

Michelle and Ira

About Us:

Hello! We are Michelle and Ira. Thanks so much for considering us. We believe that you are a courageous person and we respect your decision to choose adoption for your child. We can't begin to imagine how difficult this decision must be for you, but please know that we hope to make your choice easier for you by being the loving parents that you want for your child.



We met in college at the University of Vermont during our sophomore year. The first time we met, we became friends instantly and this friendship grew into a strong and loving relationship. After four cold winters in Vermont, we decided to move out west together for the warmer climes of California. We both fell in love with the San Francisco/Bay Area... the vibrancy and cultural diversity of the City combined with terrific parks and open spaces that allow us to pursue the outdoor activities we really enjoy. We married in August 2000. It's fair to say that we knew each other well when we got married and have become more and more in love over the years.

We are truly soul mates, best friends and balance each other well. In the earlier years of our marriage, we learned that we had fertility issues and would not be able to start a family naturally on our own. While this was an

initial disappointment, it was temporary. We pursued adoption as a way to grow our family and ultimately adopted our amazing son, Luca, and we could not imagine any other outcome for our family. It has only inspired us to keep growing our family in the same way.



Career/Professional Experience:

Michelle works in San Francisco as the Senior Climate Policy Advisor for a nature conservancy – an organization dedicated to the protection of our natural environment and quality of life. Her work revolves around shaping environmental policies to protect air and water quality by working with state politicians, policy-makers and communities. Michelle went to law school at the University of San Francisco and continued her post-graduate education in Seattle at the University of Washington, where she received a Master of Laws in Sustainable International Development. She loves animals and the outdoors, and feels she is making a difference for people and the environment through her work in



conservation and the community. More than anything, she loves being a mom and spending quality time with Luca and Ira every day.

Ira works in financial services for a wholesale bank in downtown San Francisco. He started his career in banking right after college and later held several positions at Bank of America, including working as a Senior Trader for the Bank's Treasury department. Ira is very thankful to have a career that provides him with financial stability and security. He is also grateful to be working at a relatively smaller organization and really enjoys the people he works with.



Ira on Michelle

I was instantly attracted to Michelle the moment I saw her in college. This attraction intensified when I finally had an opportunity to speak with her, and I realized that this beautiful, young woman was also very friendly, smart and down-to-earth. I love Michelle for her selflessness and thoughtfulness. She almost always puts the needs of friends and family ahead of her own. Michelle is gracious and down-to-earth, and often goes out of her way to make those around her feel comfortable and at ease. It is these caring, selfless traits inherent in Michelle that make her such a terrific mom.

While I am a bit of a pragmatist, Michelle is more of an idealist. She believes that through dedicated, persistent, hard-work, there is nothing that you can't achieve, and she embodies that edict. Whether it's her passion for learning (enrolling and putting herself through law school, passing the Bar, and earning her Masters of Law designation), or her love of running (three time marathon runner), Michelle has set high goals for herself and has done a tremendous job of accomplishing them. I am so proud of her for this, and it's one of the many reasons I respect and love her so much. I've really enjoyed watching her interact with our son. She is a natural with Luca and is very patient, nurturing and calm with him, all important traits for being a great parent. Both Michelle and I are very excited to expand our family and we look forward to welcoming another child.



Michelle on Ira

From the first time I met Ira, I knew he was someone special and that I would ultimately marry him. He was (and still is!) attractive, extremely thoughtful, caring, athletic and outgoing. He is everything I was looking for in a husband. Having been together for so many years, we have been through a number of life experiences that have only strengthened our

relationship. Ira was a pillar of strength for me as I took care of my mother who ultimately died from cancer and was one of my greatest supporters as I worked my way through law school. Our challenge with infertility is yet another experience that shows the strength of our relationship and Ira's character and commitment to family. I am constantly impressed with how Ira handles all of life's gifts and challenges in a thoughtful, caring and positive way. I know that with Ira by my side, I can get through any challenge.

I am always amazed by Ira's attitude and leadership in everything he does. Among his work colleagues, family, and community, he is viewed as a compassionate leader. He consistently shows how one person can make a difference, in both his work life as well as his family. At work, people look to him to take on major projects and manage the related challenges. These qualities hold true within his family and community too, as Ira, after the death of his father, helps his mother and family manage their home finances, doctor's appointments and daily responsibilities with love and patience. As expected, Ira is a great father to Luca – patient, loving and playful – and will be just the same if we are fortunate to adopt another child to expand our family.





Our Home & Family

We live in a comfortable home with a large yard in California, just north of San Francisco across the Golden Gate Bridge. Our town is a safe, small town that offers an ideal environment to raise a child. Our home borders open spaces ideal for family hiking, biking and enjoying the outdoors. The school system consistently ranks in the highest percentile of academic achievement. Michelle's sister and brother-in-law and Ira's mother live 15 minutes away in San Francisco, and Ira has a number of aunts, uncles and cousins just a short distance away in the Bay Area. We also have family along the east coast in the Boston and New York City area and make it a point to talk to each other and see each other often, as we are both extremely close to our families and get along very well. We see each other on holidays and during the year. When we are together, we have a great time sharing stories, playing games, making dinner and just hanging out with our families.

Both Ira and Michelle grew up on the East Coast, Ira having grown up in a small suburb outside of Boston and Michelle in New Jersey and upstate New York. While they both love San Francisco, Ira and Michelle still have family back east and visit often. Ira has two siblings: an older sister who lives in New York City with her husband, and a younger brother who lives with his wife and their two young boys in the Washington DC area. While

Ira's family is spread out geographically, they are very close emotionally and keep in touch with one another on a regular basis via phone, conference call, and web/video conferencing.

In 2012, we were very fortunate (and are grateful) to have adopted our son Luca to start our family. It has been a truly wonderful experience for us and for Luca. We see and talk to our family often, so Luca has the support and security not just from us, but from our larger extended family. Much of our free time is spent playing, hiking, reading, trying new food and seeing family and friends. Now, we hope to have the opportunity to expand our family even more so Luca can have a brother or sister!



Our Friends

Our friends are a huge part of our life. Most of them have young children or are in the process of starting a family. So, we are excited to share this part of our friend's lives. Many of our friends are also adoptive parents (one in couple in Southern California and two couples in the San Francisco/Bay Area)! We feel fortunate that Luca and hopefully another adoptive child will be able to have this common bond with our close friends.



On Raising a Child

We promise to provide a loving and supportive home. We are not asking for anything extreme, extravagant, or unusual; we

just want to love and nurture another child and sibling for us and Luca. We know what it's like to change diapers, get up during the night to provide comfort and to spend quality time as a family. We will gladly give up our worldly possessions, money, free time, and ability to sleep late on weekends just so we can have the ability to watch our children grow and learn, answer the thousands of questions they will undoubtedly ask, about all the things they see and hear, and help our children face life's challenges. We yearn for all the simple everyday things, all the special exhilarating things, and all the difficult, heartbreaking things that are part of the process.

In Conclusion

We know that considering adoption is hard and we really respect you for your bravery, your strength and your selflessness. We look forward to meeting you in person and talking more about this big decision.
