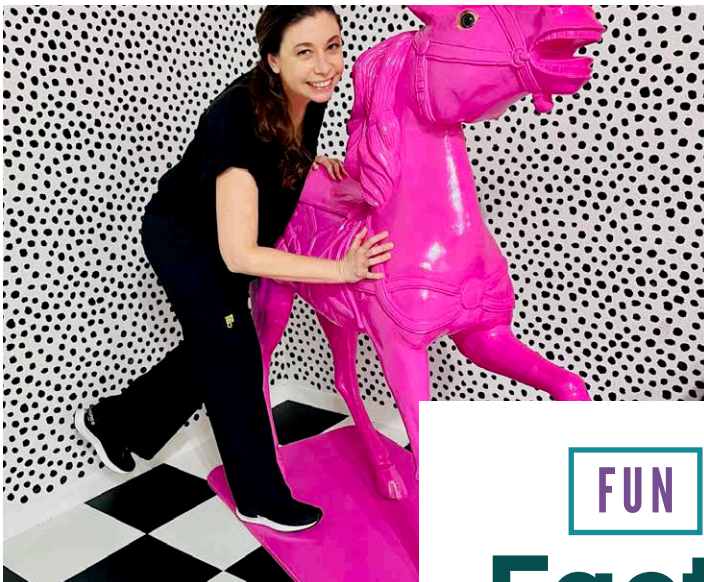
**I know what an amazing mother Erin will make by the way I see her care for the children in her life.** She doesn't think twice about making sacrifices when her niece, Gabbi, needs her. Her love and acceptance of Gabbi is unconditional.

Erin is also dedicated to the children she works with, and it is clear to see why she chose to become a Child Life Specialist. I admire how passionate she is about her work and know that she is a strong advocate for children and teens.



"You are beautiful!"

At an art exhibit



Doing yoga by the pool



FUN

## Facts

My drive to become a Child Life Specialist came from my own experience overcoming chronic illness as a teenager. This taught me how connected our minds and bodies are and how important it is to nurture both. **For me, I have found resilience in yoga, meditation, energy work and self-reflection.**

I have always found journaling and writing poetry to be helpful outlets. **I hope to write a children's book someday and to encourage our child in their own exploration of expression.**

Erin enjoys creating art





# Meet Sam

BY SAM

## MY LIFE HAS BEEN FULL OF DIVERSE EXPERIENCES, PEOPLE, AND PLACES.

I was born in New York, but was raised in rural Louisiana. I've lived all over the US, and briefly in Europe. I am well-traveled and an amalgam of multiple cultures. My mother immigrated from Thailand as a nurse, and my father was recruited from Nepal to the US as a physician.

As a management consultant, I've had the pleasure of traveling the world. This exposure to different customs and cultures is what has shaped my identity. Although I enjoyed my work, and the opportunities it provided me, I found it difficult to maintain close relationships, especially romantic ones.

Once I turned 40, I feared the chance to have a wife and family had passed me by. I resigned from my 70+ hours a week job, and started my own practice, so I could focus on a better work/life balance, one that would allow me time for personal relationships. **A few years later, when Erin and I fell in love and decided we would start our family through adoption, my hopes and dreams were renewed.**

FUN

## Facts

**I have always loved to travel** and have visited 39 different countries and 49 of the United States. Often on my travels, I enjoy scuba diving and am a PADI-certified dive master.



My love of music has resulted in me acquiring a variety of instruments. **I enjoy learning to play the violin, ukulele, mandolin, guitar, and piano.** I hope to share this love of music with our child someday.

**When it comes to sports, I am most passionate about golf and volleyball.** My handicap in golf is a 9 and I compete in 3-4 volleyball tournaments a year.



My love of learning about technology, engineering, and how electronics work spurred an interest in airplanes and radios. **I hold an Amateur Radio Technician's License and hope to complete my private pilot's license.**



Hanging out with a new sloth friend

Sailing on a beautiful day



# More About Sam

BY ERIN



Getting to know Sam has been one of the greatest joys of my life. My first impression of Sam was that he is an artistic, stylish, and accomplished individual. He is very social and easy to talk to, but slow to get to know on a personal level. It was not until I had the opportunity to spend time with him one-on-one that I came to know how thoughtful, modest, generous, steady and empathetic he is. He takes a genuine interest in everyone he meets and sees the best in people. He has a silly sense of humor and I love the way he makes me laugh!

I have always believed children and animals are the best judges of character, and that has proven to be true with Sam. The kids and pets in our lives are all drawn to Sam, trust him, and prefer his company. Watching him with them, it is easy to see how loving, gentle, sensitive and attentive he is. **I know he will be a nurturing father and believe we balance each other well.**

Sam loves to play music



Sam playing astronaut at the Space Center

# OUR Home & COMMUNITY

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Erin cooking a delicious meal



Sam playing music for Erin



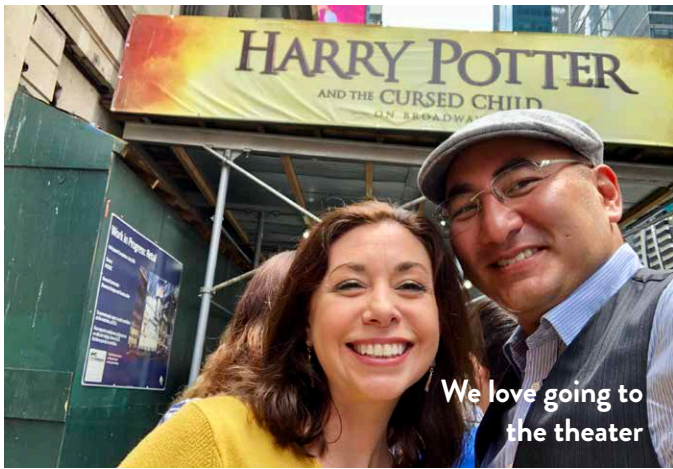
WE LOVE THAT WE FOUND SUCH A SMALL, QUIET COMMUNITY SO CLOSE TO ORLANDO'S CULTURAL CORRIDOR.

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Sam enjoys the Science Center, Erin enjoys the arts, and we both enjoy the variety of outdoor family-friendly events offered throughout the year. At home, we enjoy the company of our close-knit community. Erin especially enjoys spending time at the pool, and Sam enjoys being able to grill out in our courtyard patio. We love good food and live music! Sam plays several instruments, and Erin loves to dance. We think of our home as the space we get to share while recharging from the outside world, and often enjoy quiet nights at home with dinner and movie.

**Another benefit of life in Orlando for us, is the proximity to Erin's family.** This includes weekly visits to her grandmother's assisted living community and/or her mother's home, where her brother (a former chef) often cooks family dinners for us all. We have so much support from family here!





We love going to the theater



We love to travel!



Beautiful weather for mini-golf

## OUR Hobbies

We met through our shared love of camping, and still enjoy camping several times a year. **Our group of friends that we camp with includes families with small children and we look forward to including our child on these fun trips.** One of the things we love about life in Florida is that it is temperate enough to camp almost year-round, especially if the campground includes access to a spring. We enjoy the clear Florida springs for kayaking, snorkeling, and swimming. We don't have too many photos of our

camping trips since it is also our time to "unplug" from our phones and enjoy nature. **We also love to relax at the beach and traveling to new places together.**

**We both value creativity and enjoy visiting museums, theaters, and music venues.** We both find a playful outlet in the arts as well. Sam enjoys photography and playing instruments. Erin enjoys painting and collage art. Erin also loves taking in anime films with her niece, Gabbi.



## Meet Boo

**We have a cat named Boo, who Sam has had since she was a kitten in 2008.** She is a unique cat who trained herself to use the toilet rather than a litter box. She enjoys playing with her toys and cuddling on the sofa. She has lived with Sam in 5 different homes and has been an important part of his life.



Escape room with Erins family



Golfing with Dad



Spending time with our nieces



Surrounded by our loved ones on our wedding day



# Loved Ones

**We enjoy traveling to Louisiana 1-2 times a year to visit Sam's parents.** Sam's hometown may be small, but his parents have established many friendships over the 45+ years they have resided there. Sam's dad is a retired physician and his mother is a vibrant homemaker. Her passion for gardening, wood-working, and cooking creates a lovely home. As a child, Sam took trips to Thailand and Nepal to visit his extended family. We hope to be able to share that experience as a family someday.

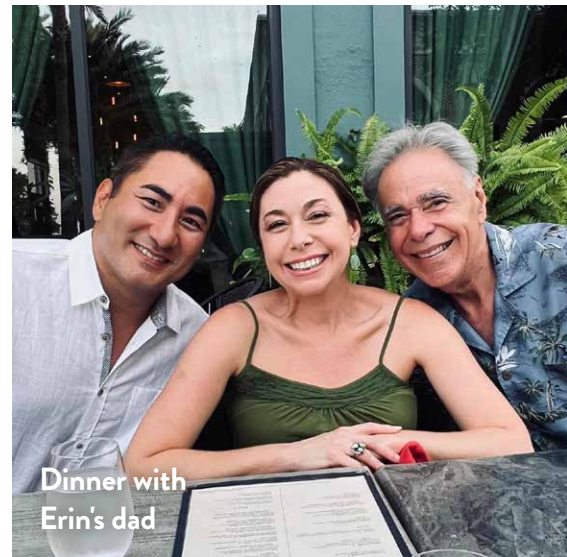
**Erin has close family members locally.** Her mom, Pat, lives close enough to provide a constant source of camaraderie, support, and home-cooked meals. We also enjoy spending time with Erin's niece, Gabbi, who will graduate high-

school this year. Erin and her brother, Adam, have weekly visits with Erin's "Nonna." We use the Italian word for "grandma" since Nonna grew up in Italy. Many holidays are spent with Pat, Adam, his wife, and two teenage children. Erin's Dad and his partner live on the beach in New York, where we love to visit. While there, we also enjoy trips to the mountains and time with extended family.

**We both maintain close friendships with childhood friends who are spread across the country. Our local friends are made up mostly of couples who share our love of camping and the outdoors. We are also grateful for Erin's supportive network of coworkers from the Children's Hospital.**



Celebrating  
Loy Krathong



Dinner with  
Erin's dad

Thanksgiving dinner



Erin attending the Nutcracker Ballet  
with her dad and niece

Christmas with Sam's family



## OUR FAMILY

# Traditions

We enjoy visiting Sam's parents for holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Around that time, we also celebrate Loy Krothong, the Thai lantern festival, with Sam's mom. This tradition brings families together to create baskets of flowers that are floated downriver with intentions of gratitude and hope for new beginnings. This is one of the many ways we get to enjoy the incredible flowers from the garden that Sam's mom tends to so lovingly!

Erin's family has had a tradition of swimming with manatees each winter since she was 10 years-old. Her dad taught her to snorkel and we all enjoy getting to glimpse the gentle manatees this way.

Erin and her dad also share a tradition of attending the Nutcracker Ballet each December, since she was 5 years-old. Her niece, Gabbi, has been joining them since she was 3 years-old. Erin hopes her child will enjoy the magical show just as much!

We were both fortunate to have experienced childhoods full of love, joy, and learning through exploration. Our vision of family is to share the richness that life has to offer with a child. **Our hope is to instill the values of love, kindness, consideration of others, integrity, responsibility, open-mindedness, and faithfulness or belief in God.** Our goal for our child's education is for it to be well-rounded, including exposure to other languages and cultures,

## THOUGHTS ON Parenting

and to arts and humanities that promote development of emotional intelligence and self-awareness, so they grow into a young person prepared to define their own higher education path. We shall encourage curiosity and exploration, while setting clear limits and expectations, solving problems together, and openly communicating. We will value consistency in our parenting style to foster trust and secure attachment.



### IN Closing

**WE THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO REVIEW OUR PROFILE AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL WANT TO REACH OUT TO US.**

We cannot imagine the challenges you face in making this decision, and are holding you in our hearts no matter your ultimate choice. Should we be your choice, our promise to you and your child would be to love them unconditionally, care for them compassionately, and raise them in a

community of support and acceptance. **We promise to honor your child's unique story and individuality by weaving what we know of you and your own background into the narrative of your child's life.**