



Michael & Aarika  
+ BOBBIE

# hey there

We want to begin this letter by expressing our deepest love and affection to you, whether you choose us as parents, another person or couple, or choose to parent your child yourself. We understand that this decision is not taken lightly and is being done with the utmost love and protection for your child.

We have been married seven years and value family over everything. We are an adventurous couple who genuinely live life to the fullest. We love to travel and have been to numerous cities together. With friends and family all over the country, we frequently enjoy going on trips to visit them, and if we are invited to a wedding, you can almost guarantee we will be in attendance!

In our first year of marriage, Michael and I were so excited to start a family. We've always loved children and have valued the fulfilling relationships we've had with our nephews and godchildren.

As a couple who has walked through the journey of adoption once before, we have so much respect and admiration for the decision you're making. We acknowledge the weight of this choice and the selfless love that is going into it.

We've been amazed and humbled by the outpouring of love and support that we've received from everyone around us. Being given the opportunity to love and raise Bobbie, has been the most rewarding gift. Your child would never lack love and attention from us or our community. They would be precious additions to our families (the 2nd grandchild on Aarika's side and 5th on Michael's side). Your child will be unconditionally valued and cherished!

To close, we send all the love and prayers your way, no matter your decision.

With Love,

Michael & Aarika



# Our Story



A marriage built on leaps of faith and lots of laughter, we believe as long as we have each other, we can do anything.

June 2012

Michael and Aarika meet, continue to be friends while Aarika finishes school in South Carolina and moves to Tennessee

October 2015

Aarika moves back to California to be with Michael after he tells her he loves her!

July 2016

Michael proposes!

January 2017

Michael and Aarika get married!

January 2018

Added our dog Winter to the family - she's the best and so great with kids!

December 2021

Welcomed our daughter Bobbie into our hearts and lives through adoption. A dream come true to be parents and only the beginning!

July 2021

Moved to Texas from California - and loving every second of it!





## our hearts for adoption

In one of our first conversations as a couple in 2015, Michael and I talked about our personal dreams. We discussed values, goals, and what we envisioned both of our families would look like one day. I told him then that I wanted "all the kids and all the dogs." Instead of running for the hills, Michael said "absolutely." I then told him about my dream to adopt.

After three years of trying to build our family naturally and an unexplained infertility diagnosis, we decided to start the adoption process and welcomed our daughter Bobbie into our hearts and home in December 2021. Our lives have changed immeasurably being given the opportunity to love Bobbie. We look forward to the fact that Bobbie will share adoption with a future sibling, that they will have that in common and will get to share that part of their lives. Watching Bobbie grow has been our greatest joy and we can't wait to walk with our children through every season of their lives from childhood through adulthood.

We want to make sure you know that if chosen by you, you are part of the deal, the whole package. We will love you and your child with all of our hearts. Adding more children and people to our family would be the most precious gift.

# We Promise...



To love your child  
unconditionally

To celebrate your  
child's story and  
differences always

To provide a  
stable and loving  
home that always  
feels safe

To encourage your  
child to explore all  
of their passions  
and interests



# Aarika

Energetic, Loyal, Affectionate

Life is what we make of it! I want to live big with lots of love, and have fun doing it!

My biggest dream was to become a mom and since becoming one, I feel so fulfilled. Bobbie and I love to dance and giggle, we snuggle lots on the couch. You can find the two of us (or all of us!) out for walks in our neighborhood or sharing a tasty treat (coffee shop gals for life!).

I'm a big dreams, reach for the stars, figure out your strengths kind of mom - I consider life all about figuring out what makes each of us different and celebrating those differences and strengths.

I danced, played sports, and did theatre - I love all of it and want my children to try it all and see what sticks. I believe participating in organized activities builds character and work ethic, but also believe in breaks from it all, vacations to explore new places and quality rest.

I'm a trust your gut, leap of faith, and all in God's hands kind of girl, who sees my biggest role in this world is to raise strong, fearless, and kind children who grow up to be adults that create change whether that be at a micro level or grand scale.

I love hard and with all that I am. I can't wait to add to our family so that we have more people to love!



"Aarika is very creative in finding ways to connect with and support everyone in our circle." - Michael



# Michael

Outgoing, Steadfast, Nurturing  
I believe family is the priority – I want to make all the memories!

While I'm definitely the "fun" dad, I value structure and routine for our family and myself. I make breakfast every morning, making sure Bobbie gets a healthy start to the day. I do most of the bedtime routine, with Aarika and I getting Bobbie ready together, but then I do the prayers and wind down. I thrive in a routine environment and like providing the same for our family. I work remotely as a financial advisor, providing me the opportunity to be around for every little moment in our home..

When I'm not doing the day to day things, Bobbie and I are playing a lot. Lots of racing in the house, tossing Bobbie in the air to "touch" the ceiling, and tickle fights. We love going on walks in our neighborhood on the nature trail or greenbelts and picking up the different leaves, acorns, and sticks we find along the way. Providing Bobbie with a life of adventure and movement is a goal of mine and I'm proud of the way we are exposing her to exercise and the outdoors.

Some of my favorite things are watching sports (I'm a big football fan!), working out, training for Ironmans, and seeing new places. I'm excited to add to our family, as I come from a large family and always envisioned our family with at least two children. I love being a dad and can't wait to add to our family!



**"My favorite thing about Michael is his ability to make people feel so at home and comfortable in his presence." - Aarika**



# Bobbie

Fearless, Friendly, Loving  
A sweet soul that says "hi" to everyone and is unafraid to try new things!

Bobbie is two years old and quite the firecracker. She has such a fun and adventurous spirit that we do our best to nurture. Bobbie loves the nature trails in our neighborhood, playing with her cousins and friends, and especially loves DOGS!

Bobbie's favorite things are animals, but particularly dogs and horses. Already a true Texas girl, because she gets to see them often just driving around where we live.

She loves Bluey and most Disney movies that have a lot of songs and singing! Some of her favorites are Moana, Frozen, and most recently Beauty and the Beast. Don't let this list fool you though, she also LOVES Nightmare Before Christmas and truly does not scare easily!

With that said, she is fearless - climbing is her favorite activity. Heights do not phase her, nor do challenging activities. We try to provide her with plenty of safe obstacle courses in our loft and heading to the park to go down the big slides.

Bobbie is so sweet, and a little salty, just how we like her. Lots of snuggles on the couch reading or watching our favorite movies. She is always game for a hug, or a "family hug" and has the sweetest giggles and smiles.



**"Bobbie is so full of life and energy. There is never a dull moment with her. She is constantly testing her boundaries and/or making us laugh out loud." - Michael and Aarika.**

This is our dog Winter!  
We love her so much!



Me and Uncle Grant at the beach





# our love for each other



After 7 years of marriage, we have definitely learned a lot! Michael and I are big communicators. We talk over everything and make every decision together. Our philosophy on marriage is "iron sharpens iron." We are two big personalities, with a lot of opinions and feelings that we have found a way to mix together to create a beautiful life. Through deep love for each other and each other's emotional and mental needs, we have forged a life that we are so proud of. From infertility to moving states, new careers, and growing our family, we believe that we can do anything if we have each other.

Michael and I laugh A LOT. We are constantly joking around and having fun. We are a very social couple, with lots of friends that we love to see and are so lucky that they love Bobbie and can't wait to love any future children. Together, Michael and I continue to dream about and build the life we always envisioned.



# our hearts as parents



Michael and I find immense joy in parenthood, and our primary goal is to raise kind, respectful, honest, and resilient children. We approach our roles with a deep sense of responsibility, establishing healthy boundaries with an abundance of love, affection, and laughter.

Michael excels in providing structure, yet he's equally amazing at fostering playful moments, like tickle fights that get the best giggles from Bobbie! On the other hand, I lean towards a more free-spirited approach, encouraging Bobbie to explore and embrace her adventurous side, while also teaching her how to take direction and follow rules through play.

Our home is filled with silly songs and spontaneous dance parties in the kitchen. Cuddles are a non-negotiable, and heartfelt conversations occur regularly throughout the day.

# *this is home*



Our library! Bobbie and Aarika love to read!



## The "Family Cradle"

Michael's family has a beautiful cradle that all the babies use when they are first born. This is an heirloom that all of our children will use as well. After they've used it, a plaque is added to the side with their name and birthdate.

In July of 2022, our little family moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area of Texas. We prayed for years leading up and then everything fell into place.

We love our home and we are so blessed to be surrounded by a wonderful community and friends. We moved to the same neighborhood as our close friends and have a really fun and loving friend group here. So many kids of all ages and plenty of people who have grown to be like family.





We love Chargers football and so many of our friends do too! We always get together for the first game of the season!



With the Texas heat, we are so grateful that our community has five pools! We go often in the summer time with our friends and order pizza to the pool!



Halloween is huge in our neighborhood. Parents will drive around in golf carts while the kids ring every doorbell!



The weekend before Halloween, we have Monster Mile in our community, where different stations are set up for kids to get candy and dress up again!



## Our Community!

As social and outgoing Michael and I are, we love spending time at home together, catching up on our latest shows, or watching movies. Together we have found the perfect balance of homebody and going out into our community. Any child that becomes part of our family will have a safe place to grow up and the freedom to be themselves. We want our children to have an abundance of experiences while also having a cozy home to feel safe and get away from the craziness of the world.

It's our wish that our children know that we are always on their side, that they can come to us with anything, no matter the circumstances. They will grow up in a home that accepts their wants, desires, and passions. Michael and I will fight for their dreams so that they can live full and exceptional lives.

We are so lucky that we live in an area that has an abundance of activities to explore. We have zoos and museums, so many parks, and there's something to do every weekend!

# Our parenting style

Michael works full time out of our home and I work part time at home. We are so blessed that we are able to be home with Bobbie 100% of the time and that one of us is always there to play with her, take care of her and provide for her.

1

Picking tulips at the Texas Tulip fields



We strongly believe in structure, but never so much structure that our children don't get to be themselves. Encouraging our children to grow into their own personalities is so important, and we can't wait to learn how their minds work and dance the days away with them.

2

Aquarium of the Pacific with Bobbie's friend, Scottie!



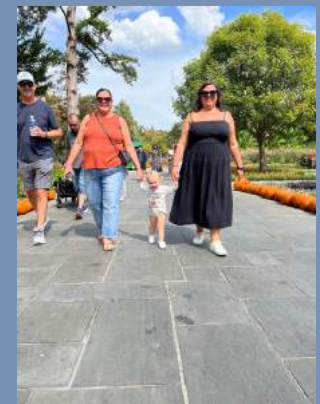
Michael and I are very hands-on parents who will encourage a strong work ethic in school but always balance academics with outdoor and social activities, and lots of travel. We look forward to raising our children in a home that is full of love, creativity, and curiosity.

3

We love letting Bobbie play and be creative.



Dallas Arboretum with Grandma, Auntie J, and Papa



In Mammoth, ice skating on a frozen lake during New Years

# our Adventures



Anaheim Angel game with Mimi

Swimming in the pool at Grandma and Papa's La Quinta house!

Celebrating Aarika's 30th birthday in New Orleans with Mallory, Cody and Aarika's sister, Aubree



Naples Zoo with Auntie Aubs



Cheering on Michael at his Ironman!



We love to travel! Whether that be South Africa for our honeymoon, New Orleans for my 30th birthday, or one of the many destination weddings we end up going to. We love an adventure! We have family in Louisiana, Florida, Nevada, Massachusetts, and all over California. We also have friends in many different states who we love to visit or meet in other cities.

We also love to spend weekends in Palm Springs, at Michael's parent's second home. We golf, play in the pool, and get a lot of family time on those weekends.

Trip to Lake of the Ozarks with Michael's side!



When we are home, we love going on walks in the neighborhood, exploring new spots in our area and spending time with our friends.

Even with Bobbie, our travel hasn't stopped. We go visit family often whether that's in California, Nevada or Florida and have gone on many family vacations.



Cheering on the Aunties in their college softball tournament in La Quinta, CA

We love being able to provide Bobbie with new experiences and getting to see new places and will continue to do that!



Exploring Waco, TX with Grandma!



Kisses with Auntie Ryan while celebrating Uncle D's birthday

Savannah Bananas ballgame with Aarika's side in Las Vegas!



# our big families

We both come from big families with lots of love! We carve out a lot of time to go visit all of our family.



Michael's family on the right all live in Orange County, California.

We have his Dad- Jim, Mom- Karen, Sister- Lauren, Brother-In-Law - Adam, Nephews Harrison (4) and Luke (2), Sister- Jennifer, Brother- David, Sister-In-Law - Ryan, and Niece - Millie.

Aarika's family is on the left, and they are a bit spread out with her parents, little brother and their poodle living in Nevada, younger twin sisters live in Seattle while they go to school, and her sister and her husband live with their black lab in Florida. We have my step-dad - Dave, Mom- Denise, Sister- Aubree, Brother-In-Law - Gordon, Sister- Mikee, Sister- Avari, and Brother- Grant.

A lot of our time together is spent at the softball field, going on family vacations, and spending holidays together.





# Traditions

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday! I love what the holiday stands for and we love seeing our families. There is nothing more special to me than getting to spend so much quality time with our families over the long weekend!

I usually make sweet potato pie and pumpkin pie and you will definitely find football on the TV with either family!

## Christmas

Christmas is a big holiday for us too! We love to be festive and go look at the lights in our neighborhood, decorate the house, and take part in all the festive activities our area provides.

Christmas jammies are a must from both Grandma and Mimi and there will definitely be pictures with Santa (or a few!).

We always attend church on Christmas Eve and enjoy John Wayne Eggs with my family.

Currently, we switch off who we spend Christmas and Thanksgiving with each year!

## 4th of July

We love America and we love the 4th of July! Michael's parents always throw a big party every year and it is so fun getting to see so many family and friends.

We enjoy lots of watermelon and festive foods and then get cozy and watch the fireworks on the beach!



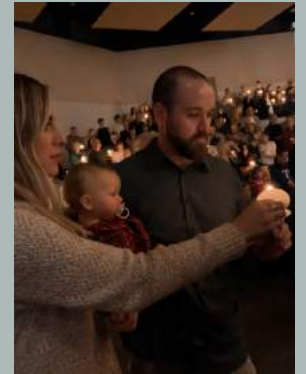
Thanksgiving in Palm Springs!



Helping Mimi cook at Thanksgiving



Looking at the 12 Days of Christmas installment at the Dallas Arboretum



Christmas Eve service at our church



Santa Breakfast at our golf club in Palm Springs

4th of July with Auntie Kait

4th of July at Grandma and Papa's house





# Five Values

1

## God, Family, Country

Faith and family and the land that we love!

2

## Work hard, play hard

We believe in having fun and living a full life, but working hard and having a good work ethic is fundamental to a fulfilling life.

3

## I was born ready

This is a family quote that means that you're ready no matter what, no matter your fears, you were born to handle this moment.

4

## All good things are wild and free

We believe everyone should be encouraged to be their authentic selves.

5

## No legacy is so rich as honesty

Honesty, and integrity are cornerstones in our life.



## our hopes for the future

It's our hope and dream to add more children to our little family. We know we can provide a loving, stable, exciting life for any child that comes into it. Further, a life filled with purpose and passion.

It's our goal that our children will be raised to value their story and their differences. We want our children to be raised to be people of integrity, confidence, compassion, and perseverance. We want them to know that they have been loved since before they took their first breath. To know that many people loved them and had dreams for them, not just Michael and I.

While navigating post-adoption placement will have its challenges, we look forward to leaning into those challenges with you, if you choose us. If you wish to have openness, we will put in the effort to allow for that to happen from the get-go. We would love to grow a relationship with you as the years go on. It's important to us that our children know where they come from, and can get answers that Michael and I may not be able to give them.

Finally, it's with hope and love that you are able to find the answers you seek on this journey. If Michael and I are the answer, we cannot wait to be on this journey with you in whatever capacity you are comfortable with. Know that we will love you in whatever way you need. Know that we love you already, no matter your decision, and are praying for you.

With Love,

Michael & Aarika