

## *Dear Expectant Family.....*

Thank you for spending time looking through our profile and the opportunity you are providing for possibly us or any one of the other families you may match with. We really hope you choose us, though! We will work very hard to provide love, stability, educational support, financial means, emotional well being, physical health, and an adventurous world for this baby. We will also work very hard to keep you and any other biological extended family as close as possible and is comfortable for you. No matter what, this child will always know you exactly as we understand someone in your position: a wise, strong, and eternally caring person. Someone who made a selfless choice to ensure your baby has the best life a couple like us can give, and to allow our family the most profound gift there is.

Our commitment during this process is to approach you and your choices with compassion, understanding, patience, and respect. We know from our own experiences that life paths do not always follow the standards often set before us. Life can be full of difficult circumstances and difficult choices. The one commonality is that we are all doing the best we can with what we are given. Our success and peace is won with hard work, perseverance, and at times help from others. Let us help you with this difficult time you are in, as we ask for your help in building our family. Together we can help this baby have the life and opportunities it deserves and you want for it.

We dedicate honor and respect to you during this process. You are heroic to your baby and to us.

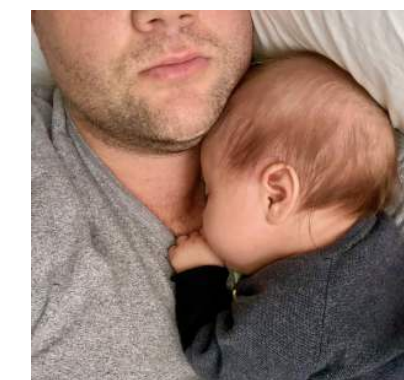
Wishing you courage and peace,

Daniel and Nathan

MEET

*Nathan*

COUNTRY BOY HEART  
CITY BOY STYLE



I grew up in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia in a beautiful natural setting where forests and rivers were my playground. I was a free range kid who roamed the mountains barefoot. My father was a blue collar truck driver and coal miner and my mother was a stay at home mom. I have two older brothers. We were poor in money but my world was rich in love and natural beauty. My parents are deeply loving, generous, and hard working. Married for 57 years, they were wonderful models of these values. We have had our share of things to work through over the years, but we have always loved and appreciated each other.

I loved growing up in the mountains but was also curious about big cities and other cultures, too. If I wasn't outdoors then I was reading. Many of the books I picked encouraged that wonder for other worlds outside of those isolated mountains. As soon as I got free from high school, I took off and moved around to various cities looking for experiences. Among the many adventures have been Atlanta and New York. I then settled in Chicago for 16 years before I made my way to Houston. I feel very enriched to have lived in both great nature and great cities. During my time in Chicago, I enrolled in college as an adult student studying sociology, psychology and social work. Though not the traditional path, my education came to me at the right time and is invaluable to my journey through life.

My passions include architecture, interior design, film, art, theatre, hiking, biking, music, and pop culture. I am a great cook and love having family and friends to my home for dinner parties. I have had many different types of jobs over the years. From a costumer in theatre, a server and bartender in fine dining restaurants that led to working under Oprah Winfrey's chef, to furniture sales and interior design. I also worked as a child care provider – I was a “Manny”!

These days I am a homemaker. I get to cultivate our home's aesthetic, cook good food, and create experiences in my home for my loved ones. I actually love house chores. To me it means I am doing something to take care of those around me. I believe my chores and responsibilities are a reflection of all the things and people I have to be grateful for. Add stay-at-home dad to this and I am the happiest I can imagine. I have found my calling creating enriching environments, nurturing and tending to those around me. If you are in my orbit, then you are very well cared for!



I took care of a total of four babies over the years. Two of my most special relationships are with Gus and Lucia. I helped raise Gus from two months to nine years old. Gus is on the autism spectrum and the years I had with him taught me so much. I was part of raising Lucia from birth to three years. She comforted me as much as I did her. Both sets of parents are still close friends and I will always consider these children “my babies”. These experiences have been the most rewarding of my life.



MEET  
*Daniel*  
THE STARRY EYED  
SEEKER



I was born and raised in Clear Lake, a community on the edge of Houston, where my early life was primarily focused on academics and family. I am the middle child between an older sister and younger brother. My father is my best friend and we spend our time together around science and woodworking. We built a telescope together! My mother, a first generation immigrant, offered a unique perspective on culture and upbringing and is devoted to her children. She and I love a simple evening walk together. They both worked their entire careers at NASA and in aerospace. Married for 47 years, they provided a safe and nurturing childhood full of exploration and interest.

My parents influence drove my academic pursuits and instilled a deep passion for learning. However, my shyness and difficulty fitting in with peers were hard challenges in high school. That changed when I went to off to college. At the University of Chicago I found a sense of belonging, where my love for academics and my unique perspective were not only accepted but celebrated. I was exposed to a diverse array of people and backgrounds that opened my eyes to the richness of human experiences. My academic life continued into graduate school at the University of California at Berkley where I completed a PhD in computational neuroscience. While in California, I fully embraced my sense of adventure. I began to organize weekly “Sunday Adventures” with friends where we explored everything from the nearby national forests to the city’s museums and neighborhoods. I still maintain that dedication to exploration and adventure to this day. My other mighty passion is for board games. With a collection of over 500 games, board game parties are always an open invitation!

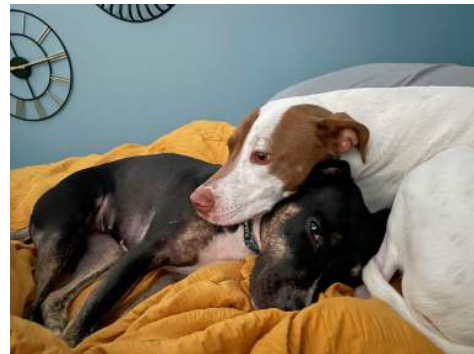
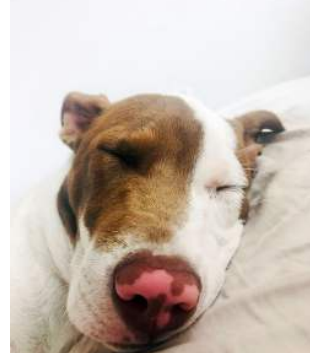
I currently work as the Director of Data Science for a tech company based in Chicago but am able to work primarily from home with occasional travel. I love my work and am very committed and passionate about it. I take my career very seriously, not only as a personal fulfillment, but as my role as the provider for my family. I am excited to set an example for our child of what dedication to hard work is and what a happy and successful career can look like, no matter their profession.



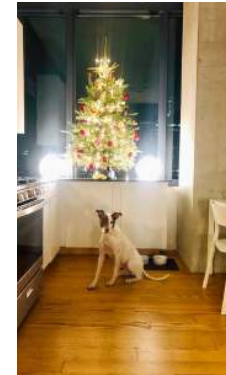
Protecting Lucia from the vacuum cleaner and helping Papa finish up his work project so he can go play.



# We Piper



Piper is our four year old mixed breed sweetheart of a brat. We adopted her from a shelter when she was only two and a half months old. She loves to cuddle, but when it is time to play she gets wild and fun. She loves dog friends, chasing balls, and getting treats for no other reason than we think she is so cute. She also loves babies and gets excited when we see one passing by in their strollers. Her favorite activity, though, are night time walks. We go out late in the evening when everyone else has gone inside so we can look for rabbits, raccoons, possums, and armadillos. The ultimate sighting, though, is a cat. She desperately wants to make friends with a cat but has yet to find one that is open to it. These walks have become our favorite daily activity as a family and are an important part of our relationship.



The day we brought Piper home from the shelter.

# Coming Together



We met in 2014 in Chicago through OK Cupid, an online dating platform. We both were serious about finding someone to spend our life with and entered the dating scene with this intention. Part of looking for someone to commit to also meant finding someone special to co-parent with. One of our immediate connections was learning we both want a family and share similar values for raising a child.

Over the next year, we could start to see ourselves together as a committed couple and as parents. Nathan knew that Daniel would make a great father on an evening walk they were taking with the baby Nathan was caring for at the time. A lawn mower started up close by and Daniel immediately reached to shield the baby from any debris that could come from the mower. Nathan knew then that Daniel would be a protector and keep his family safe. Daniel began to see Nathan as someone he could build a family with as he spent time watching the trust and comfort that children had in Nathan's care. Hearing Nathan sing a baby to sleep one night with Somewhere Over the Rainbow made his mind up.

Things fell into place quickly. We were engaged by 2015 and married in 2018. We had a very intimate wedding in Daniel's parent's back yard in Houston. Our only guests were close family and our officiant was a friend of Daniel's sister. Another family friend was our amateur wedding photographer. She just used her iPhone! We and our guests feel very special about our wedding. As a family, we put to rest our fears that we might never have that moment or a future with children in it.



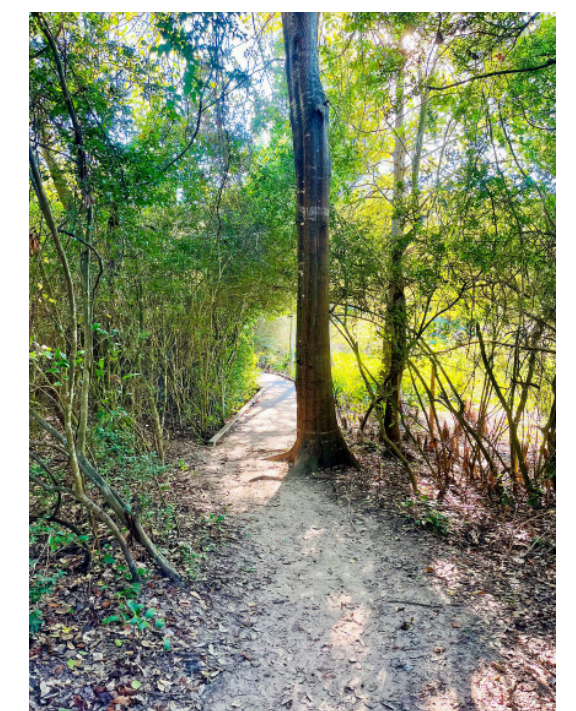
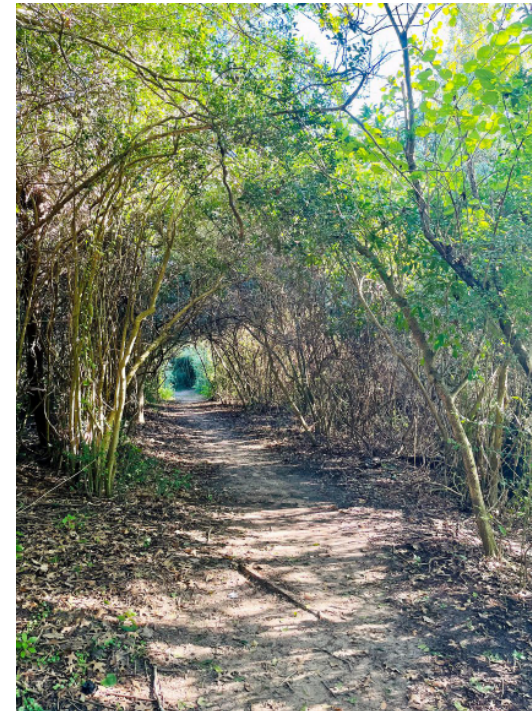
It was an open floor for people to speak and give toasts at our wedding dinner. Everyone of our guests gave a deeply loving toast to us. We had pulled pork BBQ, corn bread, and cobbler for our reception dinner. Nathan cooked for all 33 guests himself!



# WELCOME HOME



We are walking distance to our neighborhood elementary school. This school district has a great reputation for quality education and producing well rounded and successful students. Our neighborhood has a community pool, a nature preserve, several playgrounds, basketball, and tennis courts. One of the best things about our neighborhood is there are so many trees in spite of being within city limits. The whole area feels like it is nestled into a forest. There are lots of young kids to play with in all of this!



We love our house and are very grateful to have a beautiful home to raise a child in. We have only been in this house for a year and are excited to do renovations over the next couple of years. For Nathan, our home represents the successful journey from a trailer home in the mountains to his childhood dream home. This house is a homecoming for Daniel as it is in the same neighborhood he grew up in and close to his parents. This is great for easy access to grandparents for our baby! He is very proud of our home as a result of his hard work and ability to provide for his family. Nathan is proud of our home as a nurturing place to love his family and friends in. A portrait of our hands hangs over the fireplace.



The street art in Houston is special. There is a mural map that spots over 750 murals to visit.



LET'S  
GO FOR A  
**RIDE**



We have recently decided to take our biking off path and do mountain biking in one of the city's nature preserves. With helmets. Safety first!



# WELCOME HOME

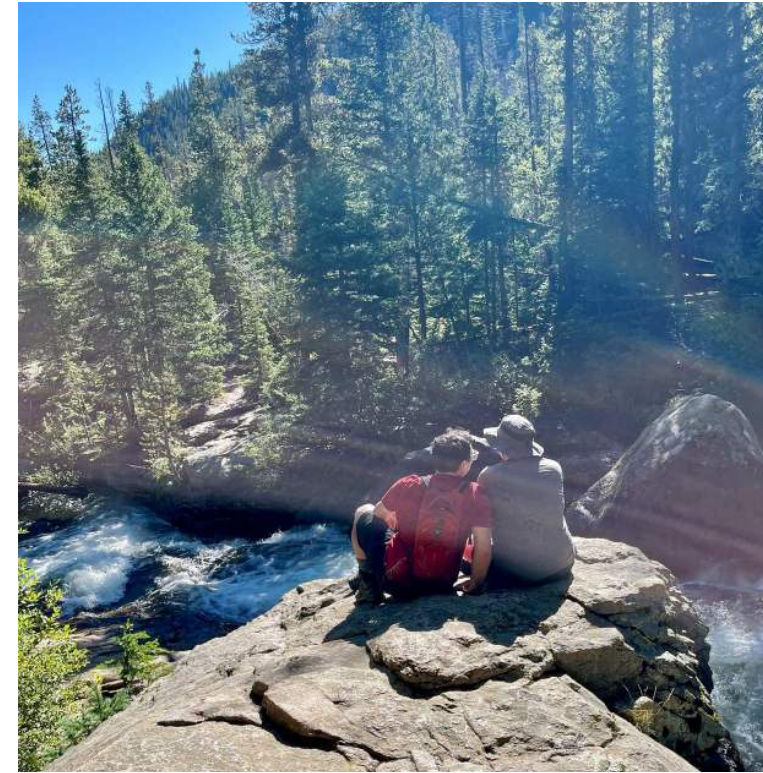
Houston is well known as a great place to raise a family. It is a very diverse city with an abundance of cultural and outdoor adventures to be had.



We regularly seek out ethnic restaurants, museums, dance, music, and theatre to take full advantage of our home town. There are over 125 miles of bike trails and 39,500 acres of park land.



# Years of Adventure!!

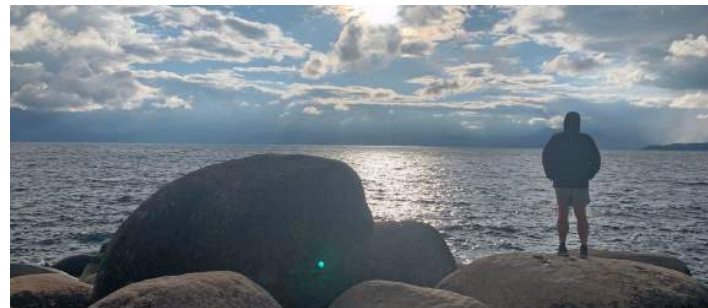


The family cabin in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado.



Most of our adventures are outdoors and usually hiking trips. This is our favorite way to spend time in nature. We also love visiting interesting cities from time to time, taking in fun culture. Our goal is to travel twice a year. Once to a great city and once to a spectacular natural location annually. Both in the United States and abroad.

These days we are saving up our travel to new places because we want to discover the world with our child. For now we are content to make our regular trips to the family cabin.







Daniel's parents and baby Daniel. They are called Ni Ni and Grandpa. (Ni Ni is Chinese for Grandmother)

# Family Album

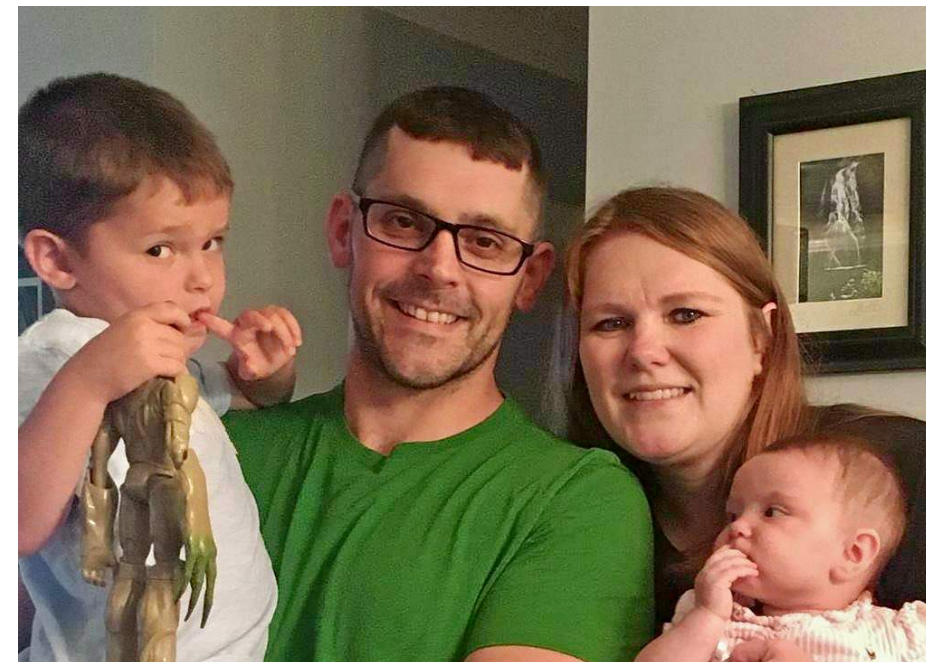
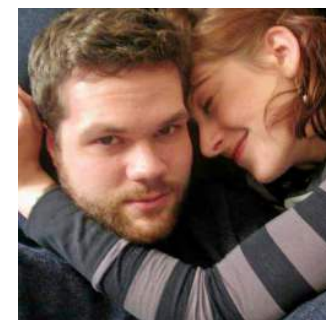


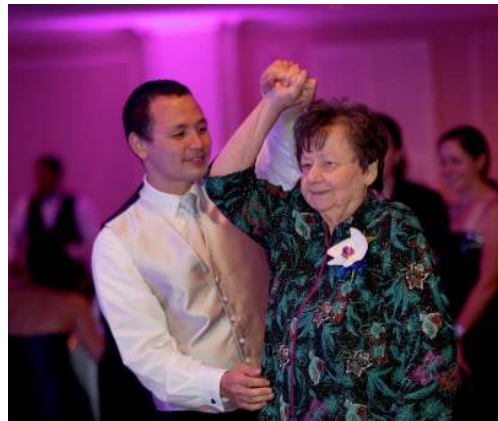
Nathan's parents and baby Nathan. Known as PawPaw and Granny (We love to visit them in Virginia)



After some time exploring the world, we are ready to go home. Because, for us, home is where the heart is and our heart is with our family.

There is a mix of biological family and chosen family in this album. Their pictures are mingled together with no distinction because they are the same to us. No difference.





Our extended family is a diverse and eclectic crowd. There are a lot of them and they all love deeply and beautifully. Family holidays are never less than forty people! Nathan's parents have even started traveling from Virginia to spend Christmases with Daniel's side of the family. There are currently three generations in our family represented in these pictures.



## ◆ How Daniel Describes Nathan ◆

Everyday Nathan introduces me to something new to appreciate that I never even noticed before. The joy that is Dolly Parton, the unexpected delight of a pineapple and peanut butter sandwich, or the profound significance of "A Color Purple". He adds love and laughter to each day. In addition to being an admirer of beauty, he is also a creator of it. He's not just a home-maker in the traditional sense; he's an artisan of spaces. With a keen eye for design, he crafts environments that are both centering and engaging. But what truly transforms these spaces is the love and intention with which he fills them.

Nathan is resilient. Life has thrown its share of challenges his way, but he faces them head-on. With each obstacle, he grows stronger, learning and adapting. His quest for personal growth never wanes. He challenges the status quo, always seeking ways to be better, to do better. And in his journey of self-improvement, he inspires those around him to embark on their own paths of discovery.

Nathan is genuine. There's no pretense with him. What you see is what you get. And what you get is a kind-hearted, passionate individual who cares deeply about those around him. But it's his deep-rooted generosity that stands out the most. Nathan possesses an uncanny understanding of people, often sensing their needs before they can articulate them. With subtle gestures and acts of kindness, he goes out of his way to enhance the lives of others, often without them even realizing it.

## ◆ How Nathan Describes Daniel ◆

Finding words to describe Daniel is easy. It's conveying the depth of feeling and love I have when I use those words are what is hard. Believe what I tell you here and know that I feel it with all of my heart.

First, Daniel is purely sweet. His family tells me he always has been and I get to experience it every day. It makes Daniel shy for someone to say it, but all of his aunts, uncles, and cousins say that Daniel has always been the favorite because of his sweetness. I shine with pride every time I hear them say it. Daniel is patient. His ability to meet people with kindness and understanding at every turn takes an extraordinary amount of patience, but yet it comes easily and naturally to him. Daniel is optimistic. He believes the best of people and it makes him very uncomfortable to criticize others. He also believes that things will work out in the long run as long as we remain hardworking and loving. He believes that your best is good enough and there is no fault in a failure. Daniel is adventurous. His curiosity and willingness to get lost somewhere is precious. There is no adventure that is too long, too hard, or too inconvenient. All you have to do is say "yes" and there is a whole world to discover. Daniel is inquisitive. He always has a question to ask, wants to follow every avenue to every answer, and wants to know what you think about it. Daniel is loyal. His unwavering devotion to his family, to me, and to our future child are unquestionable. This has become one of the greatest comforts of my life.

I chose Daniel for these qualities because they are what make him a special person and an unmatched partner. I chose him to be my partner in life and to be my partner in parenting. Loving and living with someone does not get any better than loving and living with Daniel. Myself and our future child are fortunate beyond measure to have this man on our side as we go through life.



Thank you for considering us.  
We would be honored to be your  
choice.

Nathan and Daniel

The Wholehearted Parenting Manifesto - by Brene Brown

Above all else, I want you to know that you are loved and lovable. You will learn this from my words and actions—the lessons on love are in how I treat you and how I treat myself.

I want you to engage with the world from a place of worthiness. You will learn that you are worthy of love, belonging, and joy every time you see me practice self-compassion and embrace my own imperfections.

We will practice courage in our family by showing up, letting ourselves be seen, and honoring vulnerability. We will share our stories of struggle and strength. There will always be room in our home for both.

We will teach you compassion by practicing compassion with ourselves first; then with each other. We will set and respect boundaries; we will honor hard work, hope, and perseverance. Rest and play will be family values, as well as family practices.

You will learn accountability and respect by watching me make mistakes and make amends, and by watching how I ask for what I need and talk about how I feel.

I want you to know joy, so together we will practice gratitude.

I want you to feel joy, so together we will learn how to be vulnerable.

When uncertainty and scarcity visit, you will be able to draw from the spirit that is a part of our everyday life.

Together we will cry and face fear and grief. I will want to take away your pain, but instead I will sit with you and teach you how to feel it.

We will laugh and sing and dance and create. We will always have permission to be ourselves with each other. No matter what, you will always belong here.

As you begin your Wholehearted journey, the greatest gift that I can give to you is to live and love with my whole heart and to dare greatly.

I will not teach or love or show you anything perfectly, but I will let you see me, and I will always hold sacred the gift of seeing you. Truly deeply seeing you.

