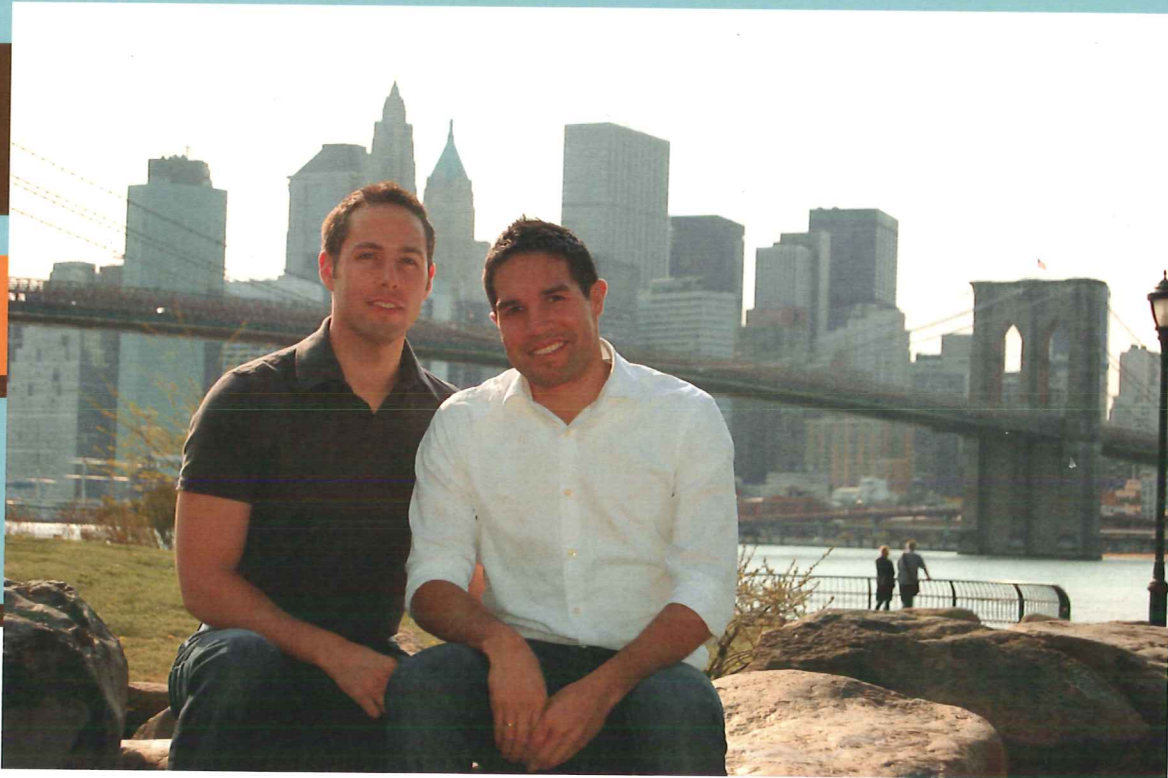


rob + lew



## introduction...

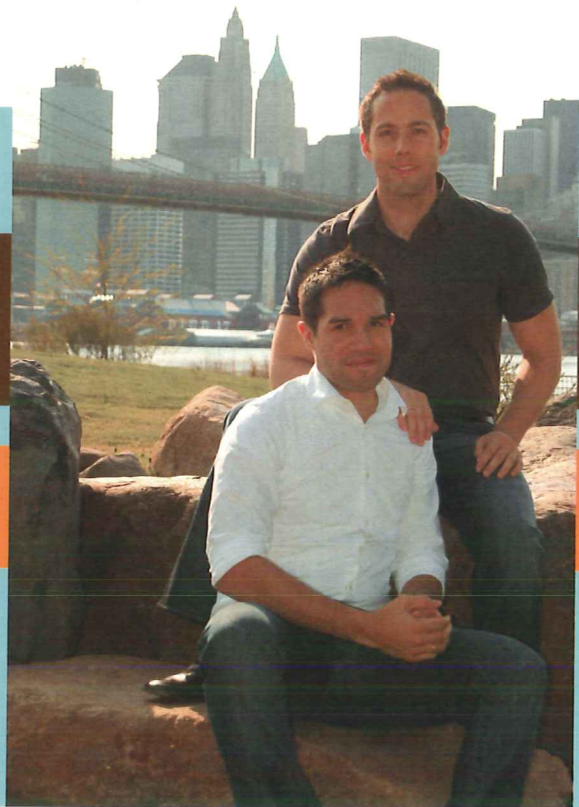
We are Lew and Rob. Thank you for choosing to read our profile. We are truly honored that you have considered us as parents-to-be. It is with great pride that we share with you a small glimpse into our lives. We hope that our story gives you a good sense of who we are as a couple and who we will be as parents. Our stories are important to us and hopefully to you, too. They tell us where we come from, and they remind us of how far we have come. Most importantly, our stories point us into the future and allow us to dream of all the things that are yet to come.

Thanks again for getting to know us.

Respectfully,

*Rob + Lew*

our family...



We are confident in knowing that one day we will be great fathers. We have had such great role models in our lives, so we know what great parenting looks and feels like. We will do everything we can to make sure your child has a happy and healthy life surrounded by friends and family who will love and support him or her unconditionally, forever.

In their upbringing, we will instill a set of values that will allow him or her to have an open heart, an open mind, and be accepting of people from all walks of life. We will strive to help insure that your child will love and be loved; respect and be respected; and educate and be educated.

We will give them the tools to lead a passionate life with pride to do the best that they can do when working towards their own goals. We hope that our child develops a strong sense of self-worth and always knows where they come from and where they are going.

Just as we have done, we hope that our child creates for his or herself a life story that is meaningful; one they (and you) are truly proud of. We promise to share with them all the experiences that life has to offer. We hope that one day they can look back and say thanks to you for choosing us, and thanks to us for giving them the best life. That is what it is really all about.





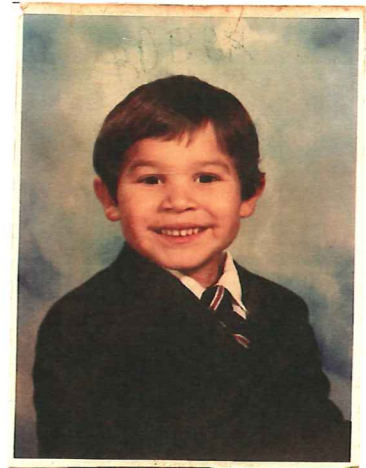
# rob growing up...

Grandpa and the grandkids and great-grandkids

I am the youngest of three children (no, I was not spoiled...well, maybe a little). Both of my older sisters were born in Puerto Rico, prior to my parents and grandparents moving to the states in the mid 1970's. I was raised speaking both Spanish and English, which proved to be a major advantage later in life. My family has always adhered to it's native culture, with respect to language, food, music, and celebration. When I was younger all of my friends would say how "cool" and "energetic" my family was, which gave me a strong sense of pride. Growing up, I was very fortunate to have a very close-knit family. My grandparents always lived in the house next door to us, which meant there was always someone for me to play with. The best memories I have from childhood are those spent building and creating with my Grandpa in his woodshop or learning how to draw and paint with my Grandma. Looking back, my grandparents were truly my best friends. My parents supported my sisters and I in everything that we did. Everything from sports to theater, music to art lessons. My parents have always been our number one fans. My mother and father believe that children are an investment: the more love and care you put into that investment, the more it will grow and flourish. My sisters and I are the proof of that love and care. My older sisters are the two best sisters in the whole world. Next to Lew, these two ladies are the loves of my life. They are both married to two wonderful men, and between them, they have given me two amazing nephews and one beautiful niece. All of whom I love very, very much.



My Sisters



Kindergarden



My sister's graduation from medical school





Mom and Dad

# lew growing up...

Close-knit, passionate, and fun are three words I use to describe my family. There are six of us in all; my older sister, two younger brothers and my loving parents. I was born in Kansas and as a young kid went to elementary school in a typical suburb. Most of my time was spent playing with the neighborhood kids and riding bikes through the park. My mom stayed at home during the day while my dad worked. By the time I was in sixth grade, my parents decided to buy a farm and settle down in the country. From then on I grew up taking care of animals and helping in the fields. When we had a weekend of work that required all of our help, my parents always referred to that time as “family togetherness.” As a child, I thought it was a way for my parents to get us to help out on the farm. But now as an adult, I cherish all those moments I shared with my family. My parents taught us the importance of family and having loved ones in our lives. They never made a lot of money, so we learned how to make do with what we had and made the most of our time together. My siblings became my best friends. In school I loved music. I played the trumpet in our band, won several awards and even went on to play in college. I had fun with friends, studied hard and had an all around good time. In sports, I loved running track and was especially fond of the hurdles.



Christmas in Kansas



One year-old



Second Grade



My family



On the farm in Kansas





Teaching in Kenya



My classroom

rob

## what I do...

For the last 5 years I have been teaching Math and Science in the public school system. Currently, I teach Science at an amazing 6-12 grade school. The children I work with are extremely bright and charismatic. Every day is an adventure that I honestly look forward to. My inspiration to teach came from my travel to Africa in 2000. During my Junior year of college, I took a year of study abroad in Kenya. As part of my internship there, I taught English to primary school children. It was a life altering experience. Upon graduation in 2002, I moved to New York to pursue my career in photography. Low and behold the opportunity to teach presented itself and I enrolled in a Master's degree program in Science Education, and I have been teaching full-time ever since.

There is something really unique about teaching that you don't find in any other job. Apart from being one of the most difficult jobs, it is the most rewarding (and I am not referring to Summers off, although that will be nice especially with a child). Knowing that I make a difference everyday is the best gift in life. Teaching allows me to make someone's life better; more meaningful, and *that* is why I love my job.



Teaching is crazy, but that's why I love it



Teaching Science can be gross...but fun

A man in a dark polo shirt and jeans is sitting on a large rock. In the background, a city skyline with several skyscrapers is visible under a clear sky. The image is framed by a light blue and brown border.

what I do...

lew

Finance, its probably not as action packed as a day in the classroom, but to me it is fun and interesting. After I graduated from college with a degree in Finance and Economics, I decided to move to NYC where all the action is. For someone in the finance industry this is the place to be.

After years of hard work, I have moved my way up the corporate ladder. I'm now a Vice President at a major Wall Street investment bank. Specifically, I work in compliance and I make sure brokers and investment managers are following all the rules of the industry. I advise senior management when they want to expand their business and help them work through the complex securities laws both here in the US and overseas.

My days are busy, but never the same. One day I could be doing a presentation to hundreds of people, another I might be helping one of our offices in Chicago or Boston try to close a deal in Hong Kong. I know it sounds like a lot, but I like to get into work early so I don't have to stay too late. I take pride in leaving at a decent hour so I can come home and spend time cooking dinner and hanging out with Rob and our dogs, Diego and Jack.

My job provides a good living and allows us to live in a comfortable home, take exciting vacations, and spend weekends and holidays visiting family. More importantly, my company has great benefits like medical insurance and retirement. They even allow me to take a long break from work to be at home when we are blessed by adoption and our baby arrives.





## where we live...

We live in a relatively new and small neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. We have lived here for just under a year and we LOVE it. Our neighborhood has so much to offer: great parks and playgrounds, shopping, dining, and great schools nearby. Although we have only been in our apartment a short amount of time, it already feels like home to us. We live in a modern building on the riverfront where we can see boats and ships sailing by.

Our apartment is spacious and full of light. We have two adjacent bedrooms, each with their own full bathroom, a large open kitchen, plenty of closet space, a laundry room, and tons of room for our two little dogs and children to play. The building itself has an on-site gym, parking garage, part-time doorman, and a really cool play-center for kids. The roof terrace offers the BEST views of the New York City skyline. Our apartment is steps away from the park and playground where we spend a lot of our time walking Jack and Diego (our dogs) and enjoying the outdoors.

Our neighborhood is really the BEST place to live and an even better place to raise a child. It is full of all types of families. When the sun comes out the nearby parks and playgrounds explode with children playing and having fun. We moved here hoping to make a new start and begin our family. We know now that we have made the best decision, because, like we said, we are home.



Jack



Diego

## our home...



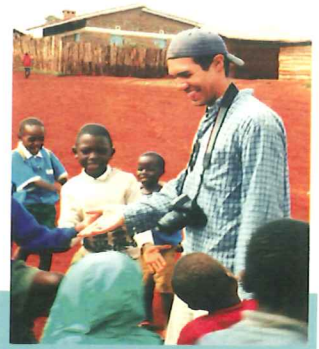




Tanzania, Africa (I look SO tan)



New York, home sweet home



Kenya, Africa

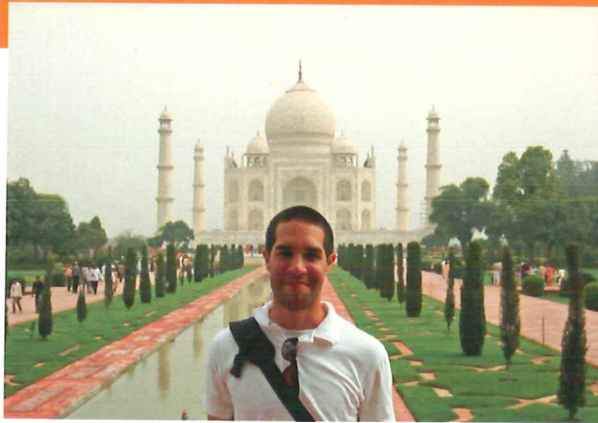
# where we have been...



Fishing in the Keys



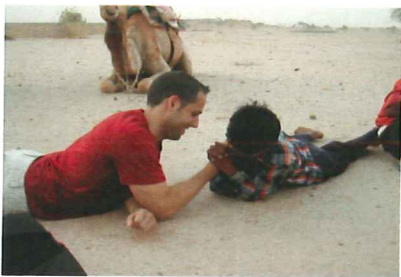
Disney World,  
I am gross



India, my head looks like the Taj Mahal



India, the crowd loved us



Khuri, Lew lost to the kid



Lew in Peru



Chiang Mai, Thailand



Kawai'i, Hawai'i



Tarzan and Jane, Thailand



Oahu, Hawai'i



# family



Lew's niece and cousin



Grandpa's 86th Birthday



Mom running the NYC Marathon



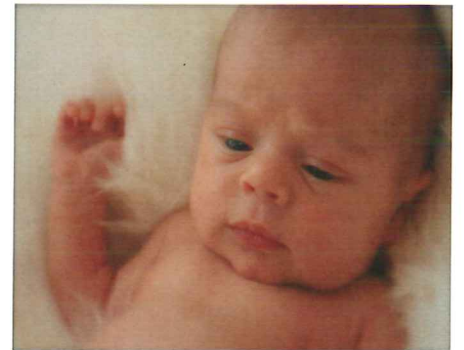
Mom and Dad, Kansas



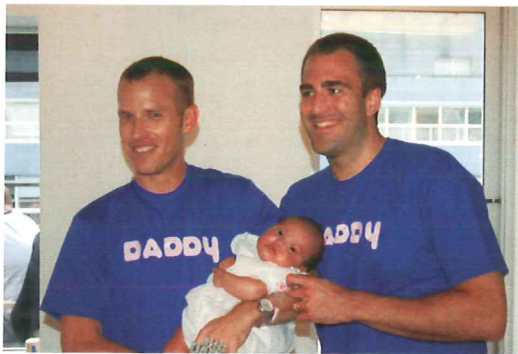
Annual nephew's trip to NYC



Amazing friends



Our newest niece



Our role models



Dad and his "new little girl"



Our "extended family"



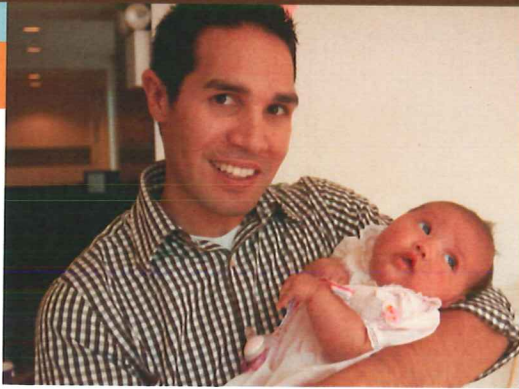
# + friends



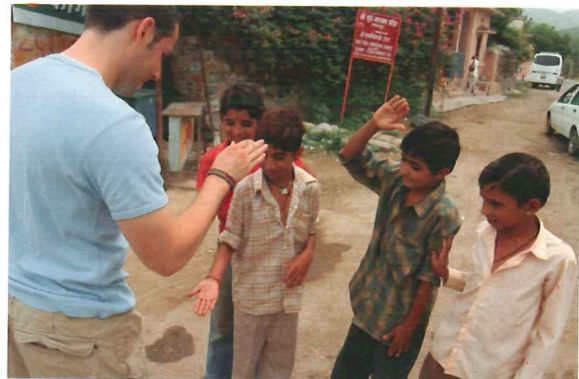
Halloween at Lew and Rob's



Who says girls can't arm wrestle?



Our friend's baby



Lew making friends in India



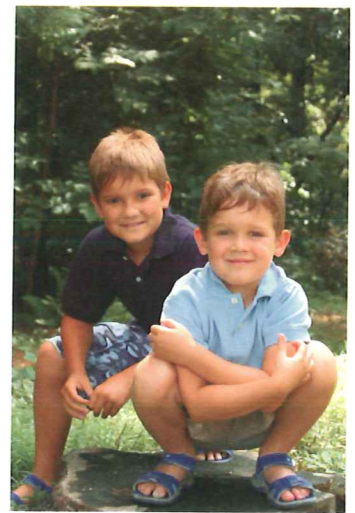
Boys will be boys



Lew's day out



Family weekend in NYC



Our nephews





Playing with Uncle Lew



Life-long friend



Beloved Aunt

# people we love...



Easter Sunday Brunch



Horsing-around with a cousin



Our two favorite girls



The "moms" club



Aunties-to-be

# ...people who love us



# rob + lew



## rob on lew...

When I think back on the last six years, I can't help but think that I am the luckiest person alive to have found and fell in love with someone like Lew.

I knew from the moment that I met him, he would be the person that I would share all of my life with. Lew has a presence about him that makes me feel comforted and loved...complete. He is a strong and honest man; courageous in his life, bold in his character, and amazingly calm in his spirit.

I know that I would not be who I am today without Lew. He is my partner in life and the love that I was meant to have. I am honored to be walking beside him as we begin our new life as dads.

## lew on rob...

Rob's strengths lie in his confidence. He is an agreeable person who values love and companionship. His love of the people in his life is the driving force behind who he is.

Rob is a beautiful artist with more talent than he knows or lets people believe. It comes out in all of his work, whether at home or in the classroom. Watching him with his art is truly amazing and I feel so thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of it.

Rob is an easy going person that is open to all the experiences that life has to offer. I could not have chosen a better partner to live my life with and can't wait to start our next chapter together by adopting children.

He is my true love who will someday make a perfect father.





rob + lew

## why we want to adopt...

As we move into the next phase of our life, we look back on our own history, as children, brothers, professionals, and partners, and we know that *this* is the path that we were destined to follow. We know that we are meant to be loving and supportive parents. Many people say that “it takes a village to raise a child.” Now, more than ever, we understand the true meaning of this phrase. Our “village” is strong, and together we are committed to raising our child with all the passion and respect that each of us has to offer.

We promise to be there for our child, always and forever; we promise to laugh with them when they are happy, and cry with them when they are sad. We will hold their hand as we cross the road of life. We promise to be proud as they take their first steps, and follow their own path. We promise to patch up any scrapes, and kiss every bump and make it all better. We promise to read them bedtime stories, and check for monsters under the bed before turning out the lights.

We promise to be at each soccer game, and every piano recital. We promise to take them places that they only dream of going. We promise big Thanksgiving dinners at Grandma and Grandpa’s house, Christmas trees and stockings full of presents. We promise to educate them and guide them when they need guiding, and follow them when they lead. We promise our child many things, but the one thing that we can always *guarantee* is that we will love our child, unconditionally, forever.

We thank you for allowing us to share our lives with you and for considering us as parents-to-be. We truly believe your decision to offer your child for adoption is the most honorable and noble choice someone can make in their life. As challenging as it may be, we wish you all the best in your decision.

We would be honored to learn more about you and your “stories.” Please feel free to contact us toll-free through Forever Families Through Adoption at 1-866-922-3678, or directly at 1-888-658-6487.

Respectfully yours,

*Rob + Lew*