

Dear Birthparents,

We are Emily, Michele, Mateo and Marti (dog).
We sincerely wish that you are surrounded by
love and support as you choose the right family
for your child. Thank you for considering us.
We are happy to answer any questions you
may have.



We promise:

- ◆ You will always have an important place in our hearts.
- ◆ We will tell your child as much about you and your family as you wish the child to know.
- ◆ We will always treat you with respect and kindness.
- ◆ We will develop an open adoption with you if you are interested in doing so.
- ◆ We will surround your child with unconditional love, and nurture her mind, body, and spirit.
- ◆ We will always put our children first in our lives.



We also want you to know...

- ◆ We are both bilingual in Spanish and English and are committed to raising our child bilingually. This includes:
 - ◆ Speaking and reading with our child in English and Spanish from birth.
 - ◆ Childcare in our home with our wonderful day care provider, Maritza, who is from Peru. Maritza has cared for Mateo since he was 5 months old.
 - ◆ Attending a bilingual school.
- ◆ Ongoing learning about the child's heritage, history, and culture. Connecting our child with other families from their cultural background so that the child has a strong cultural identity.

Who we are...

We have been together for over 13 years. We have always been drawn to each other by a strong faith, a love of children and the outdoors, and a commitment to social justice. We had a wonderful commitment ceremony in September 2000, and in 2004, we renewed our vows and became legally married.

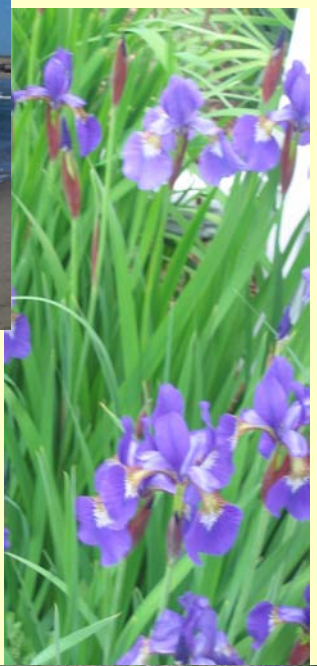


Our commitment ceremony on Cape Cod in 2000, officiated by our dear friends, Shelly and Di.

In 2007, Michele gave birth to our wonderful son Mateo who is almost three and will be starting school in March. We always knew that we wanted to adopt and we are very excited about entering this process now.



Christmas, 2009



Our values...

- ◆ Family comes first.
- ◆ Play and laughter is essential every day.
- ◆ To appreciate and learn from nature.
- ◆ To be respectful of differences.
- ◆ To be responsible and kind.
- ◆ To resolve conflicts peacefully so that everyone's needs are met.
- ◆ To support each other to develop our talents, pursue our passions, and nurture each others' spirits.
- ◆ To be aware of inequities in our community and world. To learn from history and work with others to create equality and alleviate suffering.



Michèle....



Michèle and Mateo in VT, 2009.

Michèle, neice Melanie (7), and Mateo reading during a visit to Cape Cod in summer, 2009.



Michèle is adventurous and optimistic. She loves children and animals, and loves being outdoors. She especially loves to run, swim, hike, and ski. She also loves to cook, read, and eat chocolate and frozen yogurt!



New Year's visit to CA in 2010. Front row: cousins Nicole (4) and Melanie (7). Middle row: Aunt Liz and son Devon (17), Emily and Aunt Terry. Back row: Mateo held by Uncle Chris, "Bunny", Torry (9), "Papa", Michele, and Uncle Nick.

Michèle learned early from an experience with serious childhood illness, that she can do pretty much whatever she sets her mind to. As a result, she has had a lifelong passion for helping others who face serious challenges. As a teenager, Michèle worked summers at a camp for children with cancer.



Michèle with Blanca, best friends since 8th grade.



Michèle celebrating a service in Guatemala, 2006

As an adult, Michèle became both an Episcopal Priest and a bilingual licensed mental health counselor. Having Mexican heritage, Michèle has always felt most at home working in and being part of a Latino community.

For over twelve years, Michèle provided mental health services for Latinos who are homeless in Boston. In September, Michèle became a bilingual chaplain at a hospital for children, and loves the opportunity to bring her two passions together.

In addition, Michèle has served as a part-time priest in urban multi-cultural and bilingual parishes. She loves her current church, a diverse parish with wonderful music and a strong sense of community involvement. Mateo was baptized here by our good friend, Bishop Gayle Harris. Our adopted children will also be welcomed into this loving church community.



Michèle has baptized all of her nieces and officiated the marriages of her sister, many friends and cousins.



"Weeeee!"

On the beach in Cape Cod, summer 2009. L to R: Michele, Mateo, Em, Nick, Torrey, Nicole, Terry, Melanie, & Lexi.

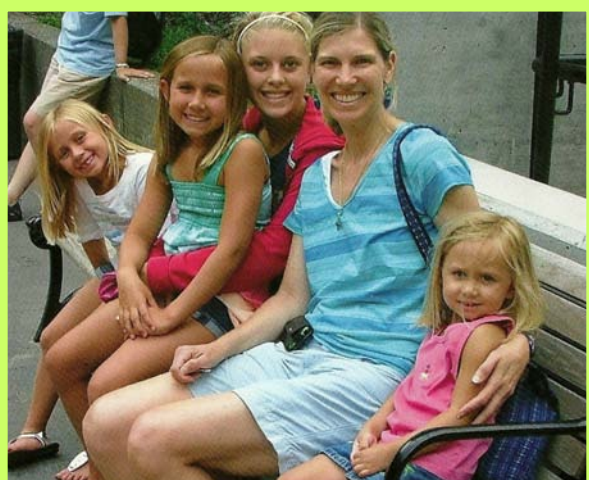


CA cousins meet Cape Cod cousins Brad (9), Sophia (9), Camille (7) and Oliver (7) and have tons of fun dressing up, summer 2009.

Papa John gets a smile from Mateo!



"Bunny" and Mateo share a story.



"Aunt 'Chele Boston," Melanie, Torrey, Lexi, and Nicole go sightseeing in Boston, July 2009.



Nicole does Em's hair.



Em and Mateo

Emily loves to hike, camp, and swim. She loves taking her niece and nephews swimming when they visit. Emily also loves to grow flowers and vegetables in our back yard.



Emily...

Emily was raised in a close-knit family. She is of Hungarian, German and Eastern European heritage. Both her brother and sister have families with small children. Emily's parents, "Mima" and "Pipa," live 10 minutes away and are a big part of our lives. Mima babysits for Mateo once a week.



Swimming in an Arizona canyon pool, 2009

Emily has a spiritual faith that is a central part of her life. She practices meditation which is reflected in her gentle demeanor.

Emily works as a counselor with middle and high school students to prepare them for college, and with college students to help them stay in school and graduate. Most of the students are the first in their family to attend college. She also works with schools and faith communities to address racial and cultural bias.

Her work schedule is very flexible and family-friendly. She will take a maternity leave after our adopted baby comes home. Emily recently completed a degree in high school guidance counseling so she can work in a school with summers free to be with our children.



Em & Noémi love to swim together!



Emily's family
L to R:
Em's sister
Martha &
husband
Denis,
Em &
Michèle,
Mima &
Mateo,
Pipa &
Noémi,
Ben &
Julian,
Trysh &
Owen.

Em and neice Noémi (7)



Em & nephew Julian (4) making up songs



Uncle Ben, Noémi, and
Owen (15 mos)



Aunt Martha, Michèle, Em, Noémi, Mateo &
Marti head out for a walk in the woods.



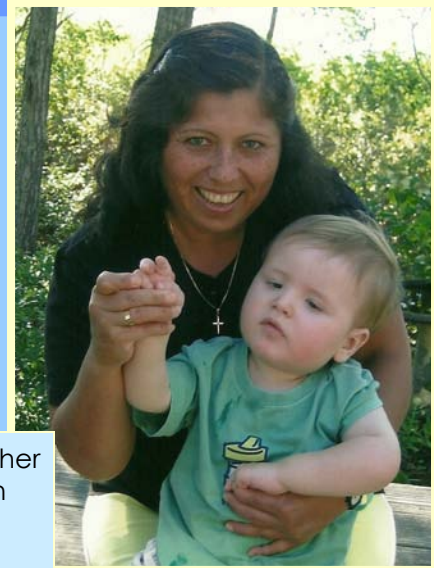
Mima sings Mateo to sleep



Aunt Trysh and Owen

Mateo...

Mateo is a happy little boy who will turn three in March. He has a bright and loving spirit. Mateo loves being around other children and loves all kinds of music. His favorite song is the one that Mama (Michèle) sings to him "Matilda the Gorilla." Mateo also loves going on walks in any type of weather! He is looking forward to having a new brother or sister to play with!



Maritza and her family visit on Cape Cod.



Mateo's "fairy god-mothers" Miriam & Lisa sing Christmas carols with us and Mateo.

When Mateo was four months old, he began having seizures. As a result, he has visual impairment and developmental delays. Mateo attends preschool one day a week for children with multiple disabilities and will start school full-time in March, 2010.

Mateo has brought many blessings into our lives. One of these blessings is Maritza, who helps Mateo with his therapies, sings, plays with him, and takes him on long walks. We also have an incredible network of friends and family, and live close to top hospitals where Mateo gets his care. As a result, he is truly a happy thriving child.

We are confident that we have the love, time, and energy to bring another child into our home and can give both children the special attention that they need and deserve. We hope to adopt a second child in the future so that our first adopted child will also have a typical sibling.



Our close friend Sarah Marie frequently baby sits for Mateo. She made him this beautiful quilt for his 2nd birthday. Wow!!

Marti...

Marti is our 14 year old lab. She loves to play in the snow and chase fish. Marti is exceptionally gentle with children, even when they pull her ears and jump on her! She is excited about having a new baby in the family. More people to play with!




Marti goes fishing for minnows at Em's parent's house on Cape Cod.

Our home and community...

We live in a cozy single-family home in a town north of Boston. Our neighborhood is very diverse and community oriented. Many families have lived here for generations and people look out for each other. We live two blocks from a river where we regularly take walks. There's a playground for children, and a park with basketball and tennis courts. We also live close to a large reservation where we frequently take hikes in the woods.



Our home sweet home



Thank you for taking the time to consider us as a potential adoptive family for your child.

If we can answer any additional questions you may have, please contact us through Connections Adoption Services at (800) 450-7191.