

HANDS ACROSS THE WATER WAITING FAMILY

Rob and Kirstin



Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit about us as you explore your options for your child's future. We honor the difficulty of your choice and wish you all you need to feel at peace. We feel we have a lot of gifts to offer as parents, including a stable, loving home with values of compassion, curiosity, peacemaking, and playfulness. If it feels like we might be a good fit for how you imagine your child's future, we'd love to talk with you in person about your hopes and how we can be partners in working toward them.

We started dating when we were 15 years old and have been married for over 17 years. We would say that we're a family that enjoys simple pleasures. We love to listen to and make music (Rob plays guitar, Kirstin sings). Thanks in large part to a huge used bookstore across the street from our home, we have a great home library. We can't wait to read to our child and explore the world through books! We also love to travel, though travel tends to be a fall and winter activity. In the spring and summer we enjoy growing and preserving food, and we're fortunate to have access to land and many small farms in our immediate area.

We have a large family, with 17 nieces and nephews between the two of us, and when we get together, our gatherings are playful and loud, with many ages in the mix. In our local community, we have a strong circle of friends who are like family to us, including those we attend church with, and our child will grow up with a wide array of caring adults as part of their daily life.

The small city where we live is very important to us, with a perfect mix of urban and rural qualities, and our home is on the second floor of a building we own in the historic downtown district. Our neighborhood is walkable and we know many of our neighbors, while we also have easy access to nature, including the river and woods we can see from our back windows. Our city is surprisingly diverse for a rural place and we're involved in efforts to help make it a good place to live for all people.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us! We wish you all the best as you work to decide what is best for you and your child. We know you face a difficult decision, in which hope and grief are all mixed together. We hold you in our hearts, with a wish for clarity, wisdom, and peace to go with you on your journey.

About Rob

Age: 39

Work: Urban farming and community development

Hobbies & Interests: Listening to and playing music, architecture and urban design, reading (especially non-fiction), football, watching documentary films

Favorite foods: Pasta, tomatoes, broccoli, pumpkin pie, chocolate peanut butter ice cream

Music on current rotation: The Carters, Neko Case, Janelle Monae, Brandi Carlisle, The Talking Heads

Notable personality traits: Playful wit and passion for justice

Pet: Zuzu, a gentle cat who's shy until she gets to know you

About Kirstin

Age: 38

Work: Head caretaker at a 67-acre retreat center

Hobbies & Interests: Gardening, reading, singing, writing, long walks, biking, building design

Favorite foods: Tacos, peaches, cauliflower, dark chocolate truffles, YumEarth sour jelly beans

On my list to learn more about: Weaving, recognizing bird calls, aquatic plants, alternative educational models for children

Notable personality traits: Calming presence and passion for equality

Work pets: Minna (a pony), Puck (a goat), and La Gata (the cat and queen of everyone)