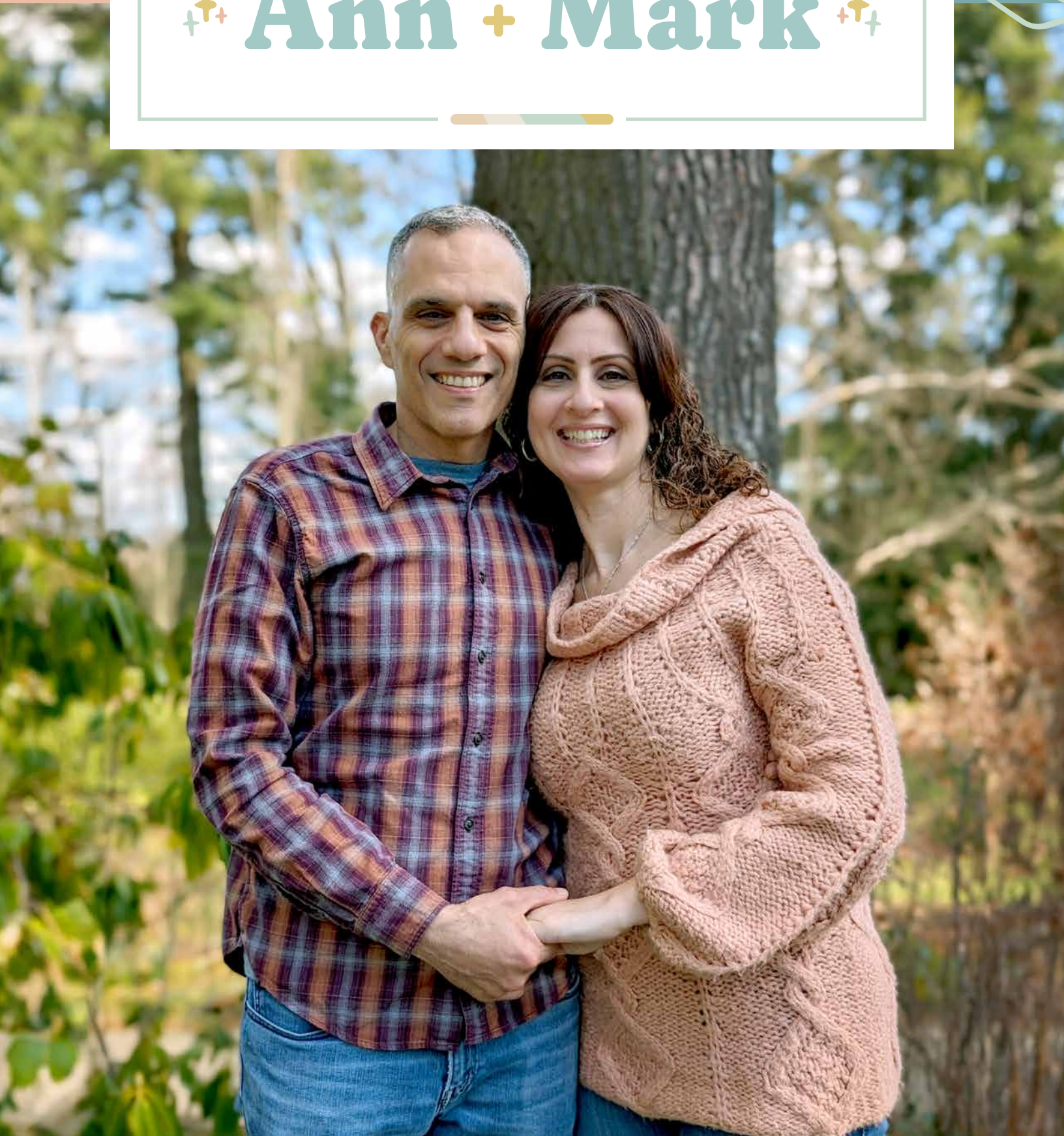


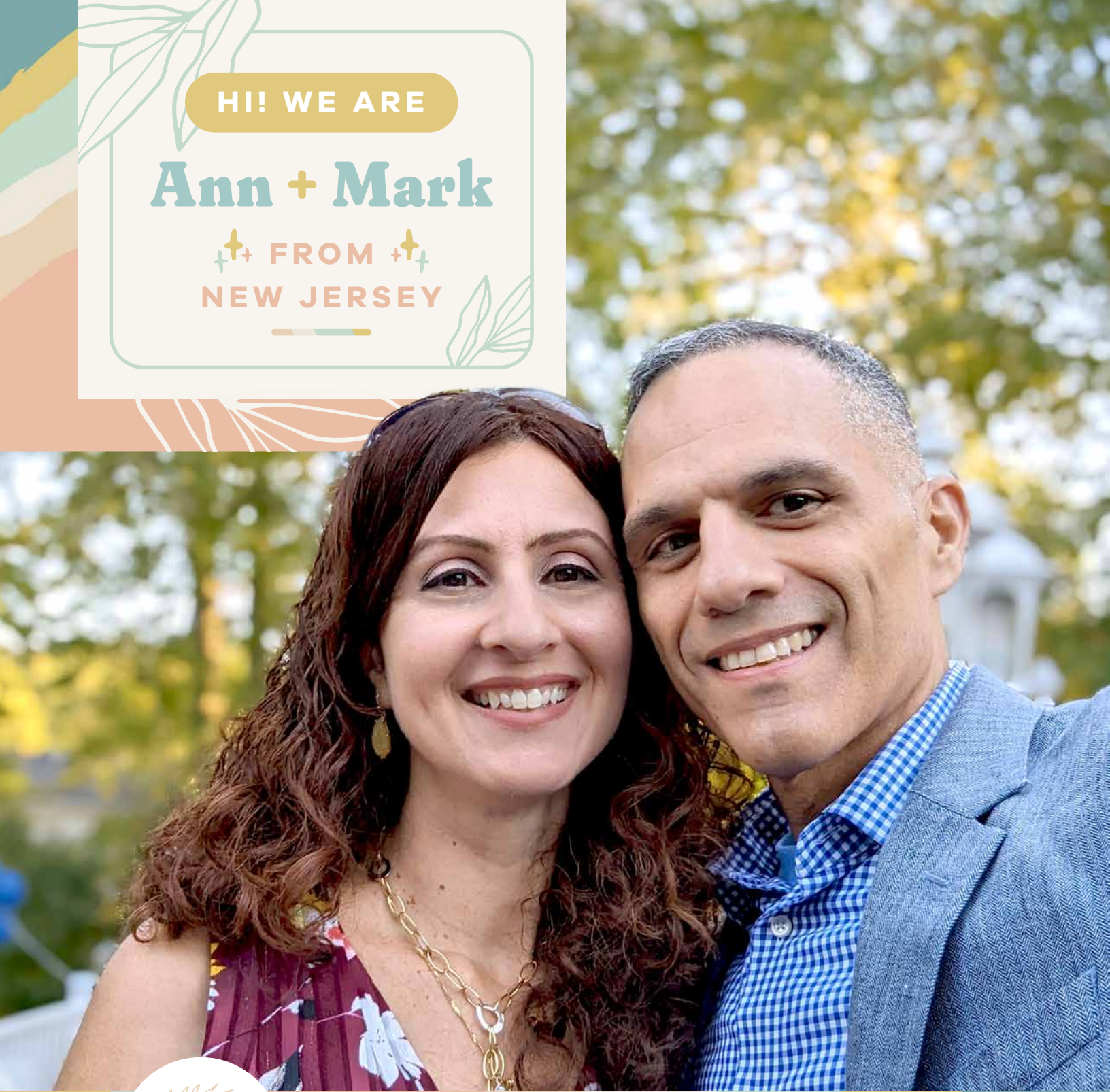
Ann + Mark



HI! WE ARE

Ann + Mark

++ FROM ++
NEW JERSEY



We're so happy and grateful that you are taking the time to learn more about us.

feel that this takes a lot of strength, courage and selflessness. We would love for the opportunity

We know that if you're reading this, you are considering a very important and serious decision and we

to be there for you in the process and develop an ongoing relationship together in whatever way you're comfortable. We hope that as you read our story, you can understand more about who we are, how much we have dreamed about becoming parents, and how we plan to raise a family. **Thank you for being open to learning more about us as potential adopting parents of your precious baby.**



WHY WE ARE

+ Adopting +

We love spending much of our free time caring and mentoring children in our family and church family.

We feel our relationship with each of them is a gift but our hearts long for a child to raise as his or her Mom and Dad. We have so much love to give to a child and nourish a family but, sadly, we are not able to conceive. **We believe deep in our hearts that our family was meant to adopt.** We are so excited for the possibility to raise our child who will feel loved, cherished, and safe.



Enjoying a day in a field of Ann's favorite flowers

Practicing our silly faces!



OUR Story

We've been married for 13 years and counting. We grew up in the same Christian church community in New Jersey during our teen years but never spoke to each other until our paths crossed again in 2009 on a Friday night when we happened to be at the same place at the same time. By our third date, each of us knew we had met our true love and best friend. **We love having fun together, whether playing music and singing, volunteering with the youth at our church, traveling to new places or just grabbing a donut while walking around downtown.**





HI!

I'm Ann

I truly believe that if you fill your life with people and things you love, you are your happiest and stay young at heart.

I love being a pharmacist, researching new medications that have the possibility to help people with rare diseases. While I am very passionate about my work, I cherish the time I have with our family and we try to celebrate every occasion together. I'm a planner so I'm usually involved in designing themes for the family's showers, anniversaries or birthday parties. I recently planned a British tea-themed birthday party for my sister. **I volunteer at our church and my favorite group is my kindergarten class because of their loving hearts and willingness to have fun and be silly.** I also love to paint, whether it's on a canvas or face painting for children during different community events. My happiest times are at the beach and I can honestly spend the entire day in the water, kayaking or swimming.

What I Like to Collect:
I LOVE BOOKS

Favorite Seasonal Activity:
Swimming

Source of Inspiration:
Bible

Favorite Place to Take a Child:
Aquarium

My Perfect Day:

Hot coffee while reading a Jane Austen book with my kitten Toffee on my lap, followed by a walk or kayaking in a local park... and a peanut butter milkshake on the way home.

Ann face painting at an ASL festival



MORE

About Ann

✦ BY MARK ✦

Ann is my best friend. The first time I saw Ann, we were in a crowded room, maybe about 30 people, but I only saw her. All of time stopped. **She is such a caring person, not only towards me, but to everyone that knows her and she always goes above and beyond.** She finds a way to bring out the best in me and reminds me how important it is to put my best foot forward. Ann is the smartest and one of the most loving people I know.

I see how nourishing and kind she is with her sister Mary, our nieces and nephews, and she will be such a loving mother.

She has such a beautiful, comforting smile. **I love seeing new sites with her when we travel and watching her take it all in, and I can't wait to share that feeling with her when our child sees or learns something new.** I love how excited she gets when we put up Christmas decorations and I can't count the number of times I pictured how amazing she would be with our child doing the same.



Ann adores giraffes

Ready to hit the trails at Joshua Tree National Park



Ann feeding her niece spinach for the first time

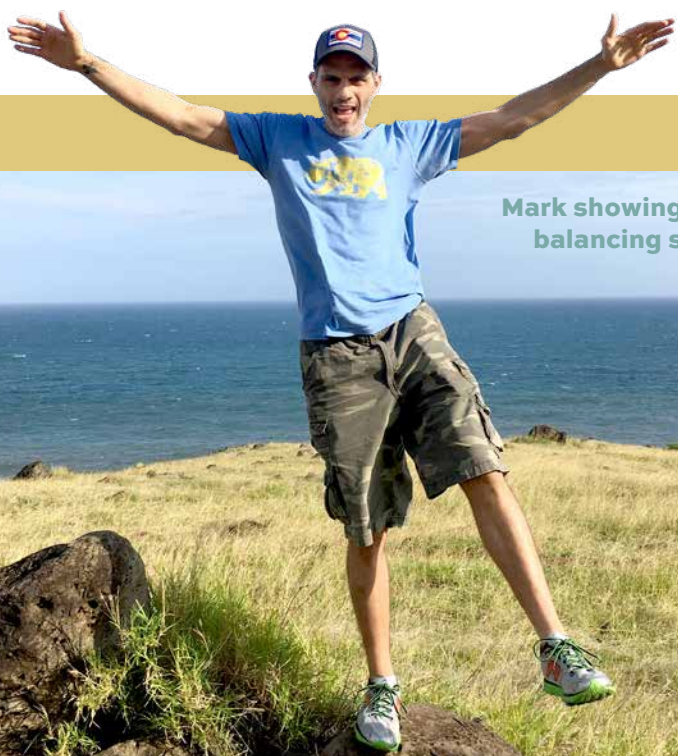
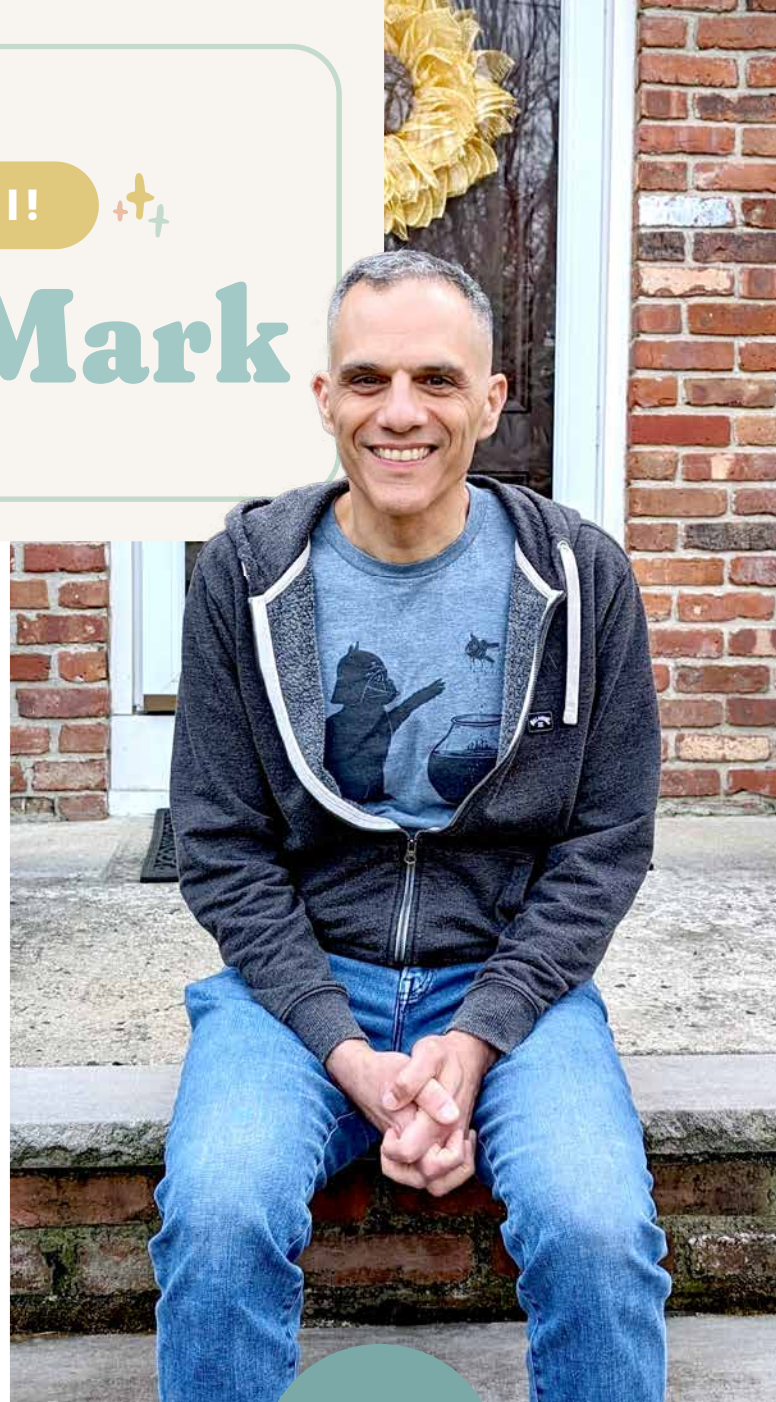


I love spending time with Ann, whether it's taking walks in the neighborhood, going on vacation adventures, or cooking dinner together.



I'm Mark

We love our taco Tuesdays! I also absolutely love both listening and playing so many different types of music and I play several instruments. I've always pictured having a family band one day when we have a child with he or she singing duets with Ann. I recently learned to play Blackbird by the Beatles with the hope to play for our future child when he or she is about to fall asleep. I feel like music shows us the world and culture, and we hope that someday, we could share that with our child. I work as a lawyer and love that I still learn something new everyday. I also love distance running, especially when it's for a charity, like the Chicago Marathon where I raised money for breast cancer research in honor of my aunt who passed from breast cancer. I can't wait for the opportunity to take our child running in his or her stroller and experience the beauty of fall and spring together.



Mark showing off his balancing skills



Instruments I Play:
Bass, guitar, ukulele and banjo

Fun Fact:
I used to play in rock and funk bands

Source of Inspiration:
Bible

Favorite Sport:
I used to surf and still try every once in a while

Favorite Dessert:
Vanilla Ice Cream

MORE

About Mark

✦ BY ANN ✦

Mark has the kindest, most loving heart. It was how he loves his family, always making sure that they are cared for and laughing, that made me sure that he was the one I wanted to love and have as my best friend for life. Mark is very charismatic. I remember when we got married how excited my nephews and nieces were that they'd get to see more of the 'fun uncle'. He would play games with them, talk to them in cartoon-like voices and always listen to their stories. I also see it in how he has mentored teen boys in our family and church. He bonds with them through humor and encourages them to make healthier life choices, respecting others, being honest and caring. Years later, he still has a relationship with many of them and they've become friends.

I can't wait to see our child playing, laughing and learning from him.



Kit Kat helping to tune Mark's bass

Mark taking pictures in Lake Como, Italy



Mark wrapping up the Rocky Run in Philadelphia, PA



WE LIVE IN A

Peaceful, Suburban ++ New Jersey ++ Neighborhood

with a downtown that looks like it's a Norman Rockwell painting, beautiful parks, playgrounds, amazing schools, places to ride bikes, fairs, and farmers markets.



A little snow turns our home into a winter wonderland



Enjoying a stroll together at a nearby park

Summer BBQs on our deck with grandma



Summers are always fun with the town's 4th of July fireworks and outdoor music nights. Our 3 bedroom home has a nice size front and backyard, plenty of space to play! Over the past several years, we have worked a lot on our yard, planting flowers and native plants to encourage more birds and butterflies to call our yard home. Having the local birds has also been entertaining for our two indoor kittens, Kit Kat and Toffee, who watch our neighbors and birds like they are cat TV! As much as we love our yard, we cherish our Saturday morning breakfasts and family barbecues on our deck. **On hot summer weekends, we have just a short drive to the beach. The rest of the year, we take advantage of living close to 2 major cities, NYC and Philadelphia, where we go to concerts, theater, museums, aquarium, and baseball games.**



OUR
Hobbies
AND INTERESTS

Enjoying a trail in the Adirondacks



Hiking near Sedona, Arizona

Adventuring at Seven Falls Park, Colorado



Exploring Oahu's Nature



In our free time, we spend time doing volunteer and service work in our community.

Last year, we traveled out to Pittsburgh with a few middle-school and high schoolers to volunteer by painting and restoring the food pantry area for a community center. We both mentor high schoolers and younger children. I (Ann) am our designated face painter for kids

during our community events. I love turning the kids into their favorite super heroes, butterflies or princess characters.

Lately, we've been going to more national parks and most recently the Grand Canyon in Arizona, Zion National Park in Utah, and Pikes Peak in Colorado. We both look forward to revisiting these places with our child. We believe travel to be fun as well as educational. We also love mellow days at the beach. During the fall, we like to go for walks on nature trails or drive up to New England to see the fall foliage. We also enjoy just being present in the peace of nature, taking in all the sights and sounds. We hope to impart our love of nature to our child. Part of our fun in traveling is trying new foods and we tend to look for places where the locals eat wherever we travel to, especially the local coffee spots! It helps us appreciate the local culture, try new things and, of course, eat some delicious foods.

WE'VE ALWAYS HOPED TO SHARE THESE EXPERIENCES WITH OUR CHILD -

to introduce new things, help he or she see the world, appreciate people, cultures, sites, and nature, and to see his or her curiosity and imagination come alive.

OUR Family

We're so grateful that we benefited as children from growing up with extended family and we want to provide that lifestyle for the child who we are blessed to adopt. Both of our parents live nearby.

Mark's parents like to have BBQs and pool parties, where all the uncles, aunts and cousins come by. With my (Ann's) parents, sister Mary and her husband, it's usually game night.

We play board games or cards... although we have to watch my dad because he always figures out a way to cheat. My mom and Mark are the only huge Star Wars fans in my family, so sometimes I get sister time while the two of them watch the new movie and series that's come out together.

During the holidays, we see our entire family – Grandma, parents, uncles, nieces, nephews, their kids, you name it. **We have a large family with 17 second nieces and nephews and 2 goddaughters.** It's impossible to get everyone together but we try and host as many as we can each Christmas Day at our home. Each family brings their favorite dish. We spend the weeks leading up to Christmas putting up decorations together while we listen to classic Christmas songs. (For whatever reason, Mark loves the song Blue Christmas from Elvis and will turn it up).



Mark, Ann's dad and brother-in-law having a Monopoly game night

Ann and her sister celebrating her mom's birthday



A fun night out with Mark's cousins at Top Golf



THINGS WE

++ Plan to Share ++ with Your Child:

- + HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM
- + FAITH COULD MOVE MOUNTAINS
- + BEING KIND AND LOVING TO OTHERS
- + OUR STRUGGLES STRENGTHEN OUR HEARTS
- + THE VALUE OF TAKING A MOMENT EACH DAY FOR REFLECTION



Mark and his cousin's kids with their favorite Ninjago character at Legoland



THOUGHTS ON

Parenting

Celebrating our anniversary in Hawaii



We want the opportunity to share this journey with you in whatever way you are comfortable because we believe that an open adoption is important for our child.

We want to raise our child to know that he or she is loved, precious and safe. For us, instilling good qualities and habits is important and we will always strive to set a good examples which teach our child to love and respect others, value his or her individuality and appreciate this in others. Education is also important to us, not just in school but also life examples. We will provide our child with great education opportunities. It's important that we, as parents, don't just talk about caring for others but we practice it. That we won't stress memorizing history from books but we will experience places, music, art and learn lessons from the past.



We hope this helped you know more about us, our values, and the kind of life we hope to offer your child.

We would love to learn more about you and your hopes and dreams for your child. We admire your courage and we know this is not easy for you by any means. We hope that you give us the opportunity to be on this journey with you. We have an overflow of love that would be endless for your child. As parents, we will commit every waking moment to let your child know that they are loved, safe, and provided for in every possible way, knowing that he or she would be an answer to our prayers.

WHATEVER DECISION YOU MAKE,

+† We Wish You †+
Peace + Comfort

AS YOU CONSIDER
YOUR OPTIONS.



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