



**Dustin and Winston**



Hello, we are Dustin and Winston. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell you about ourselves. We have been married for 10 years, building a life filled with joy, challenges, triumphs, adventures and love. The only thing missing is a child to share it all with. This book is just a tiny peek into our lives, but we hope that it will help you get to know us and see if we would be the right family for your baby.

Your choice to make an adoption plan is a selfless one made with great love for your child. We want you to know that we respect your courage and wish nothing but the best for you and your baby. Without courageous people like you, we would never be able to grow our family, and we are so grateful. We hope you find the perfect family for your child, and if that's us, we can't wait to welcome them into our lives!

# About Us

We first met in Athens, Georgia in Spring of 2011. Dustin had recently graduated from the University of Georgia and stayed in town to take a job at a local non-profit, while Winston was starting his final year of undergrad. On our first date we realized that we had a lot in common, including a passion for helping others. We had even spent our freshmen years in the same tiny, old, ramshackle dorm. We also shared a similar circle of friends but had never met. We have since shared 10 years of marriage. We moved across three different states for jobs and graduate school before finally coming home to Atlanta, Georgia where we have lived for the last five-years.



Visit a new national park every year



We find the blue skies even in the rain

We've been together for 13 years!

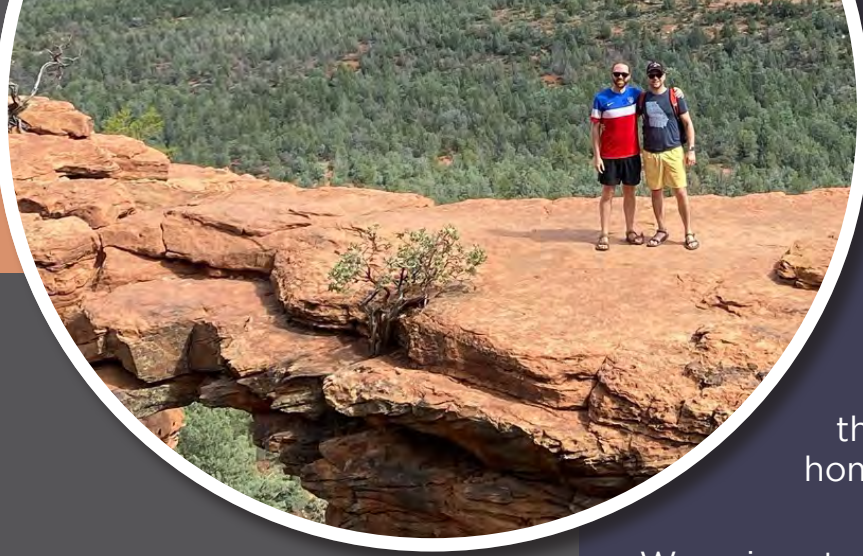


Turning 35 means a presidential party!



Season tickets to cheer on Atlanta United!!!





We both have jobs we enjoy. Winston works as an urban planner and landscape architect, and Dustin runs the financial assistance program for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Dustin works from home, which means he can spend his lunch breaks playing in the yard with the pups now and will be home with the child we adopt in the future.

We go to the dog park with Teddi and the neighbors whenever we can



We enjoy staying active and experiencing everything Atlanta has to offer. We enjoy trying new restaurants, cheering at Atlanta United soccer games and Georgia football games, and going to festivals, shows and cultural events. We also live close to the BeltLine trail and often walk with our dogs along the trail to visit friends, go to the park, and explore new neighborhoods. When we aren't out and about, we spend time gardening and cooking together. We also enjoy hosting friends and neighbors around the fire pit in the back yard. We look forward to doing all these things and so much more with a child.



Dustin's annual Komen Gala



Winston's trail planning work

# Winston

I met Winston through a chance encounter back in 2011 and I immediately knew I had met my soulmate. He was finishing his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, and I had recently finished mine in public health and was working at the local mental health hospital. I asked him out to lunch and he agreed! We spent the entire lunch talking about what we had studied, and even though our studies were so different, we both wanted to use our degrees to make our community a better place for everyone. It was at this lunch I knew Winston was the other side of my coin.



Peach ice cream from Dickie's Peach Shed is Winston's favorite!

I've never met someone as kind, giving of themselves, passionate about their beliefs, driven, or curious as Winston. He's always the first to volunteer for causes he believes in or to take charge of efforts to benefit our community. He's served as our neighborhood beautification chair and led efforts for cleanup days, park enhancements, and planting more trees to protect our tree canopy for generations to come.



Our newest next-door neighbor's first day home!



Winston's curiosity is one of the things I love most about him, and it's one of his strongest traits as I don't believe Winston has ever encountered a topic he didn't want to know more about.

He's always reading up about something new or going down a rabbit hole to learn everything he can about a topic he heard earlier.



*Picking up a new hobby - Guitar!*

*Winner of the church chili cook-off!*



Winston's curiosity has made him an expert gardener and an amazing chef in the kitchen. He's always working in our vegetable garden, trying out new things to make the garden as fruitful as it can be. He's collected quite a large variety of cookbooks and taught himself how to make dishes from all around the world. One of his favorite things to do is host dinner parties with our friends and share new recipes with them. Winston's never-ending quest to learn means he's always up for new experiences, from hiking new trails, to trying out new sports, to traveling and learning about other cultures.

One thing Winston loves more than learning something new is sharing his knowledge or teaching his skills to someone else. I see this whenever he is with our friends' children; his face lights up like I've never seen before, and his spirit seems complete. He gets so much joy out of running around and playing with our friends' children, reading to them, answering all their questions, and teaching them something new. I know Winston will be an amazing father, and I can't wait to experience the joys of parenting with him!

# Dustin

What I remember most about the first time I met Dustin was his genuine and kind smile and how warm it made me feel. Over the last 14 years he has been my rock, my confidant, and my best friend. He continually pushes me to grow to be a better version of myself and helps me to see the world in ways I wouldn't have on my own. I know he will bring these same qualities to fatherhood. He is a natural teacher and will support a child to be the best possible version of themselves.



Community clean-up!

Dustin is very much a natural leader and a doer. His family motto, “Don’t talk, do,” almost seems like it was written personally for him! When he commits to something, he always follows through and gives 110 percent. When we joined the Episcopal church, he joined the choir (and has a beautiful bass voice!), started working with the food pantry, led the rebuilding of the church community garden, taught vacation Bible school for elementary-age children, and served on the vestry as part of church leadership.

Dustin is incredibly intelligent, loyal, dependable, and one of the most thoughtful people I have ever met. He supports my quirky ideas, like turning the front yard into a butterfly garden or visiting every restaurant in town to find the best sushi. He often surprises me with sweet gestures to brighten my day, whether it's a pair of shoes I've been secretly eyeing or a last-minute date night. No matter what new challenge I take on, Dustin is always there supporting and helping me, and I feel like we are a team in everything we do.



Adventures on our annual trip to a National Park





Dustin tending to his bee-hives



Dustin lives life to the fullest, a lesson he continues to teach me. He is usually the life of the party, telling the best stories and jokes. He likes to cook and experiment in the kitchen, but a classic grilled burger with cheese fries is his favorite meal. Dustin is also a big fan of all sports, but his favorite team is the Georgia Bulldogs (or Dawgs)! He also enjoys time outside, whether we are hiking with the dogs in the woods or playing with them in the back yard



Dustin teaching Theo about types of dinosaurs

One of my favorite things about Dustin is his compassion and desire to make the world a better place through his service to others. He has spent his career at non-profits, and he created and now manages the financial treatment assistance program at Susan G. Komen that distributes money to women in need who are receiving treatment for breast cancer. He is also passionate about helping our neighbors and volunteers with groups like Neighbor-In-Need, which helps low-income seniors with home-improvement projects.

Dustin cooks our anniversary dinner every year!

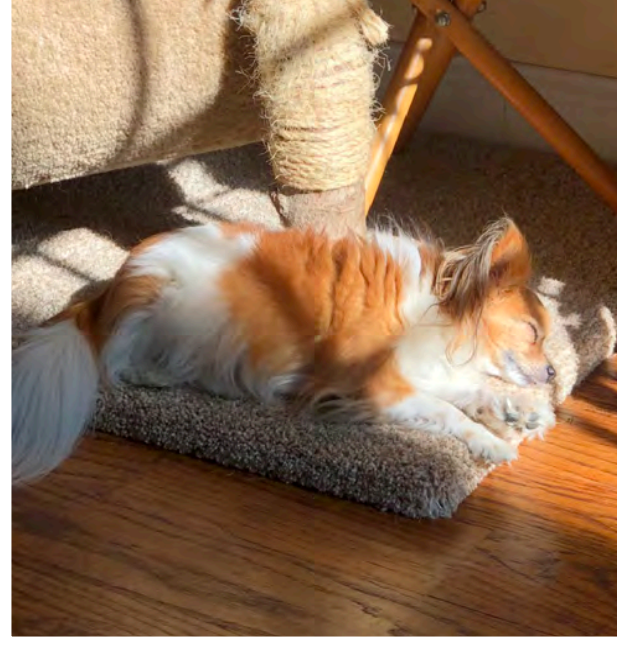


I've seen how Dustin interacts with all of our friends' children and know he will be an amazing father. He is silly and loves making the kids laugh, and the children are enthralled by whatever he has to say. I just can't wait to see him provide guidance and love to the child we receive through adoption.



# Pets

We have two sweet dogs. They are both girls that are well trained and enjoy learning new tricks, going on walks, and visiting the nearby dog park to make new friends. We also enjoy taking them with us to visit Dustin's family out in the country and going hiking with them in the mountains.



Ellie has a favorite toy for every occasion



## Ellie - Ann

Ellie - Ann is a 12-year-old Papillon. Her favorite things are sitting in a lap, eating treats, and carrying her toys around the house to show them off. She also loves a long nap in the sun.

# Teddi - Waffles

Teddi Waffles is a 1-1/2-year-old golden doodle. She likes playing fetch with her toys, wrestling with the neighbors' dogs, and snuggles on the couch. She is gentle with children and loves giving big, snuffy kisses on the cheek.



*Teddy loves visiting the dog park to play!*



# Family



Winston's Grandma and Brother



Dustin's Brother and Nephew



Dustin's Dad, Cousin, Brother, and Nephew

Both of us grew up in loving families that played huge roles in who we are today. They are supportive of all our endeavors and are always there when we need them. They are also so excited for us to adopt. Every year we host a big Thanksgiving dinner for both sides of the family, and we can't wait to have a child running around the house and playing with aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins.



Winston's Brother researches bats



With Dustin's Aunt and Uncle in South Carolina



Winston's Aunt turned 98!



Grilling Oysters at the annual beach trip

Winston's parents live in East Tennessee, and he is the oldest of three siblings. His father is retired, and his mother is an art teacher who will be retiring next year. While both of Winston's siblings have moved across the country, the family makes sure to get together for holidays several times a year. Winston's extended family are across the US and Canada, providing fun opportunities for travel.

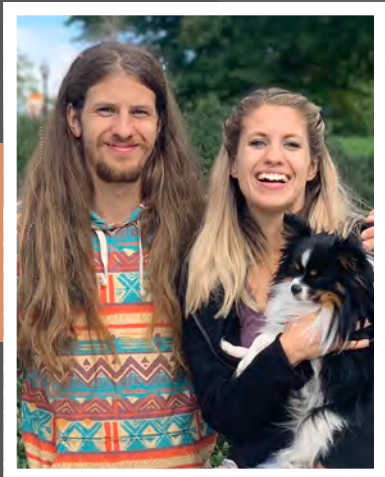


Winston's Parents



Dustin's Father and his Wife

Dustin's father and his wife are retired and live in a small town just an hour away in the beautiful countryside of middle Georgia. The extended family has large potlucks at their house for every holiday, sometimes with over 50 people! Dustin also has a brother and two nephews in Virginia, an aunt and uncle in South Carolina, and an aunt and cousin in South Georgia, all of whom we see regularly. One of our favorite trips every year is the annual family beach trip to Pawley's Island in South Carolina.



Winston's Siblings



Winston's family at his Sister's graduation



Taking Dustin's Cousin to the game!

# Friends & Neighbors

We are lucky to be surrounded by a strong network of friends and neighbors. They help us stay grounded and are such important parts of our lives. Most of them already have children, so the child we adopt will have a circle of friends and playmates. Some of our favorite things to do with friends are visiting new restaurants, going to Atlanta United games, and having them over for dinner and an evening of games and conversation. We also stay active in a recreational sports league and have built lasting friendships on our kickball and dodge ball teams.

## Hosting musicians on the porch for the neighborhood



## Planting trees



Our newest next door neighbor

## At the theater with friends





Community holiday party



We built a tiny library for the Community!



Quarterly trash cleanup crew

We love our neighbors and are very involved with our neighborhood organization (Dustin is the president). We can regularly be found at cleanup days, planting trees, or helping our neighbors register to vote. We even once hosted an orchestra event on our front lawn. Many of our closest neighbors have also recently had babies; there are three on our block alone!

Visiting a friend in Austin, TX



Our Kickball team won the game!



Our friends are having a baby!



Going to see the Soccer Game



# Home & Community

We live in a newly-built home in a historic, walkable neighborhood in Atlanta. Our house has a big back yard with plenty of room to play, a deck for entertaining, and a big vegetable garden around the side. We are only a few blocks from several restaurants and an organic grocery store and can walk to the neighborhood school. We are also very close to a new park that will open next spring.



The BeltLine trail is only a few blocks from our home

The Ponce Rooftop is fun for kids!



We visit Piedmont Park whenever we can



We love to sit out on the front porch

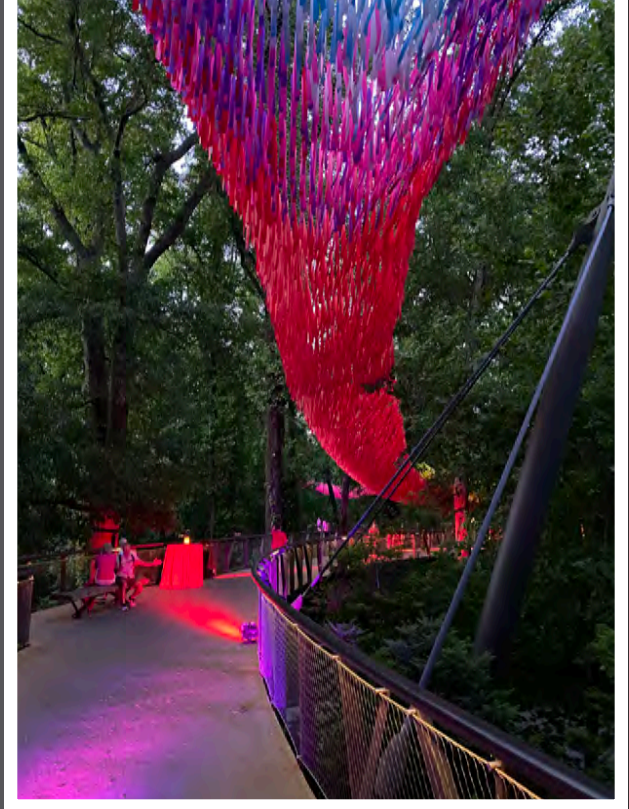
Every year we try new veggies in the Garden



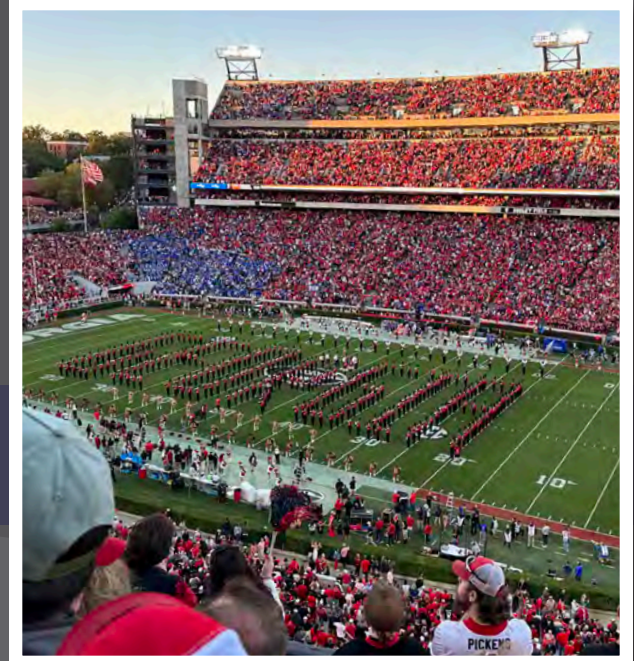
We live in Westview in the Historic West End



Atlanta Central Park has great playgrounds and sports fields



The Atlanta Botanical Gardens  
Georgia Games are nearby in Athens!



We spend a lot of time in our back yard



Our community is active and vibrant, frequently holding events to bring everyone together. While we celebrate regular events like Pride, Juneteenth, and Christmas, we also get together for spur of the moment events, such as back yard barbecues, movie and game nights, and porch parties where anybody is welcome to drop by and say hello.

The Ke'nekt is a neighborhood community space





# Thank You!

We want to thank you for taking a few minutes to get to know more about us. It would be an honor to have the opportunity to be parents to your baby, and we look forward to sharing all our love, laughter, and happiness with them. We are so excited to grow our family and are grateful to be considered by you to be the adoptive parents. If you'd like to meet us or learn more about us to see if we might be the right fit, we would welcome the opportunity!

We wish nothing but the best for you and your baby,

Winston & Dustin

