

TANNER & RYAN



EMMA & ZOIEY



hello

FROM MINNESOTA!

Thank you for taking time to learn about us as you consider an adoption plan for your child. We respect you so much for considering to pursue adoption. We feel this must be difficult, and we envision you as brave.

We hope you find comfort in knowing that if chosen, we promise to always make sure that your child knows how much you love them, and that we believe this is a courageous decision made from unconditional love. We would love to have a relationship with you, if you would feel comfortable with that, and wish you peace and strength over the coming days.



ABOUT US

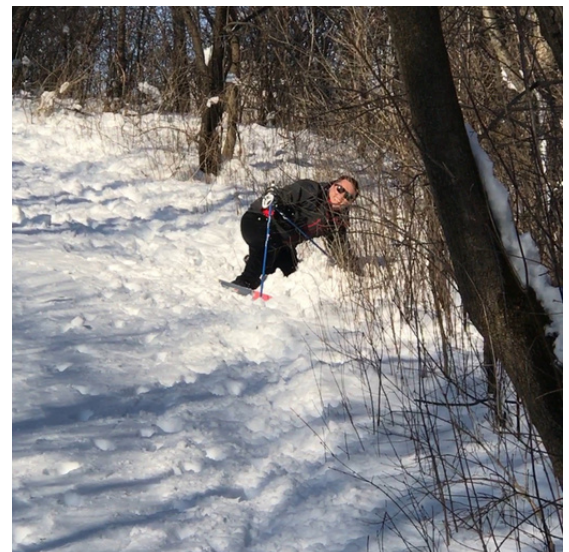


We are not afraid of a challenge. Neither of us were raised to be very handy, but when we bought our first home we decided to build a deck in our backyard. Little did we know we were in way over our heads... We first had to purchase all the tools and equipment needed to get started. Tanner spent many hours on Youtube trying to come up with a plan, and even drew out his design on graph paper. After many evenings and weekends of hard work, and a lot of help from our family and friends, we got the job done.



We love exploring other cultures. This past summer we took Ryan's parents to Europe for the first time. Ryan's father has Italian roots, and Ryan was very excited to have his dad experience homemade Italian food like his grandmother used to make. It was special getting to watch his father experience new things and reminisce of his childhood. We had so much fun touring and learning about all of the historical landmarks in Italy, such as the Roman Forum, Colosseum, and Trevy Fountain. We also took a boat ride to one of the nearby islands in Venice to learn all about their history of glassblowing.

We lead an active lifestyle, enjoying snowy winters and lakeside summers. Always open to new experiences, we recently tried cross-country skiing for the first time at a nearby state park. Unlike regular skiing, cross-country skis are narrower and designed for trails with grooves. We found it challenging at first, as staying in these grooves is essential to keep balance. Despite some falls, we embraced the challenge. Your child will learn the value of trying new things and facing challenges head-on.



ABOUT RYAN

by Tanner



Ryan is ambitious and is **always going above and beyond**. When he gets an idea in his head, its hard to make him change his mind. Ryan decided on a whim that he wanted to update our entry area in our home and I was *not* about it! The next weekend, he enlisted the help of our family; Ryan drug us to the store to buy wood, paint, coat hooks, and decorations for the wall and he had me do all the measuring and cutting. His dream of having a board-and-batton wall was accomplished and turned out perfect. Our grandmother even approved!



Ryan is **upbeat and encouraging**. If you're having a bad day, you want to give Ryan a call! Ryan is always rooting for our younger cousins at their band concerts, plays, and sporting events, and offering words of wisdom to get them to try something new. Over this last summer our little cousin was nervous to try knee boarding at the lake. To show her there was nothing to be scared of, Ryan got on the knee board first. He called her into the water to get her comfortable on the knee board and then walked her through how to get herself above the water by pulling up on the rope. Following his advice, she was able to get above the water and had a smile on her face. With Ryan by your child's side, they will be able to discover their strengths.



Ryan **knows how to make others feel calm and safe**. He was asked by some of our family to become an ordained minister to officiate their wedding. On the day of the wedding, the couple-to-be was both excited and anxious. Ryan wrote the best script for the ceremony! He told some jokes about when he first met them to lighten the mood, which had the whole crowd laughing. After the wedding, the couple told Ryan how much they appreciated his humor and how it helped them relax during the ceremony. Your child will grow up with a father that knows how to help them feel calm and safe in all situations.

ABOUT TANNER

by Ryan

Tanner is the **musically inclined** person in our relationship. He's played saxophone from grade school through college. We were looking through old pictures recently and came across one of Tanner in marching band in college. I asked him where his saxophone had gone, and he ran to find it. Before I knew it, he was serenading me and the dogs with "Mary Had a Little Lamb." This sparked Tanner's interest all over again and he decided to join our community band. He now practices weekly and is gearing up for a spring concert. Your child will be supported to develop creativity and confidence by exploring the arts.



Tanner **finds great joy in tackling a new project**. Recently I decided I wanted to build a fireplace in our living room and tasked Tanner with figuring out the logistics. I came home the next day after work and he had moved all of the furniture out of the living room and was sketching his design on scratch paper. The most challenging part was the angle of our ceiling. Tanner measured multiple times and had to go back to the saw a few times to get the cut just right. The finished product turned out just how I imagined! Your child will be encouraged to have the confidence to try and learn new things.



Tanner is a **caregiver**. He is one of many nurses in our family and he takes his role very seriously. Last summer his uncle underwent emergency cardiac surgery. Tanner was on speed dial for his aunt every time a doctor came into the hospital room. He was able to talk his aunt through the procedure and explain what to expect next. After several months in the hospital and rehab facility, his uncle was discharged home. Just a few months ago, his uncle was able to go on his first cruise post-surgery with us. Your child will always feel safe with a nurse for a parent.



becoming A COUPLE



We met online. Tanner was in town visiting friends for the weekend and Ryan had just moved from out of state for his job so it was just happenstance that we connected. Our attraction was instant and we agreed to meet at the mall for our first date. When Tanner got there, Ryan was in Macy's looking for a nice pair of shoes for his new job. We still shop at that Macy's and every time we pass the shoe department, we talk about that Sunday afternoon.



Ryan proposed to Tanner on a trip to Florida. We had been together for 5 years and had always talked about marriage, but never really talked about who would propose to whom. Ryan bought the ring in July and was waiting for the right moment. Knowing we had a trip planned in October, Ryan decided what better place to propose than on the beach? On the third night of the trip, while Tanner was finishing getting ready for dinner, Ryan called Tanner to the balcony overlooking the ocean. Tanner walked through the balcony door and saw Ryan down on one knee and immediately panicked and backed into the corner. **Ryan knew he had caught him totally off guard** and immediately starting laughing and forgot his entire speech. Ryan got up and hugged Tanner and Tanner mumbled the words "yes" in between tears.



We knew we wanted to become parents and start a family some day. Our adoption journey began several years ago as we talked about adoption early in our relationship. Ryan grew up with several adopted friends and family. One of Ryan's great friends was adopted in a completely open adoption. His friend would go visit his birth mother every summer for one week. His birth mother lived in Florida, so Ryan remembers always being jealous that his friend got to go to the beach every summer. Their relationship was great and he would talk about texting his birth mother frequently. **Their relationship and openness allowed him to maintain a connection with his birth family.** We are hopeful to join you on your journey!

EMMA & ZOHEY



We both grew up with many pets. Ryan has always been a small dog lover because he loves the snuggles. Tanner has always been a lover of all animals, having grown up with guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs, cats, birds, and gerbils. Emma joined our lives only 6 months into our relationship. Tanner was insistent on getting a dog while Ryan was hesitant, but he quickly warmed up to the idea after we met Emma. We found Emma, a puppy Boston terrier from a farmer in the country. We quickly adapted to being dog parents. Zoey joined our lives one year later. Tanner was insistent that Emma was lonely and needed a friend/sister. Against Ryan's better judgement, we found ourselves bringing Zoey home.

Our girls love kids. Emma and Zoey met our nephew, Walker, when he was born. At first they were very timid and wanted to check him out but they quickly became attached to him. Now, Walker will point and say "dog" to get their attention and enjoys throwing toys and having them fetch for him. Emma and Zoey have no qualms with who is throwing the toy, as they will gladly play with anyone.

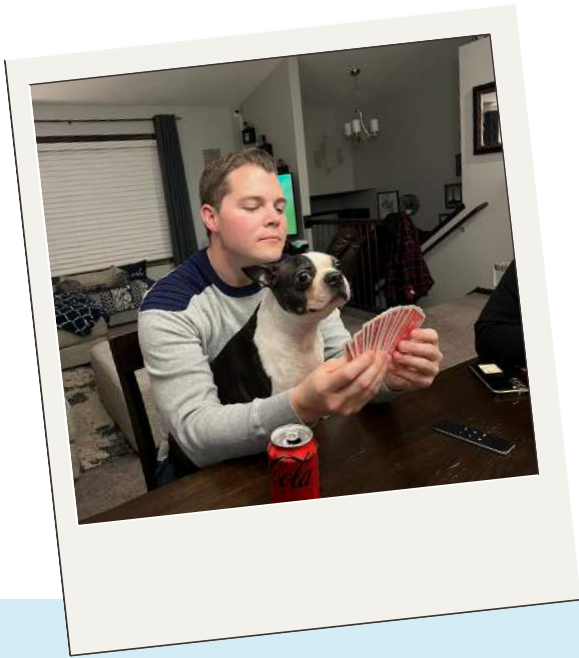


When Zoey joined us in our new home, **we quickly learned that Zoey enjoyed chewing at the wooden trim around our picture window** in our living room. We knew she wasn't going to be as easy to parent as her sister Emma but we understood that making a mess is a normal part of raising a living being, and we love her all the same!



family

IF YOU CHOOSE US, YOUR CHILD WOULD BE LOVED BY 3 GREAT GRANDPARENTS, 4 GRANDPARENTS, 16 AUNTS AND UNCLES, & 22 COUSINS.



Get together with our family usually involve **playing some sort of game**, and we're **fairly competitive**. Tanner's grandmother was a card shark and has passed on a love of card games to us all. Throughout COVID, we figured out ways to play cards with one another virtually. It quickly became a weekend tradition. She passed away last Fall, but the tradition continues with the rest of us. Your child will grow up developing important life skills through competition, such as resilience, perseverance, and tenacity.

Our family loves to **honor our heritage**. One way we do this is through cooking recipes handed down from Ryan's Italian great-grandmother. Last Christmas Ryan decided to make his family's meatball recipe to surprise his father. Ryan spent hours in the kitchen trying to perfect the meatballs and even made his family's secret marinara sauce. Ryan's father was shocked when he walked into the kitchen to see the meatballs. He told Ryan that it was just as good as he remembered. Your child's roots will be honored as we encourage them to celebrate where they come from. We would love to learn your family recipes so we can honor you and your heritage for your child.



Our family is **always dreaming up creative ways to have fun**. During one of our recent get togethers, our uncle created an escape room, complete with a scavenger hunt, mazes, and hide and seek. While playing hide and seek, Ryan was hiding in the garage under his uncle's truck on the cold concrete floor as the weather was very cold. Ryan hid until he couldn't take it anymore and finally grabbed our cousin's leg as she walked by. She screamed, giving away Ryan's hiding spot. Our whole family was shocked that Ryan crawled around on the garage floor to hide, but soon realized it was the perfect hiding spot!



TRADITIONS

Anytime we are visiting a new place, **we seek out an escape room to experience.** During our last trip to Destin, our family worked together to escape a pirate room. Tanner and his aunt Paula spent half the time insisting that the rope curled up in the corner was a clue. Low and behold, the rest of the family finally listened and we used the rope to connect symbols around the room to reveal a secret code needed to get out. We escaped with 12 seconds left to spare! We look forward to learning your favorite traditions to include in our gatherings for your child.



We spend **every New Years Eve on a holiday cruise in the Caribbean.** During our last trip, we somehow ended up in an elevator with a piano. Tanner's uncle hates the song "Sweet Caroline", so the family quickly requested this song from the player. As we were all singing along, his uncle promptly exited the elevator at the very next stop and took the stairs the rest of the way up. We got off the elevator laughing as he was making his way up the last flight of stairs.



Every **Christmas Eve**, Ryan's family gathers at his parents house. It is not uncommon to have 30 visitors at their house. **It is the one time each year when everyone is in the same place.** We usually have a meal, share gifts, and just enjoy everyone's company. This past Christmas Eve, just as everyone was settling in and mingling with each other, Ryan's cousin stood up in the kitchen to gather everyone's attention. She had a gift to give her mom and wanted us all to watch. When Aunt Sherry opened the gift, it was a "grandma" t-shirt -to announce Ryan's cousin being pregnant! Aunt Sherry screamed in excitement and said; "I knew something was up!" Ryan had just officiated their wedding the month before and this will be their first child.



home & NEIGHBORHOOD



Our home is in a suburban neighborhood in southern Minnesota. We have **families all around us and lots of children** riding bikes and running up and down our sidewalks. Last spring, we were out doing yardwork and our neighbor's children were out chasing a field mouse in our backyard. Tanner quickly went and got a bucket to help them catch the mouse. The mouse ended up going behind our shed and we were each on a side of the shed with the kids trying to catch this mouse. After multiple attempts, the mouse ended up getting away. We still aren't sure where it went - it just disappeared! After several minutes of trying to find it, we all gave up and the kids went back to riding their bikes and swinging on the tire swing. Your child will be surrounded by neighborhood friends.



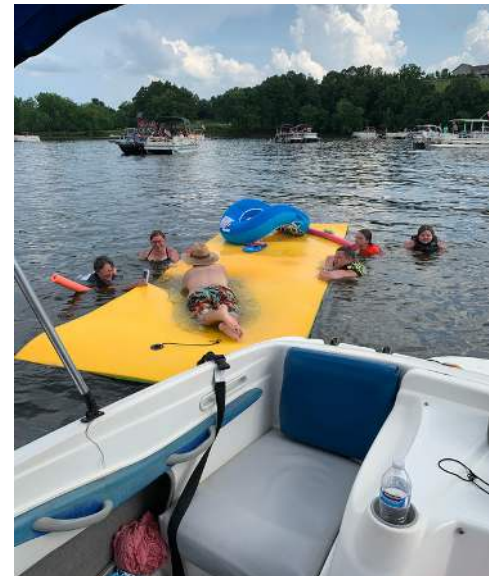
Our community is known for having over 80 miles of paved trails. In the spring and summer, we like to explore these trails on bike and foot. Last year, **Tanner trained for a half marathon on these trails**. He finished the race more than 10 minutes faster than his goal time! These trails remind us that we can accomplish anything if we put our minds to it.



Our dining room is one of our favorite places in our house. We spend the most time at our kitchen table surrounded by friends and family. We eat dinner here every night and talk about our day, but we also enjoy **gathering around the table with our family and friends** on the weekends. It's where we are sitting now as we create this book for you. We recently hosted a fondue night for some of our family. We had just purchased a fondue pot for this event, and we quickly learned that the small flame underneath the pot was not going to be powerful enough to cook the meat we were dipping in the broth. We ended up having to cook all the meat on the stovetop, and reserved the fondue pot for the best part - the cheese!

COMMUNITY

Minnesota is the “land of 10,000 lakes”. We own a boat and live within a 20 minutes of the closest lake. During our last boat outing we met up with some of our family, who also have a boat, out on the lake. **We anchored the boats next to each other out in the water and rolled out the floating rubber mat.** Our uncle was in charge of bringing a speaker and playing music loud enough for us to hear out on the mat. Shortly after we got everything situated, he played the song “Redneck Yacht Club” by Craig Morgan. We all cracked up laughing when we realized we had our own redneck yacht club.



Our community is a short drive from a large metropolis where there are plenty of activities. We enjoy spending some of our weekends there to attend concerts. Our aunt is notorious for losing her purse or phone everywhere we go. **At a recent Luke Bryan concert** she went to use the restroom and came back without her purse. None of us realized it until the concert had ended and we were gathering up our stuff to head home. **We spent the next hour searching all of the bathrooms** for her purse and in a last attempt, we asked security if anyone had turned it in. The security officer asked her to describe the purse and immediately pulled it out from behind the desk. What a relief!



We are part of the Orange Theory fitness community. A large portion of our family, friends, and colleagues are members at various Orange Theory studios across the country as well. Since joining our studio, we have made friends with an older couple, Nancy and Earl. Known as the “Power Walking Duo,” they are in their early 70s and always chat us up at the 6am class. Last week, Ryan had to skip one of our normal days because of a dentist appointment. **Nancy showed up unannounced at our bowling league that night just to ask Ryan where he was that morning.** As soon as Ryan saw Nancy walk in the bowling alley he started laughing and knew exactly why she was there. Nancy and Earl keep us dedicated and accountable! Your child will learn to value an active lifestyle.



OUR *favorite* THINGS TO DO



We love cruising. Tanner grew up cruising with his family and introduced Ryan to cruising 4 months into our relationship. **Our first cruise** together was not a great one; We had rough seas and **Ryan was sick the entire time**, spending most of the trip in the cabin with his head under the pillow. Ryan reluctantly tried cruising again the next year and loved it. Ryan now follows our favorite cruise lines on social media, so he is always in the know for the newest and best cruise ships being released, and lucky for him, Tanner is always willing to try a new ship! Your child will grow up experiencing new places and cultures.

We are always looking for fun things to do to break up the week, and when our uncle suggested a bowling league we laughed. Except our uncle was serious! Maybe **against our own will, we were signed up for a weekly bowling league.** That was three years ago, and we are still doing it today. We are both mediocre bowlers with averages in the low 100s, but last week Ryan had his highest game ever with a 173. Bowling has become a highlight of our week, where we get to see our family and friends.



We embrace the winter. Living in Minnesota, we get plenty of snow activity time throughout the year. We enjoy a cabin weekend with family every February where we ice fish, snow mobile, and dog sled. The last time we went dog sledding, Tanner was behind the sled leading the dogs, and Ryan was sitting in the sled enjoying the view. The guide warned us that we would be going around some fast corners along the trip. Around the third curve, **the dogs were going super fast and Tanner fell off the back of the sled**, knocking the sled over and leaving Ryan trapped. The guide, in a snow mobile in front of us, quickly stopped the dogs. Ryan stood up covered in snow and laughing.

WEEK *days*



Ryan is an executive for a senior housing management company. He is strongly passionate about people and enjoys listening to the residents of his communities. Hearing the stories of the past helps Ryan forge a better future. He works a **predictable schedule** and his office is only 3 miles from home. Ryan is home every evening and weekend.

Tanner is a registered nurse. He used to work in a multi-specialty intensive care unit, but in the past year he has transitioned into a nurse manager role overseeing a travel nurse program. His new role allows him to **work from home** full time, where he has ultimate **flexibility**. Tanner's background in the intensive care unit makes him uniquely qualified to soothe any boo boos your child may encounter.



We end each day snuggling with the dogs on the **couch** watching our favorite tv shows. Last week while we were watching *Below Deck*, Zoey jumped on the couch and gives Ryan the “eyes” and he knew she wanted under the blanket to cuddle. Emma was not happy about being left out and had to jump up into Tanner's lap for some attention. Your child will have quality family time every day.

thank you

We believe the journey you are going through must take an enormous amount of courage. We hope that these pages have given you a glimpse into our lives to help you make the best decision for your child.

We hope to share lots of photos and updates about your child's life, depending on your wishes. We think of you often and wish you peace and strength during this time. Thank you for considering us. We hope to hear from you soon.

Ryan & Tanner

