

James & Riana



OUR STORY

HI, WE'RE JAMES AND RIANA,

and we appreciate you taking the time to learn more about us as prospective parents.



Roasting marshmallows in the Adirondacks

The story of our relationship began, oddly enough, during an emergency. When we met in 2017, we worked for the same disaster response agency, and our paths first crossed while responding to an incident in New York City. As we spent more time together and got to know one another better, it became clear we had a special connection. It wasn't long before we started dating and eventually moved in together, sharing a tiny studio apartment! As our careers developed, we moved to New England, bought our first house here, added Finn (our mini dachshund) to our family, and married in the summer of 2022.



Attending a wedding in Jackson Hole, WY

From an early point in our relationship, we both knew we wanted children and that it wouldn't be easy for us. We pursued IVF treatment, but after several rounds, our doctor advised us to consider other options. We shifted our attention to adoption, and the more we learned, the more excited we became. We want nothing more than to become parents, and we can't wait to grow our family and welcome a child through this process.



Happy Birthday, James!

When we met in 2017, we worked for the same disaster response agency, and our paths first crossed while responding to an incident in New York City.

ABOUT RIANA BY JAMES



Serving in AmeriCorps

Riana is the kindest person I know. I can provide many examples, but the one that stands out most vividly occurred during a weekend trip we took to Washington, D.C. We were walking through the downtown area when we came across a haggard-looking man slumped over on the sidewalk. Everyone else walked by without a second thought, but not Riana. She knelt to check on this gentleman, ensuring he was ok, asking what he needed, and getting him upright. It was a small act of kindness, but out of the dozens, if not hundreds, of people who walked by this man, only Riana offered to help him.



Riana enjoying baking

This kindness also extends into Riana's professional work, where she has built a career based on service to others. She has taught English to children in South Korea and Japan, served in AmeriCorps, and worked providing disaster relief with the American Red Cross. Riana now administers federal grant funding for community-service programs, using her talent and experience to empower communities to provide critical services to their residents.

I KNOW THESE QUALITIES, AND MANY OTHERS WILL MAKE RIANA A FANTASTIC MOTHER WHO WILL IMPART HER KINDNESS AND COMMITMENT TO SERVICE TO A CHILD.



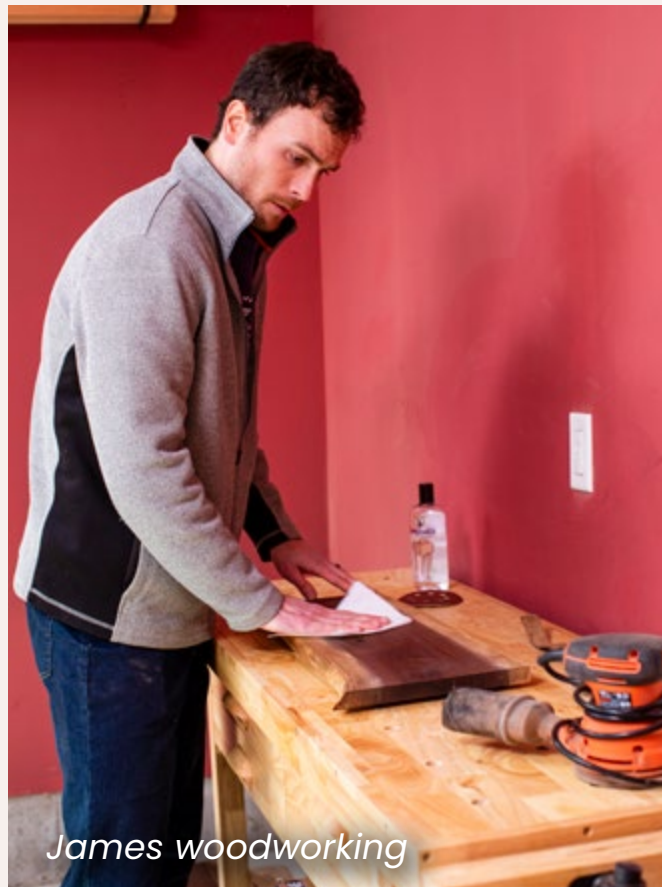
FUN FACTS ABOUT RIANA:

- ★ After spending four years teaching English overseas in South Korea and Japan, Riana picked up quite a bit of both languages.
- ★ Riana is crazy about food. One of her greatest joys is finding new and delicious foods to eat!
- ★ In addition to being a foodie, Riana is also a huge movie buff. She has many favorites, including Harry Potter (she considers herself a Hufflepuff).

ABOUT JAMES BY RIANA

When I first met James, I was drawn to the fact that he has made intentional choices to serve others. Whether it was supporting local communities in implementing sustainable agricultural practices during his Peace Corps service in Cameroon, providing resources to homeless and runaway youth in New York, or supporting long-term recovery efforts after a hurricane in New Jersey – both through AmeriCorps, he has been led by a heart for service, and I found that so admirable.

I also thought James was incredibly brave to live in another country where he didn't look like the locals or speak their language. I think it takes someone with a strong growth mindset and a healthy sense of humility to put themselves in that situation.



James woodworking



James on top of Loon Mountain



James in his Red Dog Tavern T-Shirt

LASTLY, I APPRECIATED THAT JAMES WAS FAMILY-ORIENTED. HE SPOKE OF HIS FAMILY AND SPENDING TIME WITH THEM IN A WAY THAT COMMUNICATED IT WAS SOMETHING HE VALUED HIGHLY.

These things, along with so many of his other wonderful characteristics, made me want to know more about him, develop a friendship with him, and eventually choose him as a life partner.

FUN FACTS ABOUT JAMES:

- ★ James enjoys a good cup of coffee. He even roasts his own coffee and likes trying beans from different countries.
- ★ James loves hot sauce. He and his brothers would partake in the Armageddon Wing Challenge at Red Dog Tavern in the Adirondacks. He completed the challenge and proudly wears his well-earned prize T-shirt.
- ★ James is a big Game of Thrones (GoT) fan. He's read the books and enjoys GoT trivia. We have many GoT items around the house - mugs, a blanket, a lamp, a map, sweaters, socks, and games.

OUR HOME



Warm drinks in the kitchen

Our townhouse-style home, built in 2015, has been the **perfect place for us to grow into**. We moved in in early 2022 and have since really enjoyed furnishing, decorating, and making the home our own. The Spring bloom is particularly beautiful, and we enjoy lounging on our deck when the New England weather doesn't keep us inside.

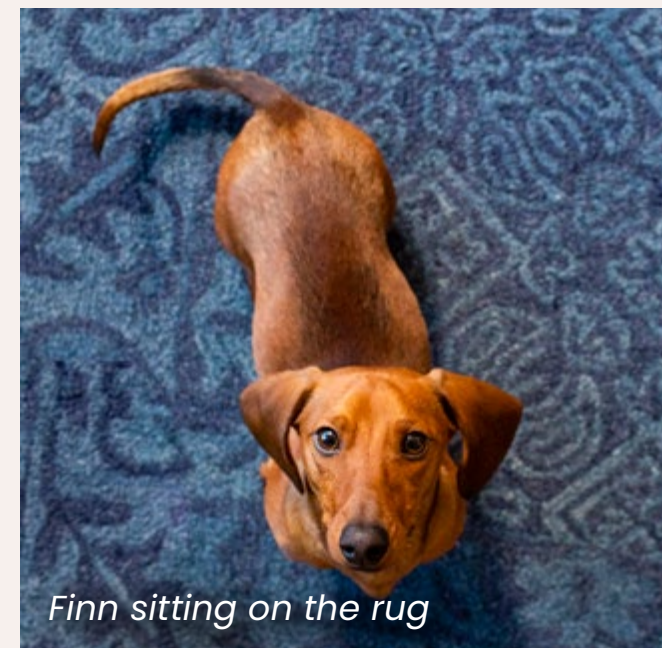
Our neighborhood is quiet and friendly, and full of dogs! We love taking Finn for walks, during which we will, without fail, run into several other neighborhood dogs and their owners. The dogs have fun playing together, and Finn is particularly popular with the neighborhood children, who often run out to greet him when they see him walking by.

While our immediate neighborhood is quiet, we're a quick drive to downtown Concord where we enjoy walking down Main Street and trying different restaurants and shops. Several local parks also give us plenty of opportunities to stay active and enjoy New England's nature. We also love to take day trips to other nearby areas, particularly to the New Hampshire and Maine seacoast. Our location also allows us to visit larger nearby cities like Boston, Portland, and Montreal. There's so much to see and experience; we can't wait to share it all with a child!



Riana enjoying some sunshine on our deck

Our neighborhood is quiet and friendly, and full of dogs!



Finn sitting on the rug



James and Finn playing

Riana's Sister, Riana's Mom, Riana, Riana's Grandma



Riana and James with her dad and step-mom



WE'RE SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE KIND, LOVING, SUPPORTIVE FAMILIES WHO HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT ENCOURAGE US SINCE WE MADE OUR DECISION TO ADOPT.

Not only has our family actively looked for ways to help us throughout the process, but they are equally excited to welcome a child and make our family a little bit larger!



James and Riana with James's Mom at the NY Botanical Garden

OUR FAMILY

We place tremendous value on our family relationships, which is a good thing because we both have huge families! Growing up, we spent lots of time and developed close bonds with siblings and cousins, with those relationships carrying through to adulthood. In recent years we've enjoyed watching the next generation of our families grow, welcoming several nieces, nephews, and younger cousins.

With such a large family, we have relatives across the country, but most live in either New York or Florida. This means visits from family members looking to see the Fall foliage in New England and frequent road trips to New York for special events and holidays. We often take a summer trip with James's family to the Adirondacks in Central New York, where we love to hike and spend time on the lake. It's one of our favorite places to visit, and **we can't wait to create even more special memories there with a child.**



James with his brothers in Jackson Hole, WY



Adirondacks Pontoon Ride



Riana and James kayaking in the Adirondacks



Playing HeroQuest

We have many traditions that we've developed over the years that we're looking forward to sharing with a child.

We have many traditions that we've developed over the years that we're looking forward to sharing with a child, a few of which are below:

WINTER - Decorating our Christmas tree with ornaments that James's mom has accumulated and saved for him since he was a child. Riana has enjoyed adding her own new decorations to the tree, and we look forward to starting this tradition with a child as well.

SPRING - The Concord Coalition to End Homelessness has an annual fundraiser at White Park called SouperFest. Local restaurants donate different soups that individuals purchase while enjoying each other's company and live music. We have gone for the past couple of years and met up with a colleague of Riana's and her husband. Giving back and supporting service to the community are things we value and plan to share with a child.

SUMMER - Going to the Adirondacks and enjoying hiking, kayaking, boating, fishing, and just relaxing on the dock. Riana enjoys spotting the loons, which are beautiful and have a lovely call.

FALL - Riana loves rewatching Gilmore Girls in the Fall! She also loves making pumpkin bread, and we've started a new tradition of making sweet potato pie for Thanksgiving.



Reading next to Christmas Tree

TRADITIONS, HOBBIES & INTERESTS

When Riana's not searching out new foods to sample in her free time, she's often trying her hand at cooking or baking new treats for us to enjoy. This has always interested her, but she finds new inspiration after watching the Great British Baking Show!

James has recently taken up woodworking and has even created a few pieces we've used to decorate the house and give as gifts. He enjoys the challenge and the fact that at the end of a project, he's got something to show for it!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little more about us as you consider an adoption plan. We hope that in reading through our book, you've gotten a sense of who we are and what we have to offer a child.

As parents, we will ensure a warm, loving, and joyful home for a child to grow in. We'll provide memorable and diverse experiences and make sure the child has every opportunity we have to offer. We will always put the child's best interests first and never take our role as parents for granted.

We hope to stay in touch with you to whatever degree you are comfortable with, and we assure you that as the child grows, we will explain with pride the loving choice their mother made to give them the best life possible.

While we are beyond excited to become parents, we also recognize that this may be a difficult decision for you to make. Please know that regardless of the path forward you choose for your baby, we wish you only the best.

With Love,

James and Riana

We will always put the child's best interests first and never take our role as parents for granted.

James and Riana attending a wedding in Geneseo, NY





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