



## Hi, I'm Luis

I'm a polymath from Connecticut who loves to solve whatever puzzle is in front of me. I love learning new skills, whether it's a spoken language, a new sport, or a new computer programming language. If others can benefit from the love and care and wisdom that got me this far, I want to share.

## Hi I'm Nadia

I came to DC from southern Georgia because I wanted to change the world. I am an optimist and loyal friend who loves spending time outdoors and eating delicious things with people I love. The family-building process has taught me a lot about the importance of vulnerability.





We met in 2009 at our mutual friend's college graduation party in Washington, DC. Luis's friend Josh was couch surfing with him for a couple of months, and wound up finding a room in the group house of Nadia's friend Adam. Josh invited Luis to Adam's graduation party at the new group house, and Luis wound with a roommate for life.

Since then, we have been together – over 16 years! We decided to get married last year when we started the adoption process, but have been in a committed partnership living together for last 14 years.

Luis works at the U.S. Senate as a software engineer and technology policy expert. His prior job was as an Army civilian, auditing U.S. government programs in Afghanistan, where he deployed in 2017. Since he grew up near New York, 9/11 had a big impact on his hometown. Though Luis left the East Coast to attend Stanford University, he knew his interest in philosophy, politics and foreign policy would bring him back to the East Coast

Nadia came to DC to work in foreign policy at the Department of State, mostly on providing humanitarian aid and support to vulnerable communities in times of conflict and war, including in Yemen, Syria, and Gaza. Her parents are immigrants and this is an issue close to my heart. Nadia studied at the University of Georgia and then New York to attend New York University as it was a personal dream to live in New York. There, she studied International Affairs and Public Policy. Nadia left government work in order to pursue new opportunities to explore the intersection of technology policy making and business operations in the private sector.

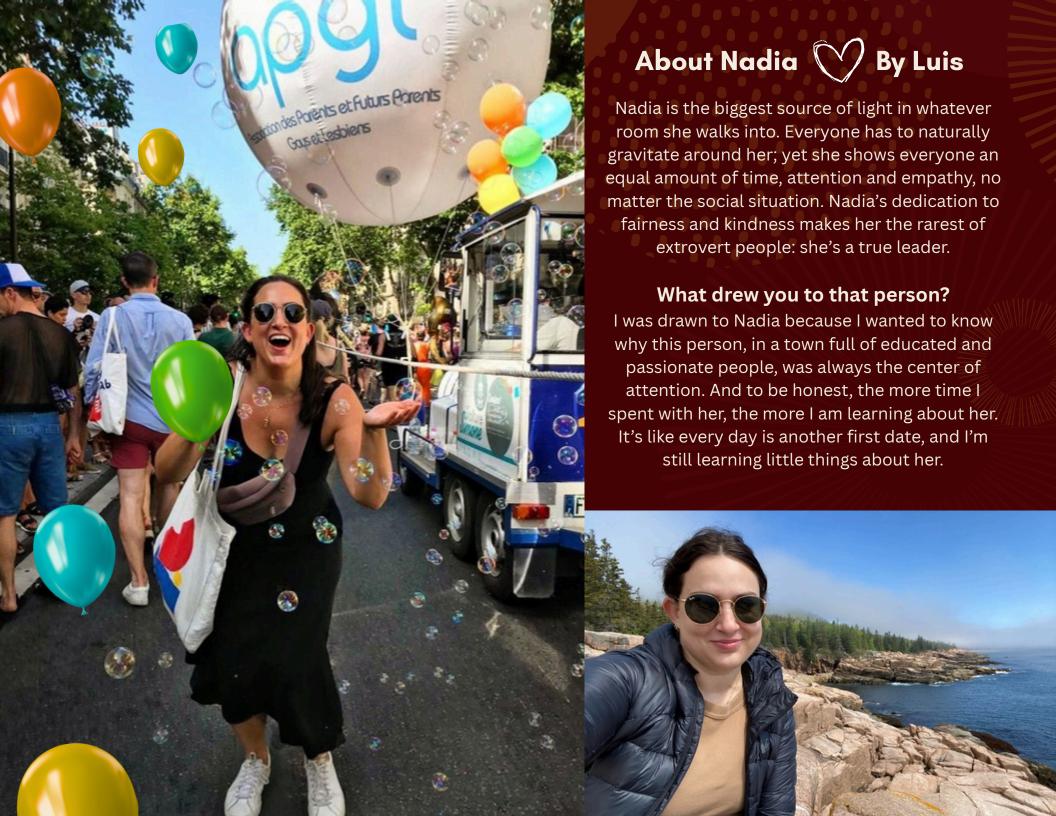
## What kind of Partner do you think your partner will be?



Nadia will be someone who can naturally slip into the perspective of a child and directly cater to their needs. Her ability to empathize with others is an incredible skill; one that I am developing because she models it so well. I trust her to bring everyone in her life forward towards the solutions that meet everyone's needs with minimal compromise because she is always forward-thinking.

Luis will be a gentle and kind parent who will also put his child's needs before his own. He will love playing jazz in the morning with the baby and reading to him or her at night. He will also probably be the one helping out with homework.







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Luis is kind, patient, and generous. He has a strong moral compass and is incredibly gentle. He values friendship and family and will do anything for them.

#### What drew you to that person?

 I was drawn to Luis because of how much he cared about those in his life and our shared interest in watching movies and spending time outside.





























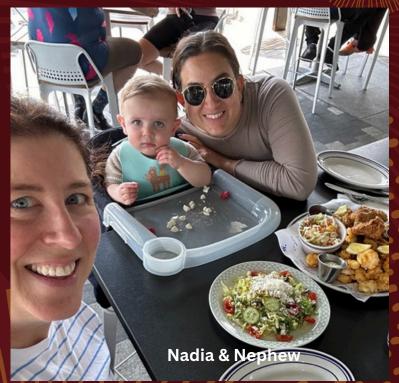
# Family & Friends

We are both children of immigrants. Nadia's family immigrated to the U.S. from Syria. She has a big family that live all over the world and enjoys traveling to visit them. Luis' mother, who is from Peru, still lives in his childhood home in Connecticut. Her generosity of spirit, positivity and boundless energy make her an incredible role model, friend and a mom. We are both very close to our friends, and they are a huge support system in our lives. We are lucky to have friends from our hometowns, university, and our jobs. And what unites them all is their enthusiasm, their eagerness to share what excited them that day, and their incredible sense of gratitude for community and other support networks that have gotten us all to this point in life.













# Somi

Somi a gentle and goofy rescue dog. She never leaves our side. But if she does, she always comes back for more pets. She is one of the most popular pups in the neighborhood. Families always stop us and ask about Somi, and she is very gentle and patient with kids who want to pet her. We are excited to watch a baby and Somi bond!









# Luis & Godchild

# Faith

Luis was raised Catholic and grew up attending Spanish-language Mass with his mother. He was an alter boy through high school. Luis sees his faith as both a gift, and as a set of questions and challenges to do better in Life. His faith arms him with the confidence to face any situation. Nadia grew up in a family with Christian and Muslim beliefs. Values like kindness, generosity, and empathy are at the center of her family.

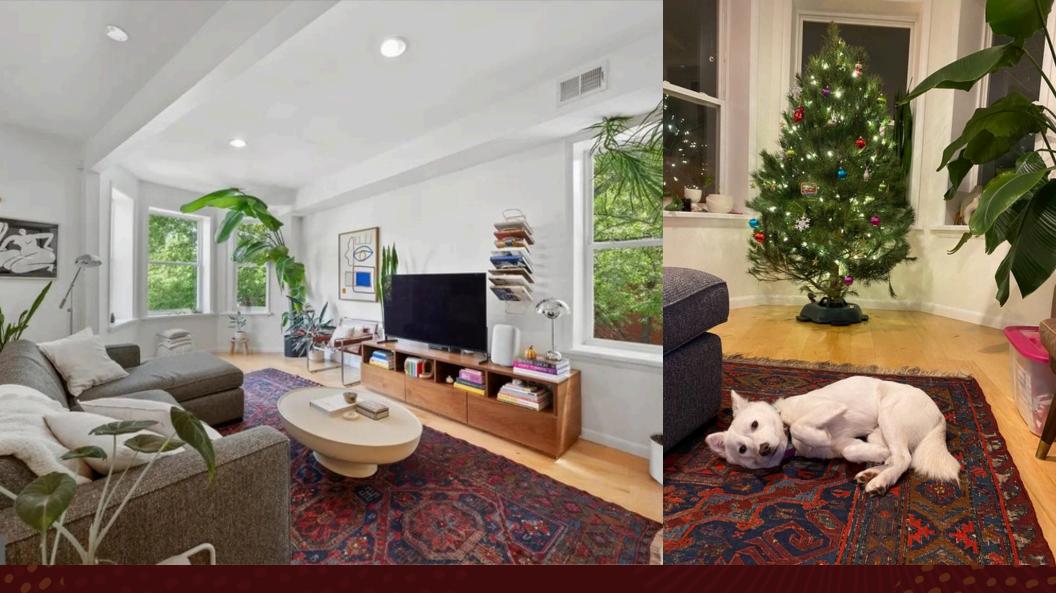








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## **Home Sweet Home**

We live in a diverse and close-knit neighborhood. We love the big trees that line our streets and the playground, pool, and soccer fields across the street. There are lots of kids playing soccer and basketball and families that spend time at a popular bike trail nearby. We have lots of space nearby to play and goof around. In addition to parks, the neighborhood hosts community activities like movie nights, pumpkin patches and dog costume contests at our local park.



## Holidays, Celebrations, and Traditions

We love Halloween! The decorations, movies, and dressing up. And we are really excited to share that with a child. We also love Thanksgiving. Whether you spend it at home, cook all week, watch football, nap and/or get up before dawn to snag Black Friday deals, we feel that you're always 'doing it right. I can't imagine Thanksgiving without family. We love the way the holiday nurtures our appreciation of ourselves and others. It's such a gift that it is the most important holiday to celebrate with friends and/or family – big or small! We also love putting on a Christmas movie and trimming the tree every year. We have quite the collection of ornaments! Nadia's family (parents, sister's family) visits every New Years Eve and do new year's eve chocolate fondue and New Years Day black eyed peas and collard greens. I am excited for a child to join us in that yearly celebration.

#### How do you celebrate birthdays or other special events?

Luis and I like to make the day about the other person: whether it's a quite night at home or going out to a fancy dinner. We both love cake though – so we can guarantee it will make an appearance for any birthday!













#### **Our Feelings about Adoption**

We hope the birth mother/parents know that we want an open and communicative adoption as much as they are comfortable. We aren't afraid of hard conversations, because we want to make sure the child has the most loving people in their life with lots of openness and transparency. There will be no judgment on how we all move forward in this process. We want them to be as comfortable in their decision to advocate for that child as we are in adopting a child.

#### When you think about adoption, what comes to your mind?

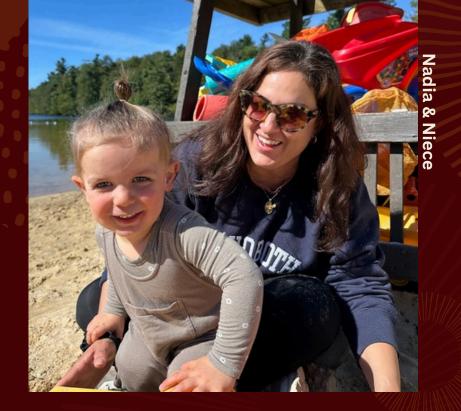
Adoption is growing happiness in the quiet spaces that we tend to overlook because we're too focused on other things. Adoption is about slowing down, and cherishing our next phase of adulthood.

#### How will you talk about adoption with your child?

We will make sure to know our child was and is loved, and that we are like any other family. We will always be honest and transparent with our child and want to help them explore as much as they want about where they are from, their heritage, their birth family. We will make sure we are reading children's books with an adopted child as a protagonist or watching movies that touch on adoption. We have a lot of friends who have adopted as well, and we look forward to building a community with them.

#### What kind of relationship with the birth parent(s) do you envision?

We are looking forward to having a safe, transparent, and respectful relationship with the birth parent(s). We will work together to make sure the adopted child has every need met and has a relationship as much as the birth parent(s) wish to be involved.









# Thank you

We are so looking forward to growing our family, to laughing together, supporting each other, and creating new memories and encountering new experiences. Thank you so much for being brave enough to consider us.