

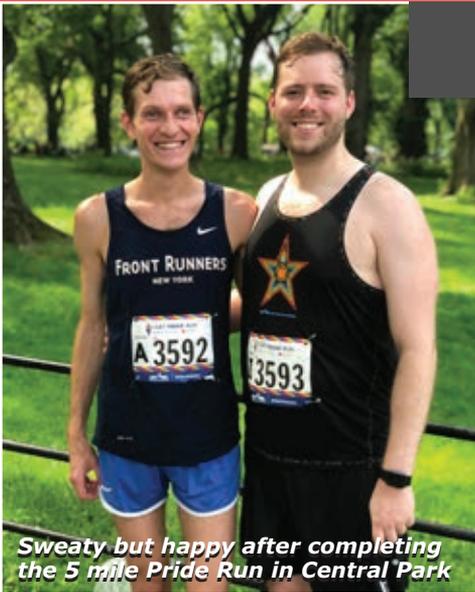


# Matthew & Ryan



**Hello from Matthew and Ryan!** Thanks so much for visiting our adoption profile. We really appreciate the opportunity to share a bit about ourselves and our family, friends, and community. We live in New York City, NY. When we met nine years ago, building a family was a desire we both shared. We've now been married for more than six years, and feel like we're ready to start the process of adoption. Both of us really value our relationships with family and friends, including our godchildren, nieces, and nephews, and are excited about the idea of sharing that loving community with a child. We hope our profile gives a sense of who we are, what we do, and our values as individuals and as a couple. We're grateful for your time and consideration, and look forward to answering any questions you have about us and our journey to adoption.

## OUR Story



*Sweaty but happy after completing the 5 mile Pride Run in Central Park*

We met online and became friends when Ryan was finishing his PhD in the United Kingdom and Matthew was working on his graduate degrees in divinity and social work in Boston. When Ryan moved to New Haven for law school in 2011, we met for a date and began spending weekends taking the bus to visit each other. We pretty quickly realized that we were a good match. We both value family, communicate well, and share a warm sense of humor. We were married in the summer of 2014, and have enjoyed building a life and continuing to have adventures together. Today, we live in Manhattan. Matthew is a chaplain of a children's hospital, and Ryan divides his time between teaching human rights at a law school and working as a researcher at an international human rights organization. We're looking forward to putting down roots and growing our family in the years ahead.

## ABOUT Matthew



*Playtime with a family Matthew got to know from his work at the hospital (used with permission)*

"I'm biased, but after almost ten years together, Matthew is still one of the kindest, funniest, most gentle people I've ever met. He's very easygoing and doesn't take himself too seriously, but is also a dependable partner to navigate life with. His compassion and emotional intelligence shine through in his chaplaincy with kids and their families as they struggle through illness, but I'm lucky enough to also see it at home in the quiet ways he takes care of me and the friends and family he's so close with. No matter how busy he is, he always makes time for our godkids and nieces and nephews, and they absolutely light up around him. He's curious and open to adventure, whether that's training for a triathlon or moving across the country and making new friends. I can already see the kind of dad that Matthew will be - very devoted, attentive, and lots of fun. Every chapter of our relationship has been a blast, and I couldn't be more excited to build our family with him." —**Ryan**

## ABOUT Ryan



*Playing with my godson Tariq during a visit to NYC*

"As you can probably tell, Ryan loves to run, and has run marathons in Boston, New York, Berlin and even North Dakota! His love for running rubbed off some time ago, and now it's something we both do together. Running is a hobby that takes discipline and commitment, and Ryan approaches most everything in his life with those attributes. He is disciplined in his work, and his commitments to family are unmatched. Ryan is intelligent and academically inclined but more importantly, he is guided by values that put the needs of the community above his own because he is a compassionate person. All of those aspects that make him an exceptional person also demonstrate his potential as a world-class dad. I know he will guide our child to their fullest educational potential with his patience and support. Our child will experience affirmation, loving kindness, and gentle instruction, and will have a role model in their life who they can follow to become a successful and kind adult. With Ryan as their dad, mornings will start with laughter and evenings will end with stories and snuggles." —**Matthew**



*Enjoying a very chilly, sunny day in Times Square*



*Ryan teaches human rights law*



*Slime Day at the children's hospital where Matthew works as a chaplain*



*Our friends' child, Grey, is hard at work — apparently "working on Baby Shark"*

## Our Life at Home

We live in New York City, in a sunny apartment in Manhattan. We've been in the city for five years now, and it really feels like home. Although Ryan grew up in North Dakota and Matthew grew up in a military family, we've both enjoyed city life a lot and love what New York City has to offer. Ryan runs with a group here on weekends, and Matthew is active in a gamer's group and his worship community. Lots of our friends from college and graduate school live here and we see them often for game nights, theater outings, and spending holidays together. We're in a pretty quiet pocket of the city that really feels like a neighborhood, with our local grocery store, pizzeria, and bakery right nearby. We're about a ten minute jog away from Central Park but also a short walk away from a park, playground, and running and biking trail along the East River. We've talked about moving outside the city to have more space as our family grows down the road, but for now we really like the opportunities and experiences that the city offers, and are really thrilled to call it home.



*Christmas in the Outer Banks is a biannual tradition with Matthew's side of the family*



*Meeting my nephew Ronan for the first time — my dad was very excited to become a grandpa!*

## Our Extended Family

Our families are pretty tight-knit, and both sides of the family have been enthusiastic about our hopes to have children. We grew up in families where grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all spent a lot of time together, and want that same network of love and support for our children.



*Grabbing dinner with my grandparents Mary Lou and Duane on a visit to Fargo, ND*



*We enjoy time with nephew Gordon and our newest niece Elliott — they're growing so fast*

Ryan's extended family is mainly based in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. He grew up in a family of four kids, who enjoy catching up and hanging out. Ryan's brother and his wife just had their first son, Ronan, and it's been fun seeing his parents embrace their new role as grandma and grandpa.



*Selfie in Times Square — always excited to see shows with the family when they visit!*



*My sister Kelly and I share a lot of interests, including true crime podcasts, feminism, and ice cream*

Matthew enjoys swapping children's book recommendations with his sister and playing racquetball with his brother during visits. He remains close to his parents and visits them in Virginia when possible. Matthew's had a blast being an uncle to our nieces Catherine and Elliott and nephew Gordon. He's very excited to introduce them to a new cousin.



# Thank You

We can only begin to imagine all that goes into your decision to make an adoption plan, so thank you for allowing us to be part of that exploration. We very much appreciate the time you took to look through our adoption profile. We hope that we have given you a chance to get to know us. If you have any questions for us, please don't hesitate to reach out — we'd be happy to talk.

*With love,  
Ryan + Matthew*

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FAMILY

This is a preview of our adoption profile. Please visit our complete online profile, where you will be able to find many of our pictures and read more about us:  
[www.friendsinadoption.org/matthew-ryan](http://www.friendsinadoption.org/matthew-ryan)

Scan the QR code using your smartphone or tablet to access this online profile.



FUN FACTS					
	OCCUPATION	HOBBIES	FAVORITE PLACES	FAVORITE FOODS	FAVORITE MUSIC
<b>Matthew</b>	CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN 	VIDEO GAMES, TRIATHLON TRAINING, NAPS 	CHRISTMAS IN NORTH DAKOTA OR NORTH CAROLINA 	RYAN'S PANCAKES 	BROADWAY MUSICALS 
<b>Ryan</b>	HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER 	TRAVEL, DISTANCE RUNNING, CROSSWORDS 	MINNEAPOLIS, LONDON, BANGKOK 	PANCAKES 	ANI DIFRANCO 



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