



DJ & Tanya

ABOUT US

We met randomly in 2000 while DJ was playing professional baseball. When they say opposites attract, it couldn't have been more true for the two of us. We started out as friends and grew into a strong deep love for each other. Looking back, it was meant to be as Tanya went to college on the other side of the country from where we met, and DJ's spring training was 20 minutes away! We had a long-distance relationship for a number of years while Tanya went through medical school and DJ continued professional baseball and building a business. Through all of the distance, we only grew closer!

DJ is an entrepreneur and has built many successful businesses throughout his career. He has a strong drive to continue to grow personally and professionally. He currently works as an employee benefits advisor. With a strong entrepreneurial spirit, DJ is also consults in various areas - helping other entrepreneurs to build and better their business; as well as a college mentorship program assisting high school athletes in gaining scholarships to play his/her sport at the next level. He is an author and sought after public speaker as well. Tanya is a doctor of physical therapy and specializes in orthopedics and sports medicine. Her specialty and passion is injury prevention and wellness, as well as lymphedema and post-cancer care. With a strong passion for education, Tanya is also an adjunct professor in a doctorate of physical therapy program and finds enormous joy in educating the future doctors in her field. She also assists DJ in his business and provides services to some of his clients as well. We enjoy working together and push each other to continue developing.

Aside from our professional lives, we are very involved in the community and both volunteer time and skills to a local non-profit that provides experiences to disadvantaged children of which DJ serves as a board member and Tanya is the volunteer coordinator. In addition, DJ serves on the board of a second local non-profit, and Tanya serves on the board of a national non-profit. We both enjoy sports, stand-up comedy, live entertainment, spending time with family and friends, chilling with "Papo" our rescue puggle, spa days, and traveling. We are extremely active. DJ continues to play baseball in an adult league, runs half marathons, and enjoys working out. Tanya also enjoys working out, in particular, yoga, Zumba, road cycling, and is a third-degree black belt in taekwondo. And after over 13 years of marriage, we dedicate at least one evening a week to date night!



OUR DOG



Papo is an approximately three and a half year old rescue puggle who stole our hearts from day one! We had been fostering dogs through a local rescue organization after the passing of our 14-year-old beagle. At the time, we were not ready to fill the void in our hearts after the loss of Maximus. But our house did not feel like a home without the pitter patter of paws. We fostered numerous dogs over the course of two years and the experience transformed our hearts. We had the privilege of nurturing broken and bruised dogs into loving pets ready to be adopted. However, when Papo entered our lives, we quickly realized he had a different temperament and spirit than any dog we have ever encountered, and knew he was meant to be part of our family! He is a small 12-pound puggle with a playful nature and calm demeanor. He loves kids, squeaky toys, watching sports with DJ, and FETCH!!!!!! Papo is a huge part of our family and provides snuggles, a source of laughter, and unconditional love. We are confident Papo will make an amazing big "fur" brother a child!



FAMILY

We both believe that family is not just who you have genetic ties to, and that we get to choose our family (relatives or not). Our family is built of both related family and extremely close friends. DJ grew up an only child and was raised by his amazing father. He had a rough childhood growing up very poor in the inner city. But his drive and determination allowed him the ability to persevere. He reconnected with his older brother, as adults, and they are extremely close today. Tanya is a pastor's kid in a tight knit family. Both DJ and Tanya have very large extended families. Everyone is extremely supportive and excited for them to start a family.



ABOUT TANYA

written by DJ

Tanya is someone I met a long way from home while I was playing professional baseball. What I didn't know that day was that she was someone I always wanted to know. She made me aware that all good things I heard of actually existed. Through her - God, love, grace, and purity could actually be seen in the flesh over the last 22 years. She is my best friend, motivation, and the best reason in the world to get out of bed in the morning.



ABOUT DJ

written by Tanya

DJ is the most real person I have ever met. He is strong physically and mentally and continues to push me to be a better version of me everyday. I never imagined I could ever love someone the way I love this man. I never knew my world was gray until he brought the color into it. DJ is the light on my cloudy days. And to top it off, he is one of the funniest people I know. His humor is what initially won me over, and no one makes me laugh the way he does. I admire his tenacity, drive, and dedication to his family. With DJ by my side, I feel safe, strong, and unstoppable!

DJ'S FAVORITES



Pizza
Hunter Green
Martin
Think & Grow Rich
Baseball
Devil's Advocate
"Game's not over until I win"
- Les Brown

FOOD
COLOR
TV SHOW
BOOK
SPORT
MOVIE
QUOTE

TANYA'S FAVORITES



Fries
Blue
House
The 4 Agreements
Taekwondo
Father of the Bride and Gladiator
"The most important six inches on the battlefield is between your ears." - James Mattis

DEAR BIRTHMOTHER

Thank you for considering our family and taking the time to get to know a little more about us. Our home is full of love, and we would be honored to shower your child with that love. We believe in positivity, fostering self-worth and knowledge, and the importance of unconditional support and love. It is important to us that you know we want nothing more than to

openly accept your child as our own regardless of race or religion and feel like there would be no greater honor than to do so. Your child would have lots of love, laughs, and a full happy life. We love all kinds of celebrations, and you can often find us at birthdays, anniversaries, and other family events with both of our families. Since we have close friends that we love as our family, we also have an amazing extended family that we celebrate life with,

and all of us are excited to welcome another child to love, laugh and play with into our open arms. Life in our circle will be loving, safe, comfortable, and dedicated to sharing all of us with the greatest gift of all, a child. We want you to understand the importance of the commitment we have made to fully and unconditionally love the child you would gift us with becoming a part of their life.

*With Gratitude,
DJ & Tanya*

OUR HOME

We live in a luxury townhome nestled in a beautifully quiet and serene suburban neighborhood. Our home has three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, an extra large two car attached garage with storage, and a patio that overlooks a scenic nature reserve. The community has a clubhouse, heated pool, tennis courts, playground, and plenty of green areas to play and hang out. It is located within walking distance of grade A schools and nature parks.



WHY ADOPTION?

We have always wanted to raise a child together. In 2013, we decided to start a family. Tanya became pregnant right away, however within weeks she became very sick with high fevers. Tanya wound up being hospitalized in the ICU for two months and the doctors were not sure if she would survive. DJ was devastated facing the fact that he was going to lose his best friend/wife and child. Soon after, this our family ended up losing our child, Daniel III. We planned on calling him "Trey" with hopes he had an affection for sports like his dad. After an intense rehab both physically and emotionally for us, we had to pick up the pieces and keep chasing the ghost we have always wanted... a family of our own. Tanya's three closest friends offered to be a surrogate, but DJ and Tanya felt strongly they were called to adopt. We feel like it is our purpose and are more than blessed to be able to do so. Tanya has an amazing support network of girlfriends who are her cheerleaders and moms as well, and they are excited to guide and encourage her as this road to adoption develops for her. DJ is looking forward to mentoring, loving and parenting a child of their own, who can learn and grow and thrive from the love, faith, and hope that both of them practice in their daily lives, commitments, and relationships.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU

If you have any questions for us or would like to speak with us about adopting your child, please contact your case worker at Open Arms Adoptions by calling 330-697-4751 or 614-349-1510.

