



Candace  
&  
Daniel





## Dear Birthparent

Thank you for considering us for the privilege of being your baby's parents. We know this will be the most difficult decision you will ever make. We hope that this book will give you an idea of who we are and what kind of life we can offer your child. We know we can provide a loving and caring home for your child, and we promise a life filled with love and family. We appreciate you taking the time to get to know us!





# OUR STORY



We met in 2012 at Halloween. Mutual friends invited us both to the same event, and we immediately started talking and hit it off. We realized how much we had in common, especially our love of outdoor activities. A year later, Daniel proposed to Candace on a snowy mountaintop, and we were married the following June.

We knew right away that we wanted to start a family, but it wasn't long before we were diagnosed with infertility and were told that we would never have a baby on our own. We had planned our lives around having a family, but we had never felt like we needed to be connected to our children biologically. We decided to become foster parents in hopes of giving a home to a child or sibling set who needed one.



We've been lucky to have had several wonderful children placed with us, and have loved every moment of caring for them. We celebrated for them when they went home to their biological families, but mourned the loss of children who we loved dearly. In 2018 we were placed with a 5 month old girl who we went on to adopt the following year. Queenie is the light of our lives and we are so lucky to be her parents. We both grew up with siblings and we really want her to have that experience as well. While we have enjoyed fostering, we have realized that domestic adoption is the best route to complete our family.



Daniel was born in England and moved to the US as a small child. Daniel comes from a very large family and loves being a father. He was raised by his mother and step-father while spending a lot of time with his father and step-mother in a nearby town. He is very close with his two brothers, sister, aunts, uncles, and loads of cousins.



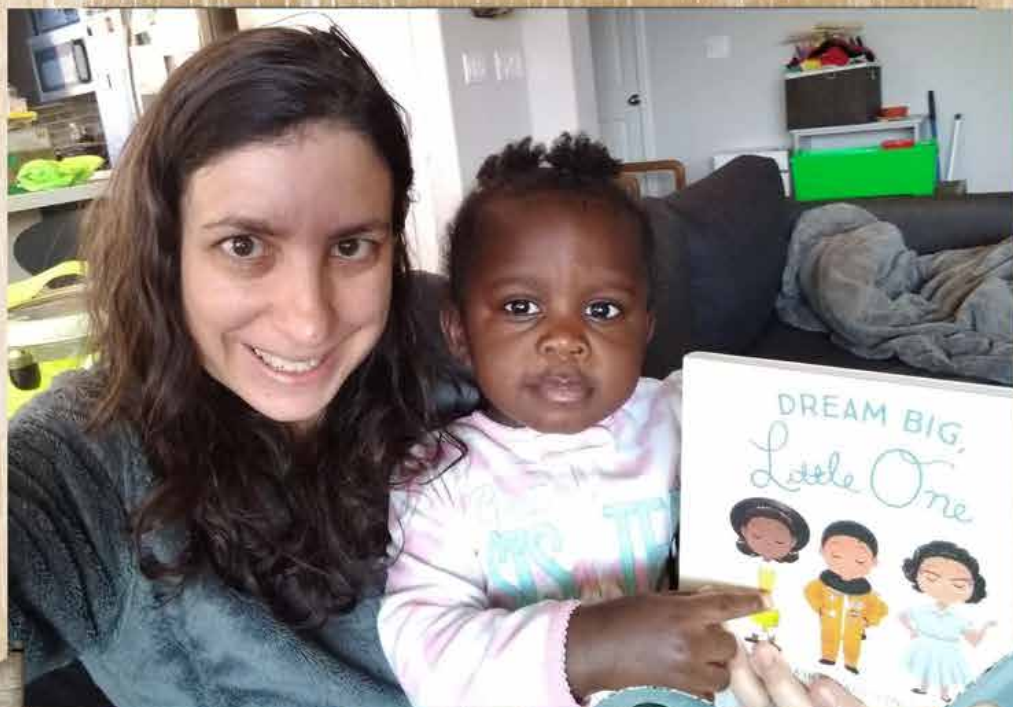
Daniel's childhood included riding bikes with his brothers, playing street hockey and basketball until the sun went down, and hanging out with his friends in the neighborhood. After being a patient at Shriners' Children's Hospital as a child, he realized his childhood dream and now works there making orthotics and prosthetics for other children. Because he works in a clinic with regular hours, he is able to be an active partner in parenting and takes on an equal share of caring for our foster and adopted children.

Daniel is still very close to his family, speaking to his siblings and his mom several times a week. Hiking and snowboarding are two of his favorite things. Recently Daniel has started mountain biking and can't wait to get outdoors for some fun adventures.

Daniel







# Candace



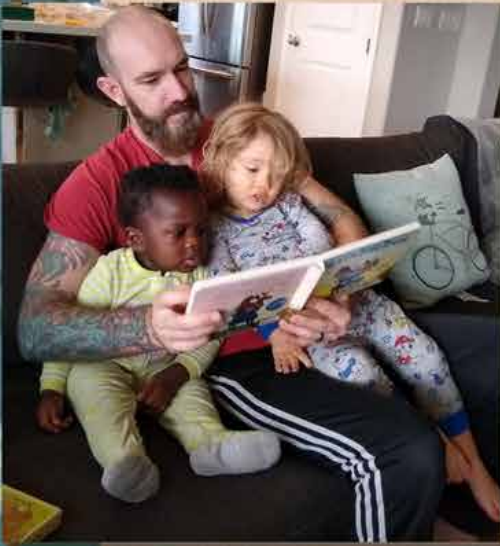
Candace grew up in a close family with her twin sister and younger brother. Her childhood included regular board game nights, reading, playing baseball in the street with the neighborhood kids, and having adventures in the backyard with her siblings. She attended UC Berkeley with her sister and they remain very close, often spending time together on the weekends. Candace is especially close to her sister's kids, and loves hanging out with them at home.

Music is very important to her. She was in choir and marching band through high school and college. Candace works for the state as an architect, and the flexibility of her job allows her to be an engaged and dedicated parent. She loves reading, playing board games, working in the garden, crafts, camping and outdoor adventures, and spending time with family and friends. She is an adventurous cook, always trying to recreate cuisines from around the world, and bakes most of the family's bread. Now that she's a parent, she loves spending time at home with the kids!





# Our Lives Together



We are so lucky to have our daughter Queenie. She is two years old and full of energy. We also have our foster son, Remy, who is three. He has been in our lives since he was six months old and will always be part of our family. Queenie and Remy are the best of friends and do everything together.

Our favorite thing to do together is to go exploring. We love camping, hiking, mountain biking, and traveling. When we're not out adventuring, we enjoy spending time at home with our pets and our families. Summers are spent in the pool, barbecuing in the backyard, and taking weekend trips to nearby natural wonders.



Winters are spent lounging by the fire or heading to the mountains for some fun in the snow. We are lucky to live in an area that provides year-round outdoor activities. We love music festivals, and we go to at least one each year, often combined with a camping trip. Now that we have kids, we are getting them in on the action too.





Every year we try to go on multiple trips, to our favorite places and to new destinations. We love the Eastern Sierra, with its alpine mountains, small towns, lakes and waterfalls, and even hot springs to soak in after a day of hiking.

We love to travel, and we hope to do more of it in the future. Our biggest trip so far was to Europe, where we visited Daniel's family in a small town in the English countryside, soaked in the thermal pools of Budapest, and discovered the incredible waterfalls of Croatia. Our trip ended in Italy, visiting friends and extended family in the Italian Alps.

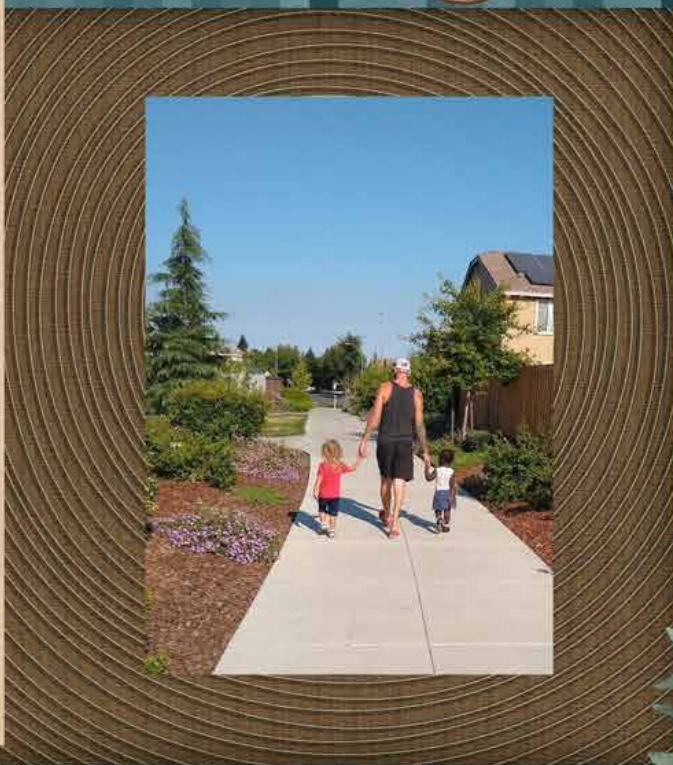




## Our Thoughts on Parenting

Our experience as foster and adoptive parents has taught us a lot about how to parent in a positive way. We understand the need to provide guidance to children while encouraging their spirits to grow. We want to raise our children to be good citizens of the world and the local community. While we do appreciate a good TV show or movie, we don't believe in regular screen time for kids and we hope to instill a love for the outdoors in our children.

Education is important, but so is practical knowledge. We hope our children will do well in school, and also grow up to be responsible and independent. We hope to teach our children to be kind and generous to others, and to be good stewards of the planet.







Dan's mother and step-father, and his brother and sister-in-law and their kids, live in a town nearby, and we see them often. We get together with his extended family for all major holidays, and the annual family reunion each summer. His father now lives in another state, and we love visiting him.



## Our Families



Candace's sister lives in the next town and they see each other at least once a week. Candace's brother lives in another state with his wife and kids, not far from where Daniel's father lives now, and we will often combine visits so that we can see all of our extended family at once. Candace was very close to her mother and father, and misses them very much since they passed away.





# Our Home and Community

We live in a newer neighborhood right outside of a larger city. We love being so close to all that a city has to offer while being able to have a large yard and be near a huge amount of open space with biking trails and beaches along the river. There are areas for kayaking and mountain biking less than a mile away. We have a new park down the street with an impressive ropes course in addition to more traditional playgrounds and a huge community sports complex with multiple pools and water slides just outside of our neighborhood.



We built our house with kids in mind. We chose a lot on a court that connects to a greenbelt so it is safe for the kids to walk and ride bikes. We have two bedrooms set up for kids and a large space outside for playing. We have turned our side yard into an edible garden complete with raised garden beds and a variety of fruit trees. We built a playhouse in the backyard for the kids to play. The family room is cozy, the perfect place to enjoy a cup of morning coffee next to a cheerful fire while the kids play in their kid-sized kitchen or build towers of blocks.

Our town is small enough that we can bike almost anywhere, and we can even bike to the nearby city in under 20 minutes. The city has a zoo and several children's theme parks, a variety of great restaurants and parks, and festivals and celebrations year-round that are family-friendly.







In addition to the humans in our families, we also have cats and dogs. Daniel had a cat before meeting Candace, and we rescued two cats together from the local shelter. They have been very patient with our foster kids, allowing the babies to pet them and helping to calm them when they are upset. We also rescued two dogs who are enthusiastic travel companions and who LOVE kids.

## Our Pets





If you choose us, we promise to love your child to the best of our ability and support them as long as we live. We are committed to ensuring that your child knows their story and their background, and to helping them stay connected to their roots.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and to consider us as potential parents for your child. We hope that this book has given you a better idea of who we are and what kind of a life we can provide.



*Sincerely,*  
**Candace  
&  
Daniel**