

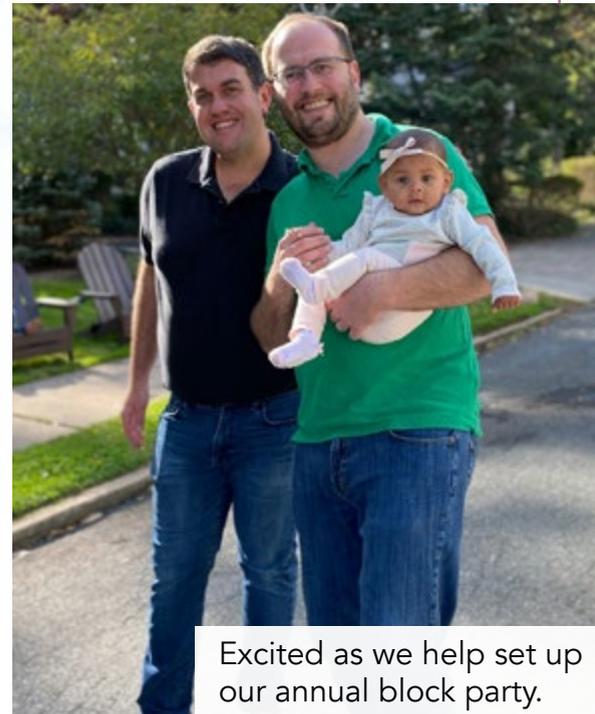
Brendan & Peter



The Story of Us

Thank you for taking the time to meet the three of us. Before we tell you more about our happy family, we want to let you know how much we appreciate you and will respect and listen to your needs; a mom who wants nothing but the best for her child.

Brendan (Dad) and Peter (Papa) took the same ferry into lower Manhattan for work daily. One day, they decided to meet up for dinner (Thai was a favorite and a good pick for a random Tuesday evening). We knew we were a match when a quick bite turned into an entire evening of laughter. We began dating and soon started traveling together, meeting each other's family and friends.



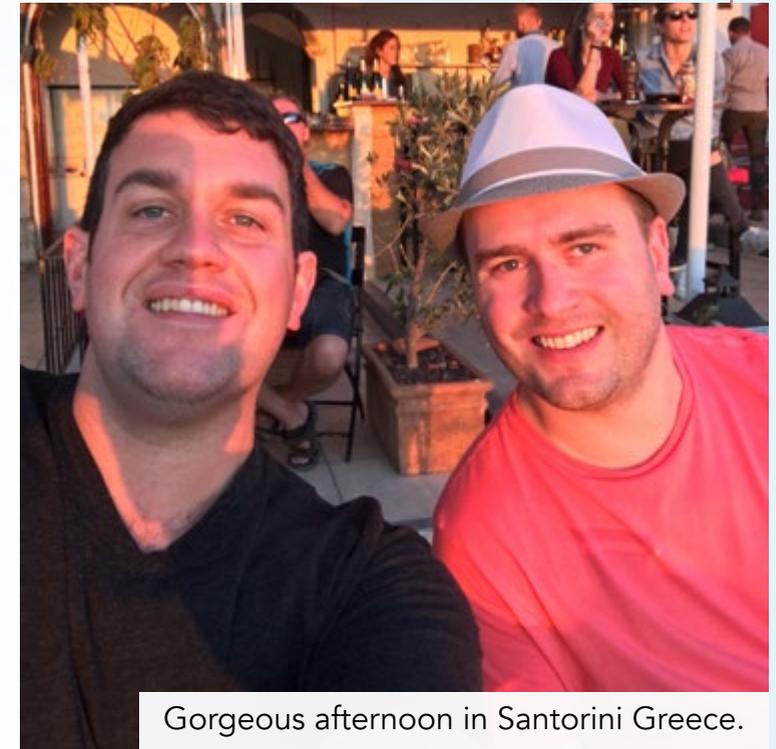
Excited as we help set up our annual block party.



About a year later, Peter planned a trip to Wisconsin to visit family. Brendan, with a suitcase in hand, met Peter at the airport only to be surprised to learn they were actually going to Barcelona, Spain. If that wasn't exciting enough, Peter had one more surprise in store. As they were walking to check-in for their flight, Peter proposed to Brendan RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AIRPORT.

Brendan enthusiastically accepted with absolute joy. We married in January 2014 and subsequently had a large celebration with family and friends at a cool venue a block from their house.

Shortly after the wedding, we moved into our first house. Then, in early 2020, our lives changed forever when we adopted our daughter, Grace, shortly after her birth. She is the happiest little girl you've ever met. We're so excited to continue to grow our family through adoption, and for Grace to become a big sister!



Gorgeous afternoon in Santorini Greece.



Lovely afternoon exploring geysers in Saratoga Park.

Meet Peter (Papa)



Peter manning the grill for a BBQ.

Peter is an amazing father and partner and we are so lucky to have found one another. His unique blend of being caring, silly, and focused is remarkable. It helps us all stay grounded. As a father, Peter (or as Grace calls him, Papa) loves to be outside as much as possible, and makes sure Grace gets fresh air daily. He likes to live each day to the fullest and is the first one to suggest catching a sunset, going to a new playground, or trying a new cuisine. Papa and Grace have a really special bond. It is so exciting to watch their relationship flourish. Due to the ability to work at home, Papa gets to spend every morning with Grace before work. They are always into something... lately it is playing kitchen together and reading funny books!



Fastest sleigh ride of his life!



I love you Grace!



Practicing to be the Queen's guard in London.

Meet Brendan (Dad)



Relaxing on vacation.

If I could pick one quality to describe Brendan, it is his loyalty. He is devoted to his family and puts us all above himself. He loves us so much and there is not a bad bone in his body. One thing I really admire about Brendan is how he loves to make parenting fun. He enjoys creating exciting learning experiences through play. Brendan is a kid at heart. He isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves to help Grace search for special rocks and sticks in the woods or help her navigate the big kid's slide at the park. Brendan is also very smart and finds creative ways to make sure Grace is exposed to different activities, including music, art, colors, tools, and dolls. He stays home with Grace and makes sure she has all the love, caring, and nurturing that she needs.



Brendan always learning something new.



Ice slide - "I'm going down this again!"



Getting ready to soar on the Dumbo ride.

Meet Grace

Grace joined our family shortly after birth, and we have loved our time together as a family ever since. Grace is a loving, caring child who is very social and loving towards other kids, family, and of course, animals, which includes our two dogs, Cooper and Henry.



Stella and I are BFFs.



I can't wait to visit Disney!

She has an excellent disposition and is polite, inquisitive and determined. She is enthusiastic about most activities and very easygoing. She especially loves fashion and loves to coordinate her outfits with the perfect shoes and sunglasses to compliment her style.

Grace loves music and dancing with Daddy (Brendan). It's not uncommon to find these two having a dance party in the kitchen on any given evening. This is a great way for both Grace and Daddy to shake out the sillies after a long day of play. Grace also loves helping Papa (Peter) during the holidays.



This Easter is AWESOME!



Whether they're decorating the Christmas tree or decorating gingerbread houses, these two have style and love when family and friends visit to celebrate.

Recently asked whether she wanted to be a big sister, Grace's face lit up. She grabbed her baby doll and repeated, "sister, sister." There's no doubt she will make an awesome big sister!



Our Home

We live just a short drive away from New York City. While we love the city and all its amazing opportunities, there is plenty of fun right right here at home. Our backyard opens into a nature preserve that connects to various parks and our village's downtown. There are lots of fun things to do and see around here, and it's just a really great place to raise a family.



Our annual block party in front of home.



Our dog Cooper loves the camera.



Baking & sleep over with Peter's sister.



Birthday Dinner with Peter's siblings.

Our block is one-of-a-kind. It's the kind of neighborhood where everyone knows one another, and all the kids play together. There are various events throughout the year, most of which are aimed at children. Most importantly, we know that our neighbors would help us in a heartbeat and we are lucky to have support just outside our front door.



Santa visited our family Christmas!

Family Activities

The three of us love to explore new spaces and be outside. We also love to travel and are excited to share these experiences as a family. While travel has been difficult the past two years because of world events, we have gone on a few road trips and have explored hidden gems within our local community. We feel that kids can learn a lot through new experiences, cultures, food, and activities and cannot wait to take our next big trip, hopefully as a family of four!



Brendan made a friend on the bayou tour.



Hiking with the pups in the preserve.

We also love to go to the playground, swim, try our best to garden, and love arts and crafts. While we enjoy time at home, we are always into something new. We make the most out of the resources and the space available to us. We also like to try different foods and love to celebrate with friends of different backgrounds and cultures.

We both also have large extended families, who are a huge part of our life. We have regular contact with our parents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and cousins. Our entire family loves Grace and are so excited about a new family member. Peter's siblings are adopted as well. They are a huge part of his life and really helped both of us see the beauty in growing a family through adoption.



Bike ride to see the town.



Real life igloo.



Pool fun at Nono's house.

We have so much to celebrate, but we also realize we are not done growing our family. We purposely bought our house to make sure there was room for each child to have his or her own space. We may have been a little impulsive, but we have already started to decorate Grace's "big sister" room, so that the nursery is ready for the next child that we adopt.

Grace is very excited to be a big sister and has already demonstrated some of her skills on her baby doll and with our friends who have infants. In deciding to adopt another child, we reflected on our own relationships with our siblings. We want to ensure Grace has the same opportunities to bond, learn and grow alongside a future little brother or sister.

Parents often ask us about our parenting style. The truth is our parenting style adapts to Grace's needs. We ensure safety first and establish boundaries that permit Grace to explore her world securely. We fondly believe in creating a secure attachment with the kids, so that they may have the tools they need to thrive to their fullest potential.

We are excited to extend our family further. We know a short booklet can only convey so much and we welcome any questions you may have.

Brendan and Peter

