

# Ryan, Kristina & Big Sister Julia!



# Hello from Vermont!

We are Ryan and Kristina. We hope you enjoy getting to know us and our sweet and playful daughter, Julia, in the following pages.

Our dearest wish is to welcome a younger sibling to our family! We adopted Julia at birth in 2019. Ryan and his twin sister Kelly were also adopted together at birth. So **adoption is a special part of our family** (see more later in the book)!

We will offer our children our **unconditional love** and **support** in our **safe and stable home**. We live in a wonderful community to raise a family. We have family, friends and neighbors happy to support our children. We will nurture a **healthy and joyful childhood** full of play, imagination, exploration and opportunity.



Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We hope you get a sense of who we are, where we live, and what life might be like for a child who joins our family!

*Sincerely, Ryan & Kristina*



We met on the ultimate frisbee field and became friends right away! Then we fell in love ...



## Our Story

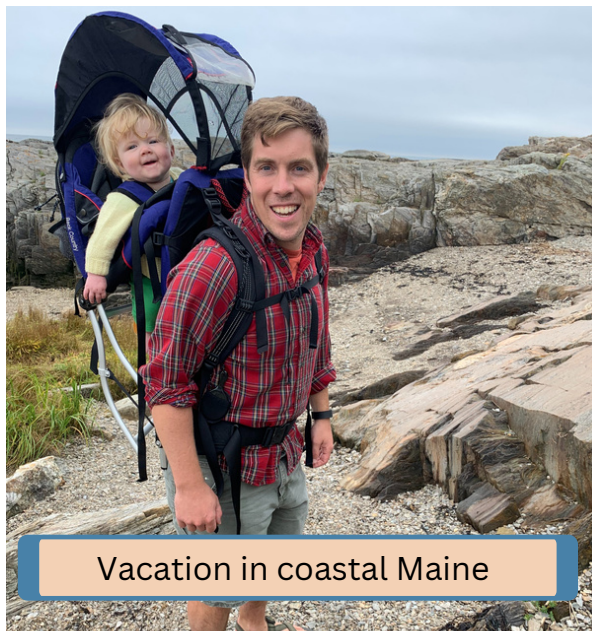
We have a happy, supportive and steady relationship.

We have been on a lot of great adventures as a couple, but **the best adventure of all has been parenting together!**

We strive to support each other as a family. We **work together as a team** to take care of our home, our child, our gentle dog, and each other. We find ways to **make one another laugh** every day!



Chilling at home with a book



Vacation in coastal Maine



Vacation in Jackson Hole, WY



Sledding at our nature center

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## *Family Fun*

We love to spend quality time together!

We enjoy **hiking, camping, swimming, cross country skiing, and ice skating** as a family. We have weekly **homemade pizza night and dance parties** to celebrate the weekend!

We like to **travel, enjoy live music**, and visit good friends and new places! We also enjoy relaxing together with a **movie and games night, making art, and reading** together by our wood stove.

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Ryan canoeing on a family and friends trip

## Meet Ryan! (by Kristina)

Ryan has a great sense of humor and is such a fun person to be around. His **warm, easygoing personality** helps him connect with people of all ages.

Ryan works hard in his job as an **environmental attorney** protecting public land, air and waters, but **he ALWAYS puts our family first.**

Ryan is **deeply caring** and **thoughtful** and he makes me feel loved every day! He is always there to listen, give a hug, and offer support and encouragement. He is a great cook and prepares most of the meals for our family. Ryan is so excited to welcome a baby to our family and help them grow!

Fun Fact: Ryan loves to play games of all kinds, from corn hole to ping pong!

Skating at our town rink



Bike ride for ice cream at a farm



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# Devoted Dad

**Ryan is a caring, playful, calm and fun-loving father!**

He loves building blocks, baking, cuddling, reading, dancing and rough housing with Julia. Julia adores Ryan and seeks him out for comfort, play, learning and help.



Playing with our train set



Sledding at our friend's house

From singing her songs and rocking her to sleep as an infant, to baking popovers with her before school in the mornings today, Ryan takes amazing care of Julia. He answers her curious questions with patience and respect and helps her grow and thrive.

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# Meet Kristina!

(by Ryan)



Kristina by a downtown mural

Kristina is **artistic, free spirited**, fun loving, generous, and is **one of the kindest people I have ever met**. Kristina cares so deeply for her family and friends and is always eager to go out of her way to help others.

She loves her job as an **elementary art teacher** and her students love her. When we are out in the community young people are always coming up to us with stars in their eyes so happy to see Kristina.

Kristina is always up for an outdoor adventure like oceanside yurt camping, moonlit swimming, or flying through the snow on her cross country skis. As a teacher, she has all summer to play with Julia and a younger sibling!

**Fun Fact:** Kristina loves to travel! Her farthest trip was to China to teach in a summer camp at age 18.

Reading Together



Winter Hiking



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# Joyful Mama

**Kristina is a wonderful mother who is very attuned to children's feelings and growth.**

She is always ready to do whatever she can to help Julia learn and grow and enjoy some fun together. She loves to look for and share in the delight of everyday beauty and simple pleasures.

No matter what the activity, Kristina shows endless patience, grace, and love.

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Cross Country Skiing



We love to swim!



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# Big Sister Julia

Julia is bubbly, curious, creative and kind.

Julia loves to explore, play and imagine, and pretend to be a circus acrobat. She loves cuddling up and reading books together.

She has a **big heart** and if she sees that another child is hurt or upset, she will comfort and help them. Julia loves babies and is very excited to be a sister.

**We think Julia will be an AWESOME sibling and lifelong friend!**

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1 Learning to Bicycle 2 Dressed as a baby crow 3 Getting air at her gymnastics birthday party 4 Enjoying Spring

**Fun Fact: Julia loves to pretend to be a baby kitten named Pepper!**



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## *Furry Friend "Kuma"*

Kuma joined our family as a tiny little puppy about six months before Julia was born ... then he grew!



Kuma means "bear" in Japanese. He is a Great Pyrenees (a breed known to be remarkable with kids.)



Kuma adores Julia and is **very patient and gentle** with her and all her friends. She loves to climb on him, play together, read books to him and cuddle with him.

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## *Our Home*

We built our house 7 years ago to be **a forever home for our family!**

We love to host playdates, meals and gatherings with our family and friends. The backyard abuts hundreds of acres of preserved forests with public trails. We love time at home together playing and exploring outside or cozied up inside by the wood stove in the winter!

**We are happy to have put down roots in a special place for our kids to grow!**

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# Our Family Circle of Adoption

Adoption is special to our family because Ryan and Julia are both adopted and because of the friendships we have made and the remarkable people we have met along our journey. **In our family, we talk openly and affirmatively about our adoption stories.**

Julia loves to hear the story of how we became a family through adoption. It was a snowy day and we got a phone call to come to a hospital in Maine as soon as possible. We dropped everything, threw things in suitcases and zoomed to meet her. We fell in love with Julia the moment we met her. **We talk positively about Julia's birth mother**, about how she loves art (just like Julia), and most of all that **she is a strong and brave person** who carried Julia in her belly, loves Julia, and wanted her to be happy, safe, and loved. We send emails and photos regularly to the adoption agency. We respect and support Julia's birth mother's choice for a closed adoption and we remain open to a connection with her as she wishes. **As Julia grows we will support her as an adoptee and keep our hearts open for any level of communication and relationship with her birth mother and birth family.**

For his whole life, Ryan has understood the difficulty of the choices that his birth mother made. **He has always known that her decisions were made from a place of love and based on what she knew would be best for Ryan and Kelly.** Ryan and Kelly exchanged letters with their birth mother throughout their childhood. **Being adopted has always been a positive part of Ryan's life story.**



Baby Ryan  
and his twin sister Kelly

**We are happy to talk about our experiences with adoption and the level of relationship you might want with your child and us.**



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# Our Community

We think our small city in Vermont is an **ideal place to grow up!**

The community is **safe** and **vibrant** with **growing diversity**. We are surrounded by a beautiful rural area with mountains and rivers.

The **public schools are fantastic** - many families move here so that their children can attend.

There is live music and arts and cultural events. There are parks and playgrounds and lots of fun community events for kids and families.

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One of our favorite community traditions is the annual "Enchanted Forest" in October

# Our Favorite Family Traditions



- 1** CAMPING TRIPS EVERY SUMMER
- 2** FOURTH OF JULY FAMILY FUN
- 3** VALENTINE'S DAY HEART PIZZAS
- 4** CHRISTMAS TREE FARM TRIP
- 5** GRAMMY'S HOLIDAY COOKIES



## Meet Kristina's Side



"Choo Choo" is Kristina's mother (also known as Margaret) and **she LOVES being a grandma!** She picks up Julia every day from preschool. She is always happy to spend time with our family. She loves reading with Julia, making arts and crafts, building forts, going to playgrounds, and playing and pretending. Julia loves to help in her garden and play with her sweet dog Ginny.

Uncle Jack is Kristina's brother (and one of her dearest friends) and Aunt Daisy is his awesome fiancée. They live with their dragon and two pet tortoises in Boston (or, "The Big Downtown" as Julia calls it.) They have **adventurous spirits** and love sailing with their friends and family on their sailboat up and down the east coast. They are fun-loving and adore kids of all ages, and love to surprise Julia with visits!

- ① Choo Choo with Julia at a playground
- ② Choo Choo and Julia in a sunflower patch
- ③ Uncle Jack reading with Julia
- ④ Jack and Daisy sailing to their friends' wedding

# Meet Ryan's Side



"Grammy" Claudia and "Grampy" Bill live in coastal Maine, in the same house that they built 40 years ago, before they adopted Ryan and Kelly. Claudia and Bill are both retired from many years of hard work (Bill was a lineman for 40+ years). They **love being grandparents!** We go to visit them several times a year for holidays and to celebrate birthdays together. They also come to visit us a few times a year. Claudia and Bill love to take Julia to the nearby beach to swim, picnic, and play in the summer.




**Aunt Kelly is so sweet** with Julia and loves to read and play with her when we are together. Kelly lives in North Carolina but is looking to move back north. We always enjoy being together!



Despite the distance, we all keep in touch with Face Time chats every weekend.

- 1** Winter walk with Kelly **2** Grammy and Julia  
**3** Grampy and newborn Julia **4** Family trip to Universal Studios in Florida

A serene sunset scene over a beach. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright orange glow across the sky and reflecting on the calm water. The beach in the foreground is dark and textured. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

We will:

- love our children unconditionally,
- provide a safe, happy and stable home,
- nurture our children's creativity and growth,
- offer our children opportunities to travel  
and explore new places and cultures,
- and empower our children to enjoy life fully  
and follow their own dreams.

# *Thank You!*

**Thank you for taking the time to get to know us and our story!  
We are honored and grateful that you looked at our book.  
We respect you and your selfless courage and love.  
Our hearts are with you as you continue your journey.  
If you decide to choose our family, we will devote our lives to  
loving and supporting your child. Our door and our hearts will  
always be open for you and your story.**

*With Love, Kristina and Ryan*

