

Cody & Jack



Dinner with Family



Tank & Bear



We Love the Dodgers

Hello

We want to thank you for considering us as adoptive parents for your child. In reading this book, we hope that you will be able to envision your child's life with us as adoptive parents. If you select us, your child will grow up in a loving family where laughing and community are valued and a part of daily life. We will view each day with your child as a blessing and give your child every available opportunity. We understand that this time may be challenging and difficult, and we do not pretend that it is anything other than heart-wrenching, but we hope that you will view us as a support system during this time.



About Us

We are HUGE baseball and football fans. One year for Cody's birthday, Jack bought Cody seats at the 50-yard line for the Seahawks and Cardinals game in Seattle. Jack had a hard time keeping this birthday gift a secret and basically told Cody he bought tickets for the game right away. When Cody asked where we were sitting, Jack responded "close." While driving up to Seattle, Cody again asked where they were sitting. Jack replied, "the 50-yard line!" Cody burst out laughing, almost not believing him. When we arrived at the stadium, Jack opened up the ticket app to show Cody. Cody was overwhelmed and so excited. Your child will be raised in a home with sports-minded dads who love participating in live sporting events, especially when travel is involved!



We both feel volunteerism is important. Cody volunteers each year at a camp for children living in subsidized housing in our area teaching citizenship and pro-social behavior. Everyone chooses nick names from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* to use during the week. During Cody's first year at the camp, he chose the name "Cheese Touch." We were at a local grocery store one day and a student camper recognized Cody and yelled "Cheese Touch!!" from across the produce section. Cody ran over to the camper and tried to tag him so he could pass along the "smell of cheese," from the book.

We are passionate about good food and family, so combining the two is important to us. Jack spends much of his free time at his parents house or with his grandma, Bamma, exploring restaurants in our area. Bamma loves food so she and Jack are always on the hunt for the perfect pork chop. Together they have visited restaurants in every surrounding city in their quest to find the best pork chop around! On a recent trip to find the best pork chop, Bamma and Jack ended up finding a restaurant that didn't serve pork chops *but* had the best French Dip either of them have ever had. They have since taken many visitors to try this same French Dip, to be amazed at how savory it is!



About Cody

by Jack



Cody has a major green thumb. He is always planting things in the garden or re-landscaping the yard. I learn so much from him about what things grow in certain seasons and the different types of plants and flowers. Cody knows that my favorite flower is the bird of paradise so one year he bought me a very small bird of paradise plant for us to grow. That plant is happily growing in our yard where it has tripled in size since he got it for me!



Cody is typically very stoic, however, **he LOVES scaring me and playing practical jokes!** He recently bought a scary Halloween mask and hid upstairs one evening before bed. When I went upstairs to go to sleep, Cody jumped out from a dark corner! Of course, being me, I yelped and jumped back with my heart racing. We both laughed at the scare and Cody gave me a big hug. I asked him later where he got the mask and he said, "Remember the box of clothes hangers that arrived today from Amazon? That box really wasn't hangers, it was this mask!" Your child will grow up in a home that values laughing, fun, and some practical joking.



Cody is truly a **caring human being**, super invested in the well-being and health of each family he cares for and serves as a social worker. His compassion for struggling families is an innate quality that I have never seen in another person. One evening, a parent who was struggling to get sober called Cody and made the decision to stop using. She decided she wanted to go to rehab and save her family. Regardless of the hour, Cody made all of the arrangements immediately and drove the mom to a rehab clinic to get the help she wanted and needed.

About Jack

by Cody

Jack likes to **shop and bargain hunt**. I once found incredible vintage lamps from the 1960's in a consignment shop out of town. Jack fell in love with them. He drove back and forth THREE times negotiating with the consignment shop owner over the price before he finally brought them home. We were eager to find lampshades and put them to use, but our good friend bought a perfectly preserved mid-century home and Jack felt the lamps would be better suited for his home. He suggested we give the lamps to our friend, equally heartbroken to part with the lamps, and excited to give a great gift. The lamps now happily live in our friend's home. Your child will grow up with a father who places your child's needs and desires above his own.



Jack is such a goofball! He keeps me entertained as he always mixes up sayings and **gets very carried away in conversations** and tends to use his hands a lot, knocking things off of counters or tables. Our kitchen faucet is a little temperamental and doesn't like to be pulled too hard, even though it is an industrial sink faucet. As he frequently does, the other day Jack pulled the faucet too hard while getting carried away talking and sprayed water all over the windows and counters!



Jack's **passion for kids** and family is one of the reasons I was so drawn to him. He works with students, school districts, and families impacted by the autism spectrum. Outside of work, Jack volunteers at schools when they need extra support on field trips. He and his friend Amanda recently joined a kindergarten class on their field trip to the first known Lewis and Clark campsite from 1805. He spent the week before the field trip preparing a student, who had previously been unsuccessful on trips, with her teacher's expectations. He also made her task strips so she could check off specific points of the field trip. She used her task strips to stay focused and when the class got back to the school, everyone had ice cream to celebrate a great trip.



Becoming a Couple



We met through a mutual friend when volunteering for a local non-profit who provides opportunities for individuals living with disabilities. This friend thought we would be a good match and set up a blind date. **Our blind date involved us driving to the Oregon Coast and having lunch while we sat in Jack's car and ate clam chowder,** looking out over Newport Bay. During this first date, we "interviewed" each other to determine whether we would progress to another date or 'call it good' after lunch. We both had the question of parenthood at the top of our interview list. We became inseparable after we both "passed" our interview.

Our families have been built by adoption! After passing our "interviews" and realizing that we were meant for each other, we began the process of developing our family plan. We knew that adoption was in our cards as it is special to both of us; Jack's mom is an adoptee and his adoptive grandmother was the closest person (besides his mom) to Jack. Sadly, Jack's grandmother passed away in 2018. She truly made it clear to Jack, by their strong love and connection, that **family is chosen**. Jack has always known that people who are not blood related can develop deep and meaningful bonds. Also, both of our dads adopted us when they married our moms! Continuing adoption in our family would be a great honor to Jack's grandmother's memory and to our parents. We would be honored to walk this journey with you.



We have always envisioned having our future children present in our wedding ceremony, so **we recently had a low key wedding so that we can save a big ceremony for the future, with our families and adopted child!** We were married in Los Angeles at the Beverly Hills courthouse on a trip to LA to see the Dodgers. That morning we took an Uber from our Airbnb to the courthouse. Our officiant met us outside and married us in less than five minutes! But we didn't have a witness. Our wonderful officiant saw a man taking photos near us and asked if he would be our witness. It turned out, he was getting married in the same location a week from us and he wanted to scope out photo locations. We have a great personal memory of this day that we can add to our list of other great memories.

Tank & Bear

We both grew up with dogs. Animals are important to both of us and we love the company that dogs provide. We have two French bulldogs, Tank and Bear. When Jack saw Tank, he knew he was the Frenchie that would set the standard for all other Frenchies to come. During the start of the pandemic, **Jack had a dream about rescuing a Frenchie.** When he woke up, he jumped on the internet and searched for a Frenchie to rescue and found Bear. He was the exact dog that was in Jack's dream and was the literal first dog he came across. He contacted the rescue and hopped into his car and drove to Telluride, Colorado almost immediately to bring him home to join the family.



Our dogs are great with kids! Tank is a magnet to babies! He loves little humans, enjoys snuggling up with them, and he wiggles his butt in excitement when he sees them. Bear loves babies and kids too! He is super friendly and loving, despite the noises from him that make him sound like an actual bear! A co-worker of Jack's recently brought her grandson into work and Tank went bonkers! He snuggled up and kissed the baby non-stop. The baby was loving every second of it and giggled just as much as Tank was squirming and squeaking. Your child will live in a home surrounded by dog snuggles and lots of puppy love.

"The boys," as we call them, have funny sleeping habits. They start out sleeping with us in bed, and when we are ready to go to sleep, they jump into their own beds when Jack says "downstairs boys." Tank has claimed a soft chair in our bedroom as his own, and requires a heating pad to sleep on! When we wake up, Tank has moved back to the bed and is snuggled up to Cody. But Bear, on the other hand, doesn't leave Jack's side; he sleeps next to Jack in a cozy dog bed. Bear **snores so loud Jack needs earplugs to sleep!**



How We Stay Busy



Spending time with family, especially our niece, Hagen, is one of our favorite ways to spend our spare time. She is such a funny kid and a ball of energy! When we spend time with her we are both on the move, usually doing at least two activities the same time, whether it is running on a makeshift track competition, swimming, sprinting in the yard, building with Legos, or coloring, we are busy. Recently while visiting Hagen and Cody's parents, Hagen and Jack got rambunctious in the pool and tried to flip each other off of a floating llama raft. **They both thought it was hilarious and shared a mischievous shreak between the two of them** after they would dive off their rafts. Your child will grow up surrounded by fun and playfulness.

We are playfully competitive in the gym. Since we work out during the week on our own, when it comes to Sunday we see who can bench press the most. Jack studied to be a personal trainer and designed a workout program for Cody. On a recent Sunday visit to the gym, Cody loaded our normal weight but then added more plates to the bar and was able to complete more reps at a higher weight than Jack. Jack was simultaneously proud he taught Cody the skills to build his strength in bench, but also determined to beat Cody's now, impressive, 255 lb bench press!



Jack started to learn how to cook when he met Cody. One summer, **he spent the entire summer making cheesecakes** so he could have a trusted recipe for whenever he needed to make a dessert. Needless to say we both put on some extra weight that summer, as it was nonstop cheesecakes in the house! Jack had several mishaps when learning to make cheesecakes. He even dropped one on the floor taking it out of the oven and had to start over. The dogs didn't mind this tasty accident though!

Family

*If you choose us, your child will grow up with 2 great-grandmothers, 4 grandparents, 8 uncles and aunts, and **25 cousins!***

Our family is close by. We live in a home that is in the same community as Jack's parents and Bamma (his dad's mom). Being so close to each other means that we are able to **see each other all of the time** and have dinner at each other's houses often. We are also so close that we can walk to each of our homes within minutes, along any of the paths outlined in the picture. Bamma often plays host to family and friends from out of town. She recently had her nephew (Jack's dad's cousin) randomly visit while he was in Oregon so she arranged a last minute family dinner where Jack's dad made his famous pulled pork tacos. Your child will grow up in a strong family that is super close and connected!



Jack's family are **major foodies**. Both of our dads are the chefs in our families, and our moms love it! On a recent trip to see Cody's parents, Cody's dad, Mike, made breakfast for everyone. Typically Mike asks everyone how they want their eggs cooked but this time he forgot. When Mike served Jack the eggs he had made, the eggs were over-easy, and Jack doesn't like runny eggs! Jack looked to Cody with a worried look, but not wanting to be rude, he powered through and ate his eggs and pancakes that had soaked up the runny yolks. He actually liked the egg-soaked pancakes and told Cody later on that over easy eggs aren't that bad, with thanks to Mike for expanding Jack's culinary palate!

Our families are very **playful and lighthearted**. Last year we watched the Superbowl at Jack's parent's house with Bamma. Each person placed a \$2 bet on who would win and Jack's dad, as the only lawyer, kept score. Bamma wanted to leave early since football isn't her favorite sport, but when she started winning in the second quarter, she decided to stay and won the pool prize of \$10! She was so excited and said as she left that she is looking forward to the next Superbowl so she can repeat her winnings.



Traditions



We love baseball, so **each year we take a trip to California to see our team, the Los Angeles Dodgers, play in their home stadium.** Recently, on our trip to LA to see the Dodgers we watched Chris Taylor hit a grand slam in the 6th inning against Chicago. Being in Dodger Stadium when a Dodger hit a grand slam was unreal! The stadium erupted in cheering and everyone stood up yelling in excitement, high-fiving each other. The Dodgers beat the White Sox that game 5-4. We look forward to learning your favorite traditions and including them in our gatherings for your child.



We eat healthy during the week, but on **Friday nights** we splurge for **pizza and our favorite TV show.** Our dogs snuggle up with us when we grab a blanket and catch up on our favorite shows. A couple of weeks ago Cody called Jack on a Friday and said he was on his way home and was picking up pizza. Cody is always more adventurous when it comes to trying new pizza styles or toppings. This night he came home with a hamburger nacho pizza! Jack was so worried it would be horrible as he likes traditional pizzas. Cody was determined that it would be amazing. Well, it was horrible! We still ate it but we agreed to no more nacho pizzas in the future!



Christmas is a major event at our house! Jack tends to get a little over the top when it comes to Christmas and the season at our house **starts the day AFTER Halloween!** Whenever we travel, we get a Christmas ornament to bring home and add to our tree for the next Christmas season. Last year we went to the coast in October for a weekend getaway and went to a huge Christmas store and spent so much time shopping for ornaments! We ended up finding what Jack called a **"unicorn whale,"** not knowing that he had picked up a narwhal. Cody told him what a narwhal was and Jack was convinced Cody was messing with him. When we got back to our car, Jack looked up a narwhal and was surprised to find out that they are real!

Each year we go to the **Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival** just north of where we live. It is a great opportunity to get out in the open air and see millions of tulips! Jack's mom and dad both love tulips and his dad bought his mom tulips for the front of their house last year and planted more this year after we went. Bamma LOVES to talk with random people that she meets. Two festivals ago, she wandered off and we found her after quite a search, near the food trucks having coffee and pastries with someone she had just met!



Cody always makes breakfast on the weekends. This is his time to relax and bake, or make pancakes with bacon and eggs. Bear **always** joins Cody in the kitchen, while Jack and Tank play in the living room. Recently, Cody made a coffee cake in the kitchen while Jack and Tank played in the living room. Cody likes giving Bear treats while he cooks and Bear loves to patiently wait by Cody's side for any treats from whatever Cody is making. Bear stood by Cody's side while Cody made the batter and filling and made the cake, the whole time getting sweet treats and lots of sugary goodness. When Cody was done baking the cake, Bear was so stuffed he took a loud nap on his dog bed with lots of snores and his tongue hanging out.



Each year everyone from Cody's side of the family gets together in his hometown to attend the **Crook County Fair Rodeo** fair in Central Oregon. Cody's nephew Ryder is a mutton buster (a junior rodeo participant who rides sheep) and last year he rode in a rodeo contest. Ryder held on to his sheep so well during his practice runs. When it came time for competition, Ryder held on just as great! His sheep was a little stubborn leaving the locks but got out into the ring when Cody's brother gave the sheep a little tap on the butt. We look forward to learning about your favorite traditions and incorporating them into our gatherings for your child.



Home & Neighborhood



Our favorite room in our Oregon home is the living room. It is **the sunniest room in the house and we have filled it with lots of plants and dog toys!** We recently watched The Freeway Series between the Dodgers and the Angels. Even though both teams are rivals, we love them both. Cody was home early each night of the series and Jack had snacks ready for the game. We sat with the boys and watched as two great teams competed in our favorite stadium, while we were in our favorite place; home. We're happy to report that the Dodgers won!



Jack has summers off from work, so he spends much of the summer with small projects around the house. Even when it isn't summer, he is doing something to the inside of the house. Last summer he painted the kitchen cabinets, the bathroom cabinets, and put new hardware on all of the doors. He is always trying to improve the coziness of the house and add our personal touches throughout the house. He is extra excited to turn our guest room into a nursery this summer for your child. **Our friends helped us decide on the theme of "Boca" for the nursery** and Jack is looking forward to buying lots of tropical themed items for the room.



We love our small community, especially that we are close to so many areas in Oregon! Our house is less than an hour away from Portland, Eugene, the Oregon coast, and Washington state. Our favorite activity is to go to Lincoln City and rent a condo on the ocean to kick back with minimal technology complete lots of puzzles. On a recent visit to the coast, we rented a condo that sat right on the beach and **woke up each day to the waves breaking over the sand and rocks!** Your child will grow up in a family that enjoys the simple things in life that matter so much.

Weekdays

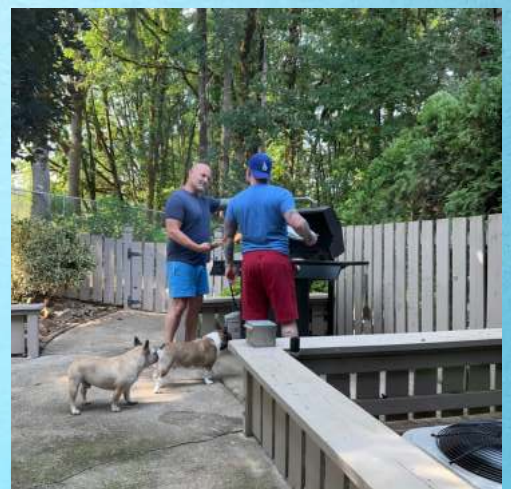
Jack works as a consultant for a regional agency assisting students and schools with supports for students identified as having autism. His job duties require him to meet with students and administrators, and sometimes test out fun learning tools. In addition to having **summers off**, he works a **flexible** schedule and sometimes is able to **work from home**. When he is not working, he spends his time either at his parents house close by, trying to perfect another food dish, or tending to the garden. Jack has parental time off to bond with your child.



Cody works as a social worker for an agency within human services assisting families who are experiencing crisis. He typically works **predictable hours** and his office is located **close to home**. Every day Tank waits for Cody to come home for dinner, and he always knows when to expect him. Cody has great parental leave benefits to take time off to bond with your child.



When Cody comes home, **we have dinner together**. One night recently, Cody was running a little late and called Jack asking if he wouldn't mind starting dinner before Cody got home. Jack said sure and said that he would be making Chinese food for dinner. Cody was super excited about homemade Chinese food but also a little curious as to how Jack was going to pull this off. When Cody got home, Jack had dinner ready. Cody couldn't stop laughing that Jack had just heated a bag of frozen Chinese food from Trader Joe's. at Jack's comment about making Chinese food as he thought Jack had meant from scratch. We had lots of laughs that night. Your child will grow up with parents who value time spent with family around the dinner table, and with lots of humor.





With Gratitude

Thank you for taking time to get to know us and see into our lives. We hope that you have gained some insight into who we are as a couple, and who we are as individuals. Both of our families have been built by adoption, and we understand the complexities of emotion that come with this choice. But we also know how amazing being adopted is. We are both adopted by our fathers, and Jack's mom was adopted as an infant. We have cousins who were adopted, and we value the positive impact that adoption can have on everyone involved.

We believe choosing adoption is one of the most selfless acts a person can choose, and we also understand that this choice may come with mixed emotions and uncertainty. We want you to know that if you choose us, your child will be loved beyond words and will grow up in a large, supportive, and special family. We are excited to share photos and updates with you throughout the years, if that is something that you also look forward to.

We hope that you will choose us as your child's adoptive parents, but if not, we very much appreciate the time you spent considering us. We admire what we feel is courage and strength on your part during this time. If you choose us as your child's adoptive parents, we look forward to this journey together and we are excited to meet you in person!

We appreciate you,



Jack

Cody ♡

