

MIKE *and* EMILY





Hello!
we are

**MIKE &
EMILY**

*- along with -
our two sons*

Elhan & Aaron

*from beautiful
Southern Maine*



*— We are so honored that you are taking the time to —
learn about us and consider our family for your child.*



We welcomed our two wonderful children into our family after a long and emotional road with IVF but feel like we have so much more love to give.

If chosen, we promise to care for and support your child unconditionally and treat them with the individuality and respect that they deserve. This must be a difficult time for you, we think you are incredibly brave and resilient.



We wish you continued strength through the rest of your pregnancy.

WE HOPE THAT WE ARE CHOSEN TO SUPPORT YOU THROUGH THIS JOURNEY AND BEYOND, THROUGH WHATEVER LEVEL OF OPENNESS IS BEST FOR YOU.





DATE NIGHT!

BEAUTIFUL CLIFFSIDE VIEW IN THE BADLANDS

Our STORY

We first met in 2009 while living in New York City. On our first date, Mike made his famous homemade pizza, the best around even in a city known for its pizza! Just over a year later on a summer-long cross-country road trip, we fell in love with Arches National Park in Moab, Utah. **In 2014 we returned, this time to get married, and the park was just as beautiful as we remembered.** A lot has changed since then, but we still love to travel, and Mike still makes his delicious pizza!

Our shared interests include

TRAVEL



CROSSWORD

PUZZLES



VISITING THE LOCAL BEACHES



WATCHING BASEBALL AND HOCKEY!

HIKING



OUR ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE TRIP TO THE BEACH!



— a little —
**ABOUT
EMILY**

by Mike

I knew that Emily was
**THE PERFECT MATCH
FOR ME**

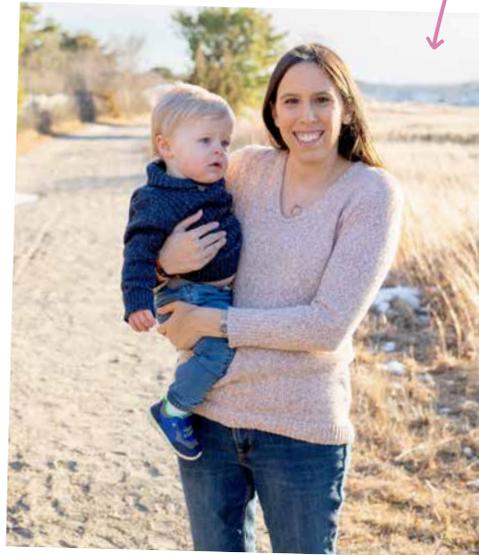
Emily is a very structured person, and her organization skills are second to none. Whether we're putting together a bag for a short outing down to the beach or up to the mountains, or making our weekly schedules, Emily is the one who makes the plan and keeps us on track. She is task oriented, and I feel in a busy household like ours nothing would get accomplished without her eye for detail! **Together we've created a fun, loving, and safe environment for our children to thrive in.**

> *Emily is a teacher turned stay at home mom*

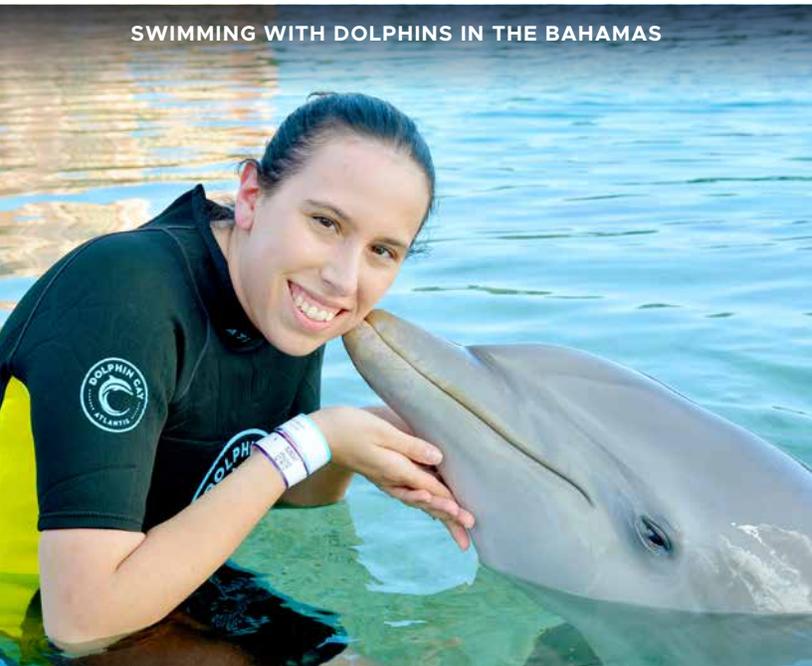
Creative and nurturing by nature, she is the kids go-to when it comes time for reading, arts and crafts, or practicing their ABC's. Emily keeps her wits sharp with a wide variety of hobbies, including knitting, crossword puzzles, and reading. **She is deeply in tune with how everyone around her feels and is one of the most thoughtful and empathetic people I know.** Emily exudes a quiet calmness that invites children and cats alike to settle in for emotional support and snuggle-time on the couch.



A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A WALK THROUGH SOME LOCAL SAND DUNES



SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS IN THE BAHAMAS



Emily's **FAVORITES**

VACATION SPOT:

I always loved vacationing in our Southern Maine beach town, but I'll have to find a new favorite vacation spot since we live here now!

DREAM JOB:

I'd love to own a yarn store so I could share my passion for knitting with others.

CHILDREN'S BOOK:

Our home is filled with so many, but I've always loved 'Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus' and anything else by Mo Willems.

PLACE TO TAKE A

CHILD: The zoo. We live near the cutest little zoo, that's perfect for the littlest ones!

— a little —
**ABOUT
MIKE**

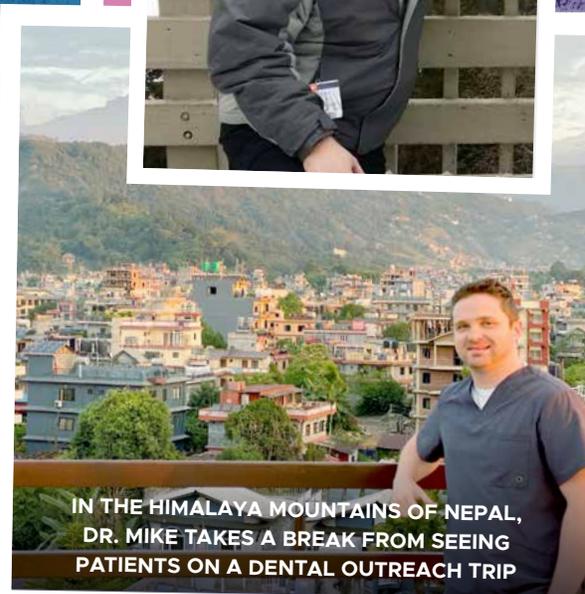
by *Emily*

*I feel so lucky
that Mike chose me to be*

HIS PARTNER.



MIKE SKIING



**IN THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS OF NEPAL,
DR. MIKE TAKES A BREAK FROM SEEING
PATIENTS ON A DENTAL OUTREACH TRIP**

➤ *He is my perfect complement,* he is much more spontaneous and laid back than I am, and he encourages me to be more open to new experiences. He is one of the kindest people I have ever met, never hesitating to put others' needs before his own and always ready with a helping hand or a listening ear. I could not have chosen a better father for our children than Mike. After a long day of working with kids as a pediatric dentist, he jumps right into our dinner and bedtime routine, and even gets up with the kids on the weekends to let me get an extra hour or two of sleep! Our boys absolutely adore him. They're always

the first to announce his arrival home, they love to play games with him and they are especially fond of the early morning donut runs on the weekends. **I never could have imagined how amazingly Mike would take to fatherhood, watching him with our boys brings joy to my heart and makes me love him even more.** Mike loves working with his hands, and no mechanical project is safe from his dabbling, from restoring his classic cars to building and painting a model railroad in the basement. In the winter you'll catch him out skiing the slopes.

Mike's **FAVORITES**

VACATION SPOT:

Lake Placid is a beautiful mountain town with some of the best skiing in the Northeast.

PLACE TO TAKE A CHILD:

The museum! Both Portland and Boston have great children's museums for curious minds to learn about the world around them.

WHAT YOU LIKE TO

COLLECT: Old cars! I'm currently restoring my '70 Mercury Cougar, and will soon start work on the '51 Ford I inherited from my late father.

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT:

My passport! I love to travel and see the world.



**PLAYING WITH
TRAINS**

meet
OUR TWO BOYS

> *Ethan* is an energetic three-year-old who loves being a big brother!

The first thing Ethan does every morning is check in on his little brother, and the last thing he does at night is kiss him goodnight. When not acting in his official capacity as a big brother, Ethan loves going to school, going for walks in the woods, playing with cars and trucks, and arts and crafts time.

> *Aaron* is a spunky almost two-year-old who idolizes his big brother! On the rare occasion they're not together, Aaron is quick to ask for "Ethy", and always wants to be included in every activity. **His life is greatly enriched by having a big brother and we know he'll love having a new sibling just as much!** Aaron is quickly picking up on the family love of cars, and also has a special place in his heart for animals and reading.



AARON BREAKING IN HIS FIREMAN BOOTS



THE MASTER BAKER PREPARES COOKIES FOR SANTA!



OUT FOR A SUNDAY DRIVE!

OUR HOME
and
COMMUNITY

Our home is in *Southern Maine* and truly lives up to the nickname, "Vacationland."

We live only a few miles from some of the best beaches in the country, but also just down the road from a small mountain that is perfect for our young family to hike and explore. The villages here in Maine's beautiful seacoast region tend to be bustling vacation hotspots in the summer, but quiet and peaceful in the winter. Although our community is quiet, we're only a short drive away from Portland or Boston, each of which offer tons of fun family activities.



OUR BACKYARD

HOME SWEET HOME



CLEAR SKIES AT THE TOP OF OUR LITTLE LOCAL MOUNTAIN



We live on a quiet country road in the forest, with a few acres for the kids to roam and a big backyard, complete with a new swing set. After moving in, we finished the basement with a large media room and play space for the kids to call their own. This has quickly become their favorite area of the house! **Best of all, we live close to grandparents, and are in one of the best school districts in the state.**

Emily's parents live in the same neighborhood and are very involved in our day to day lives. Dinner with the grandparents is a weekly event that the kids look forward to, and Ethan loves it when Grandpa picks him up from school. Mike's mom has recently retired and moved to

a lake-house in the next town over and the kids are always thrilled to visit and play by the quiet lake. We're looking forward to our first summer of swimming and boating at Grandma Mary's!

On holidays, aunts, uncles, and cousins from New York and Boston love to

gather and celebrate together. Emily's brother and sister-in-law have two young daughters, and although they move around a lot for work, they do their best to return home for these celebrations. Our young nieces love playing with their cousins when everyone gathers at Grandma and Grandpa's house.

FAMILY *and* FRIENDS

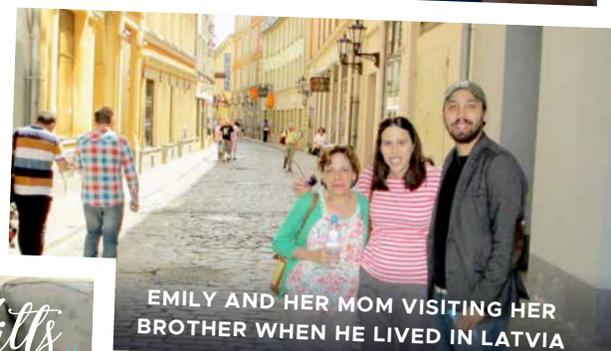


MIKE WITH HIS DAD AND UNCLE

Although our extended family is on the smaller side, ALMOST ALL OF US LIVE WITHIN A FEW HOURS OF EACH OTHER.



MIKE WITH MOM ON OUR WEDDING DAY



EMILY AND HER MOM VISITING HER BROTHER WHEN HE LIVED IN LATVIA



CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH EMILY'S FAMILY



Mitts



Tonka

Our PETS

Anywhere in our house that is warm, soft, and cozy is certain to be claimed by *one of our two cats, Tonka and Mitts.* We rescued Mitts from a shelter ten years ago, when she was only one and a half. Mitts is our 'guard cat,' always keeping an eye on the doors and making sure

she knows what everyone's up to. We brought Tonka home nine years ago, when she was just a kitten, and she loves nothing more than snuggling on a warm lap. Tonka loves attention and follows both us and guests around the house like a puppy. People always remark that Tonka is the sweetest cat they've ever met!

*We hope that
you were able to
get a sense of the*

**WARM, LOVING
HOME**

*that we've established
for our growing
family*

We promise to always start and end each day with hugs, smiles, and laughter as we instill in our children a love for life and the confidence to pursue their dreams. We know that you will make the right decision for your child. If you feel that we are the right family for your child, we would be ecstatic! We would also love to learn more about you and your wishes for your child.

*We look forward
to building a
timeless bond!*

**THANK
YOU**
*so much for taking
the time to learn
ABOUT US!*

