



# ***Meghan & John***



# Dear Birth Parent,

We can't imagine the intensity of thoughts and choices that may be spinning through your head as you sort through your feelings about your pregnancy and also discern your future and the future of the child you are carrying. We have always believed that some of life's most challenging moments are the ones that define us most and make us who we are. We think you are amazing to be wading through all the emotions that come with this moment in your life and would be honored to be a part of your journey should we be invited into it.



sincerely  
**Meghan & John**



## Our Story

Here's a little about our journey that has led us to you. We met in Greek class at theology school in Berkeley, California. We started dating during a protest we both went to in Georgia. Twelve years later, neither of us remember any Greek at all but are both still very much committed to building an equitable and just world for our generation and generations beyond us. We are still each other's best friend and have found deep joy in building our lives together. After being unsure if we could have children, three years ago Meghan birthed our son Alistair. Being Alistair's parents, watching him discover the world and become his own person has been the best parts of our lives. When Alistair was born, Meghan had a traumatic birth experience, which made birthing additional children very difficult for her. Having already considered adoption as a possibility for growing our family even before Alistair was born, we happily began our adoption journey which has led us to you. We are grateful you are reading our profile and are excited to continue to build the next chapter of our story.



## About Meghan

Meghan is a high spirited, truth seeking, creative people person. As long as she can remember, Meghan has loved being around water. She swims daily, loves kayaking and paddle boarding in the summer, and has taught hundreds of kids to swim.

Meghan is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Detroiter, though she grew up in the northern suburbs. Growing up, Meghan's family always had extra chairs around the dinner table and their home had an "open door" policy. Meghan's parents were often hosting visitors from other cities, states and countries. For Meghan growing up, family was broadly defined, including the relatives and friends who often joined them around that dinner table. After she graduated from high school, her family moved to Detroit and has lived there ever since.

After graduating from college, Meghan worked as a full-time community organizer for 5 years in both California and Detroit. Feeling burned out from the constant pressure of organizing, Meghan began working with John to build out a nonprofit arm of Grace in Action Church. For the past 7 years, Meghan has been the Director and co-founder of Grace in Action Collectives, a network of worker owned and youth run collectives in Southwest Detroit.

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## About John

John was born and raised on the central coast of California, in a small city called San Luis Obispo. He grew up surrounded by nature, the beaches and mountains of California, and still loves the outdoors to this day. He grew up living with his mother, father, and brother Chris, in a household where spending time with family was important, so family time is still a big value for him.

In high school, John felt an "itch", a feeling that there was more beyond the town he grew up in. He moved to Los Angeles for college, then spent a year working with women and children at a community center on the border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. He returned to California to get his master's degree in Berkeley, where he met Meghan.

John is a pastor in the ELCA Lutheran Church and works full time pastoring Grace in Action, a bilingual and multicultural congregation that he co-founded in Southwest Detroit with Meghan. John also recently received his degree and license in Massage Therapy. He provides therapeutic and Thai massage as well as acupressure. He works a few hours a week at a local chiropractor's office in Southwest Detroit providing massage and bodywork to people in our neighborhood and throughout Detroit.





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## *About Alistair*

Alistair is a super high energy and incredibly charming 3-year-old. His favorite activities include banging on his guitar or drums while singing and jumping around in circles. He loves watching Moana, and Daniel Tigers Neighborhood. His favorite books are Brown Bear Brown Bear and anything about trains. He travels around most places pretending to be a Choo Choo train and turns anything around him into a train station. Alistair is kind and loving. He takes care of his stuffed animals like they are his babies. He tucks them into bed at night, buckles them into the car next to his seat and feeds them bottles when they 'cry.' Alistair is very excited to be a big brother. He has many friends who are younger than him in our community. He is really kind and gentle with them, and always calls them "my friend".

## *About our Community*

We live in Southwest Detroit and love our neighborhood. It is a diverse and beautiful community full of art and music. People watch out for and take care of each other in our neighborhood. There are many mornings we have woken up to either find our grass cut or our snow shoveled by our neighbors, and have attended many events at their homes and backyards. Our neighborhood is full of parks, soccer fields, small markets, murals and restaurants. John is a pastor in Southwest Detroit and Meghan directs a non-profit, so we are very much involved and connected in our community. We are so grateful for the diversity of role models and adopted aunts and uncles our son gets to grow up with, and deeply believe in power of extended family. We would love to raise another child who gets to grow up with that same amazing extended family.

