

Clay &
Melissa





HELLO!

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our family. If you are considering an adoption plan for your child, we are humbled to be considered as prospective parents. This decision is not a light one and we commend you for taking the courageous steps to get to this point. We care for you and the care you receive bringing life into the world. We respect your choice to parent or consider an adoption plan. We would love to support you and your child during the process as well as create a plan for an open adoption, if that is what you desire. We promise to love your child unconditionally and provide a life full of opportunities. Every child deserves a loving home. Whether that home is ours or yours, we are honored to be a part of the process.

With Love,

Clay & Melissa



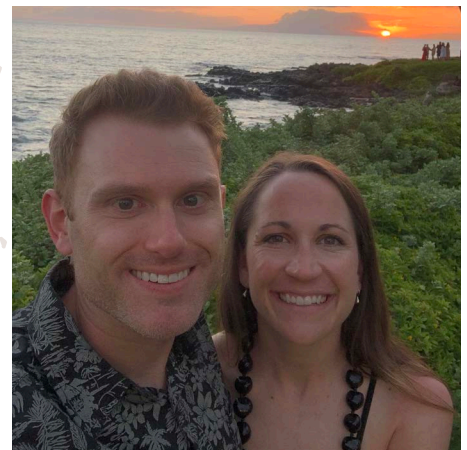
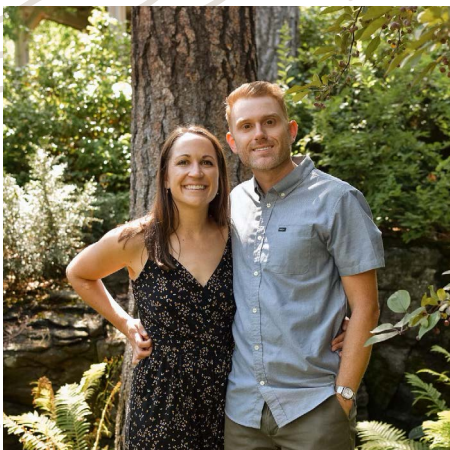
OUR STORY



We were both born in Illinois and raised in the Chicago suburbs. We attended the same school together, kindergarten through high school. We always knew of each other but were not friends until later in high school. We attended our senior prom together and decided to give dating a chance even though we had plans of attending colleges 9 hours apart. We continued to date long distance all throughout college years which we attribute to growing our depth in friendship. We were married in June 2014

and moved to Colorado to start our life as newlyweds. During our time there our love of exploring the outdoors grew and our faith as well. We moved to Washington in 2021 to help a group start a church.

We welcomed Wyatt into our family in 2022 by way of an incredible birth mother's selfless choice in creating an adoption plan. The gift of parenting Wyatt has been our greatest joy. We are so grateful God's plan for us to grow our family is through adoption.





MEET MELISSA

by Clay

Melissa has the biggest heart out of anyone I know. She cares so much about her family, friends, and work that everyone who enters her life feels truly special. Watching her grow as a mother over the last few years has been a true privilege. As a practicing physical therapist, she helps people during some of the most challenging times of their lives. Melissa often enjoys walks or pool time on sunny days with friends and their kids. A true people person, she models caring for others, which our son can readily observe. She is my number one fan and best friend, and I look forward to continuing our parenting journey together.



MORE ABOUT *Melissa*

OCCUPATION: Physical Therapist

FAVORITE BOOK: Trusting God

FAVORITE PLACE: Maui, Hawaii

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Experiencing all 4 seasons

MY PERFECT DAY: To wake up to good coffee and cinnamon rolls, adventure outside with Clay and Wyatt, take a family nap, eat pizza with friends for dinner outside.

MEET CLAY

by Melissa

Clay is my best friend and I'm convinced he is the best person to do life with. He is loyal, a hard worker, and is constantly growing in the way he leads our family. Clay is a man of many skills and hobbies as well as the champion of knowing random facts. In my eyes it seems he can learn how to do anything. Seeing him become a dad has been a favorite part of parenting for me. He is patient, engaged, sweet and fun with Wyatt. He does a great job of including Wyatt in his hobbies. I know he is excited to grow our family again, it's our greatest adventure, to parent alongside one another.



MORE ABOUT

Clay

OCCUPATION: Engineer

FAVORITE MOVIE: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

FAVORITE PLACE: Maui, Hawaii

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Learning something new every day!

MY PERFECT DAY: My ideal day would start with waking up early for an outdoor adventure with my family and then stop by our favorite Mexican restaurant on the way home.

MEET WYATT

Wyatt is a fun, extroverted, sweet boy who loves people, music, food, play, sleep, outside and his cat. He is known to walk into a room or on to an airplane and greet every person with a loud “hi”. We are so grateful he has been incredibly healthy and at the top of the growth charts in his 20 months of life. We will be shocked if he does not pursue learning a musical instrument or playing some form of ball sport. He enjoys other children and loves to point out “babies” when he sees them, we trust he will thrive in his new role as big brother.



MORE ABOUT

Wyatt

AGE: 20 months

OCCUPATION: Professional Thrower of All Balls

FAVORITE BOOK: Pat the Zoo and Counting with Olaf

FAVORITE PLACE: “Outside”

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: “Ball”

HIS PERFECT DAY: Sleeping until 8, eating cheddar cheese, riding his bike, park time and having friends over for dinner to entertain and play with.



Little cousin kisses

OUR HOME

and community

Our home is located in a medium sized city in Washington. We have a large yard filled with big trees, growing fruit, a pool and space for a childhood full of great outdoor memories. We live in close proximity to hiking trails and parks with playgrounds. Our community is found in our church who loves, cares, and prays for our family.



Our house



Always making music

“ Our home is filled with a genuine joy in doing life together. ”



A nearby park

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS

Melissa's parents have been married for 41 years and live part time in Illinois and Florida. She has an older brother who with his wife have two children. The leader of the cousins is 6 yrs old, Wyatt has a blast following him around and has been gentle with his little 10 month old cousin. Our family tradition is to spend several weeks in Florida together during the winter.

Clay has one younger brother who lives nearby and his parents have been married for 40+ years as well. As a family we enjoy exploring new places, we all went to Hawaii this past year. We typically host Clay's family at our house for a few weeks over Christmas. Our family tradition is to spend time together over the 4th of July holiday.



Grandma and uncle time



Family Christmas



Cousins and Grandma snuggle



Wyatt smiles at Grandma



First birthday family time

Our friends....



Wyatt and his friends



Parents night out

Our group of friends in Washington is a supportive community that enjoys doing life together. Our friends range from couples without children to couples with teenagers. Friends that we most often hang out with have children under the age of 8. Several other families in our community have children through adoption as well. We frequently have dinners together, meet for walks or in the park. In the summer our house is the hang out to gather around the pool.



Zoo day with friends

WHY WE ARE ADOPTING



We found out early on in our journey to parenting that a biological child could only occur by a miracle. We found this to be a clear guide into exploring adoption options and thankfully had conversations prior to marriage regarding our desire to adopt “someday”. We are so grateful adoption was the way our family first grew and we trust it to grow again. Adoption has taught us so much about our God, ourselves, and the love of a parent.

Our promises to our children:

- To love you unconditionally.
- To encourage you in your gifts and talents.
- To honor and respect your adoption story.
- To raise you to know God.
- To give you great opportunities for education.
- To be truthful, ask for forgiveness, and strive for open communication as a family.



FUN FACTS

ABOUT *Us*



Clay is ever perfecting his homemade pizza and apple cider.

Melissa loves to keep in touch with her best friends from every phase of life in her free time.



Wyatt has travelled to 8 states in his 20 months of life.

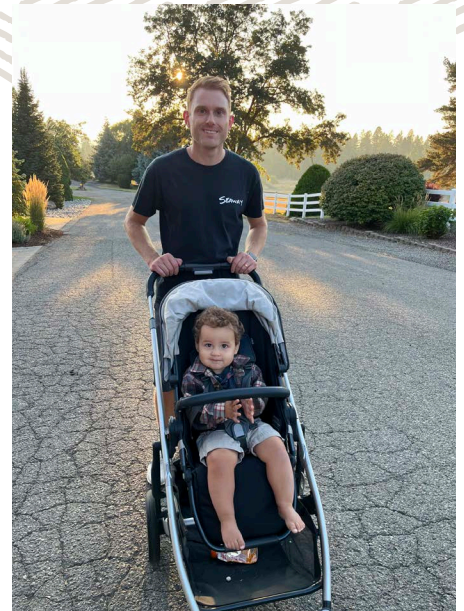


We love mountain adventures and beach views



We have apple, pear and cherry trees in our yard (moose at times, too)

We walk to the park (almost) every day.



Our Cat



A patient Mia plays



Wyatt disrupts a nap

Mia is our 9 year old Bengal cat. She is a very social cat, always in the room with our family and still plays fetch every day. Wyatt loves to boss her around and she has proved herself to be patient, gentle and resilient with children.



Much needed rest

THANK YOU



Our 16 years together have been filled with adventures, challenges, joys and leaps of faith. We are so grateful that by the gift of adoption we have been able to become parents and pray for the opportunity for our family to grow with another child. Thank you for considering such a selfless, loving choice in considering an adoption plan for your child. We have much respect for you and are honored you would consider us to be a part of this plan. Know that you are loved and being prayed for in this decision. Thank you for taking the time to read and see a glimpse of our life and family.

With Love,

*Clay, Melissa
& Wyatt*