

Luis & Diana





our note to you

We're honored to be here and to "meet" you; thank you for "meeting" us, too. We believe in a God who moves mountains, who sees us and sees you. No matter if you make it past this first page or not, we want you to know that you are loved, you are valuable, and you are more than enough. We are humbled by your strength and are praying for you already.

we're so excited
to "meet" you.

We have been sitting here, writing and re-writing this letter, going over and over in our heads what we might want to say. It is so hard when we know you must have so many thoughts and emotions going through your head and your heart. How do you write the "best" greeting or say the "perfect" thing that might meet you in your undertaking and give you even an ounce of peace?

In the end, we remembered that we are not perfect. **But we are real and honest, and we can only offer you our truth, our open hearts, and ourselves to you in this moment.**

You are facing a decision that we cannot even imagine; while we know it is a time of questions, fears, doubts, and so many other emotions, only you and God know what you are truly going through. Please know that we are praying that you might find His comfort, His wisdom, and most importantly His peace as you go through this decision-making process. **We honor you and respect you as you educate yourself on your options and hope you feel empowered to do what is the very best for you and your baby.**

This child you carry already has a special story, one that begins with your choice to fight for his or her life. It is a story that will continue to be written, and we are honored that you are even considering us to potentially be a part of it. It is a reality we do not take lightly.

So thank you again for letting us be here! For opening our book and allowing us to share a bit of our life with you. If our lives should come together, we look forward to meeting you, to getting to know your story, to hearing about your life. You are important, worthy, and loved. **We're praying now for you to feel empowered in the moments before you and for you to find a peace that is steady and true.**

-Luis and Diana

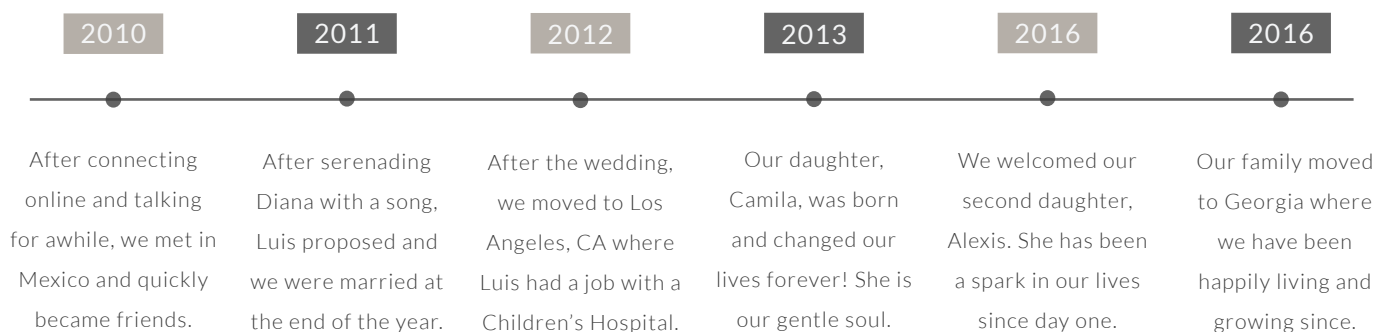
this is us in a nutshell

We're a loud, loving family that takes joy in the simple things and strives to make each day one full of love and laughter. Our children are, and will always be, the most important part of our lives, and we want to instill that same love of family in them. We value quality time and truly love being together.

We thought these might be a few other things you might want to know:

1. We are a bi-lingual (English/Spanish) and bi-cultural family and live with a sense of belonging to so much more than just a single "community". Our daughters have been raised and taught to love and appreciate everyone, but recognize and love their own history as well.
2. We love to travel, both locally or internationally. We strive to recognize and celebrate diversity and develop an appreciation for lives, situations, and cultures beyond our own.
3. We also love a restful weekend at home, just enjoying a "stay-cation".
4. Our ties with family are deep and strong, no matter where in the world they may be.
5. We walk by faith, live with laughter, and always strive to be kind and loving. These are three of our core values that everything else in our life is built around.

a snapshot of our life together









I'm Luis.

The Basics. I'm 45 years old, 5'10", with hazel eyes.

My Education and Career. I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with an M.D. from Mexico. I currently work with a franchise lab company managing their Clinical Product (i.e. all the clinical testing and labs), and I get to do it from home!

A Few of My Favorite Things. I love good food and can spend hours making a dish that is devoured in minutes. Working with my hands, whether building a Lego set with my daughters or tinkering with something in the garage. Making my girls laugh. Singing. Anything with water, from the tiniest trickle in a park or forest to the ocean with huge waves.

What Else You Should Know About Me. I continue to be a child at heart, much to the chagrin of my wife and daughters! I am a true introvert in that I need some "quiet alone time" to recharge, but I am also outgoing, sociable and love being with friends. Even as a self-proclaimed "shy" person, I still love theatrics. I love to sing, perform, act and just be goofy in general; even if just for my kids to laugh! **As an only child, my family is everything to me.** I love being a husband and a dad and would do anything to be there for Diana and our girls.



"Luis has a way of always making me feel secure, both in his words and in his actions, He is my rock and our safe place, and I cannot imagine our life without him..."

-Diana



Luis

in Diana's eyes

My husband is my rock. I truly can't think of a better way to say it. **He has a way of always making me feel secure**, both in his words and in his actions. He's our safe place, not just in how he provides for and protects our family, but also in how he creates this freedom to be exactly who we are. He thinks deeply and can be serious and observant, but he's also so goofy and loves doing things to make even the mundane more fun. He's a romantic and full of adventure. He is honest, genuine, and respectful towards everyone around him and deeply loyal to the people he loves. **He is very patient, playful, and loving towards our children.** He is always making them laugh and truly finds joy in listening to them repeat the joke or situation. He never grows tired of their stories and loves to make-believe and dream with them. He is an incredible dad and partner, and we never have to doubt if family is his top priority. We are blessed to love and be loved by him.

Luis is a man of integrity, loyalty, and a genuinely kind heart. He makes people feel seen, safe, and important. He is more than I could ask for.



I'm Diana.

The Basics. I'm 39 years old, 5'0", with brown eyes.

My Education and Career. I have a Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management. I actually went to college in France and finished my last year in Argentina; then I traveled for a few years (working in the USA and on board a cruise ship) before getting married. Now, I work as a self-taught Professional Photographer and love letting my artistic side flow!

A Few of My Favorite Things. I love my family, being with my children, and spending time with friends. I also love animals, traveling, sleeping in, a bag of potato chips, and a massage.

What Else You Should Know About Me. I was born and raised in Mexico City, and while I love where I come from, I don't miss the big city life! I enjoy living in the suburbs. I am, without a doubt, an extrovert! I'm very outgoing and enjoy talking to strangers. I love feeling a connection with people around me, and I believe we all have a story to share. I enjoy a good adventure, and I don't mind making a fool of myself; of course, it embarrasses my kids at times, but I think it makes life so much more enjoyable! I'm silly, I laugh a lot, and I like to have fun, but I also enjoy relaxing or having a good, deep conversation.



"Diana has an almost childlike joy and exuberance. She is so full of life and light that it is contagious to everyone around her...including me."

-Luis



diana in Luis's eyes

One thing she didn't tell you is that she also has an irrational fear of cockroaches - something I cannot emphasize enough! And yet, even this makes me laugh. **Diana has an almost childlike joy and exuberance.** She is so full of light and life that it is contagious to everyone around her. She brings me out of my shell and helps me laugh, sometimes even when I didn't realize I needed to. One of the most beautiful things to me is how she has always seemed to "fit" me. Holding her hand, having her lean on me, just being with me in the car... I feel she completes me. And maybe that seems cheesy to say, but **she has always been much like a final puzzle piece in my life, and I could not be more happy to have found her.** She is kind and funny, and she loves so deeply. She's a compassionate mama, a vibrant creator, a loyal friend, and a devoted wife. She's the kind of person you want in your life because she really does make it better in her own welcoming and carefree way.

I am honored to be Diana's husband. I love being there for her, and I hope and pray I am able to lift her up every day of our lives together.

this is our love story

We first met digitally and spent weeks sharing video calls and texts. “I liked Luis’ smile from the second I saw his photo. I was drawn to his hazel eyes, and I couldn’t wait to meet him” (Diana). “I also thought Diana’s smile was infectious and stunning. She had this simple but elegant aura to her that I found intriguing. It was her laugh, though, that drew me in more” (Luis). **In one of our conversations, we both shared our dreams for the future: mission work, travel, even adoption - much of which was the same.** The more we talked, the more confident we became: we wanted to meet in person.

Luis was living in another city at the time, but drove 3.5 hours to meet for dinner. “I remember walking towards her that first night; she didn’t see me, but I saw her. She was balancing on a concrete curb as if it were a balance beam. **It was childlike and innocent, and I was completely smitten**” (Luis). We nervously said hello, enjoyed an amazing dinner, and went for a walk in the park. “It quickly became obvious what a sweet, caring, and gentle person Luis was...so I decide to introduce him to my family!” (Diana) Even with an awkward family introduction, it ended up being a great weekend, and in the end: the beginning of everything.

Okay, so in case you missed it (or weren’t that interested in all the mushy details):

1. We met digitally.
2. We discovered we had similar dreams for the future: mission work, travel, even adoption.
3. Luis drove 3.5 hours so we could meet in person.
4. There was an exchange of nervous hellos, a beautiful dinner and walk in the park, and an awkward first introduction to *all* of Diana’s family.
5. We knew we had found our “person”

Luis proposed by showing up one morning at a hotel where Diana was staying with a friend, serenading her with a song (“Marry Me”), and offering her his grandmother’s engagement ring and a very nervous smile. As surprised as she was, Diana said yes. We had a small legal ceremony first with a “real” wedding to follow. It was a small ceremony on a private beach in Puerto Vallarta, officiated by Luis’s 98-year-old-grandfather who regaled everyone with tales and stories in 3 languages.

Years later, it is still remembered and talked about as beautiful, but it’s everything that’s come after that’s been the most beautiful for us.





married to my *best friend*

Just like any couple, we have had tough times. But whether financial, goal-oriented, or individual or family struggles, we have always fought to keep our lines of communication open. We trust each other deeply and are committed for a lifetime. **We laugh together and look for ways to have fun.** We strive to completely be ourselves and have grace in the process. We don't pretend to be perfect or hide our hearts from each other. We're open and honest. And in the end, we have found ourselves closer than ever.

We are each other's best friend, and we try to keep that relationship strong each and every day. It takes work, and the struggles we've faced have pushed us, but we've come back stronger and more united.



committed to *each other*

When we think of a “good life”, we don’t think of *perfect*; we think of *together*. For us, a good life will always include the closeness of family, the simple joys of being with friends and playing in the neighborhood, and the confidence of knowing we are safe and secure. **We take comfort in knowing that our children have access to a good education that supports and encourages them**, and that we are blessed with jobs that allow us both to work from home and be present in their day-to-day lives.

We have joy and passion that drives our future. And no matter what might come, we have each other. This is the hope that anchors us and reminds us it’s not things that bring a good life, but the people we get to love.

FAMILY

m e a n s e v e r y t h i n g t o u s .

WHY WE ARE ADOPTING. Ever since we were dating, we have spoken of adoption. We have always believed that family is bigger than biology. After having been married for 10 years with good times, difficult times, and everything in between, we finally found ourselves once again ready to grow. **As we talked about our third child, we realized that neither of us had lost the belief that we would one day be holding and loving a child that was not biologically our own.** The thought that we might get to share life with another child and his or her first mom humbles us, and we are honored to be here.



In our family... We laugh often. We push each other to always be kind, even if it is hard. We treasure cuddles. We love to sing and dance, even if just for ourselves. We love to learn and will always keep learning more.



in our family,



we love big.



CAMILA

The easiest way to sum up Cami is “sweet”. She’s 8 years old and is dying to be a big sister (again). She literally wants to do it all: diapers, feeding, sleeping, dressing. She has been practicing holding a baby doll, and has on occasion been caught talking to her baby dolls as if they were her new baby brother or sister. **She is a gentle soul with a sassy streak.** She is so smart that it is scary sometimes! But she also loves to be goofy and laugh. She’s the kind of kid who is friends with everyone and has never made an enemy. She is as happy digging through the dirt and picking up trash as she is lounging in her pajamas reading her favorite book for the 10th time.

She can be wild and carefree or incredibly shy, but she’s undeniably one of the best big sisters around.

ALEXIS

There is a word in Spanish that sums up Alexis pretty well: “chispa”. It translates literally into “spark”, but carries a connotation of flame. This 5-year-old little girl has a bright personality that shines, even though she tries to be shy. She is loved by children and adults, quick to laugh, and quick to defend someone who might be hurting. She loves watching learning shows and spouting new information, building worlds for her dolls, and drawing. **She also loves her sister** and has told us more than once that “she loves Mommy and Daddy....but she loves her sister more!”

Turns out, we are perfectly fine with that! The way they love each other is so beautiful, and we cannot wait for them to have another sibling to adore.



I love being a mom.

Being a mom is the absolute best thing in my life. It is exhausting and challenging at times, but also the most beautiful and rewarding blessing. I love the pure joy of watching my kids be kids - their expressions, their smiles, their giggles, and their pride in new accomplishments! I also love the overflow of love and laughter, hugs and kisses, and the gift of being their safe place. I don't always just stand on the sidelines, though; I like having fun with them - playing games, being silly, and enjoying the simple joys in life like cartwheels and handstands, a dance party in the living room, or an afternoon of cuddles on the couch!! They make me a better person - more patient, present, and appreciative of every moment we have as a family.

I love that I get to tell my girls they're beautiful, that I get to show them an example of love, that I get to surround them with compassion and empower them to become who they were created to be.



I love being a dad.

Making my daughters laugh is one of the greatest joys of my life. I love seeing the innocence of their youth, the total excitement in experiencing something new, and the energy they give to everything they do - even the simple things. Whether it's Christmas morning, discovering a "gift" from the tooth fairy, or a trip to the zoo, I love that joy and excitement are magnified through their eyes. I also love the feeling of being relied on. **When one of my daughters falls asleep in my arms, looks up into my eyes, searches for me at an event, comes to me for help, or asks for a hug and a kind word,** I know it's because she feels safe, loved, secure...and that is a gift I will treasure forever.

It is one of my greatest hopes that my children will look back on their lives and remember the happiness we shared, well into their adult years, and always know they were chosen and deeply loved.

a few of our favorite things

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and with a photographer in the family, we're always trying to freeze time and capture the moment! We love the grand adventures as much as the simple things, and live our lives trying to soak in the moments that we have together.

A few of our favorite things that we love to do together as a family include:

- Family story time and any-time cuddles.
- Living room (and kitchen and bedroom and backyard and public) dance parties
- Board games and game nights (Clue is the current favorite).
- Going on bike rides or taking walks around our neighborhood.
- Exploring playgrounds and playing at the park.
- Hopping in the car for an ice cream trip.
- Getting take-out and enjoying a movie on a rainy day.
- Pulling out Legos, coloring books, or dress up clothes.
- Traveling to new and old places and experiencing new things.
- Visiting family domestically and internationally.
- Swimming, swimming, and more swimming!
- Running through the sprinkler in the summer and the snow in the winter.
- Having play-dates with family or friends.
- Going to community events likes the farmer's market, art fair, or community fair.







rhythms and TRADITIONS

While we love a big celebration, it's the day-to-day life we cherish the most. We start every week day by helping the girls get ready for school - all of us together, finding clothes, eating breakfast, and doing hair until the girls are out the door! Our afternoons are filled with play-dates and the park, sports and ballet, books and of course homework. Our day winds down with supper and bath time. **After teeth are brushed, we always have family story time in the girls' room and turn out the lights to a lullaby by dad.** Mom will usually cuddle with both girls (one at a time) to spend a little extra time as they fall asleep. Some days it can feel crazy and hurried and others mundane, but they are moments we wouldn't trade for the world.

Of course, we love the big, "special" days, too!

1. We celebrate Christmas, New Year's Eve, Thanksgiving, and birthdays with family. They are always days full of laughter, games, good conversation, and so much yummy food!
2. We are not too big on "typical" traditions, but rather focus on simply being together. We do decorate for Christmas, though, and make it a family activity everyone can participate in!
3. Christmas and birthdays include lots of gifts, and birthdays will always have a cake and a piñata, no matter where we are at!

Quality time is our love language, and we believe it is evident in the way we live our life - always prioritizing each other.



LOVE

creating happy memories



HOME

is more than a place.

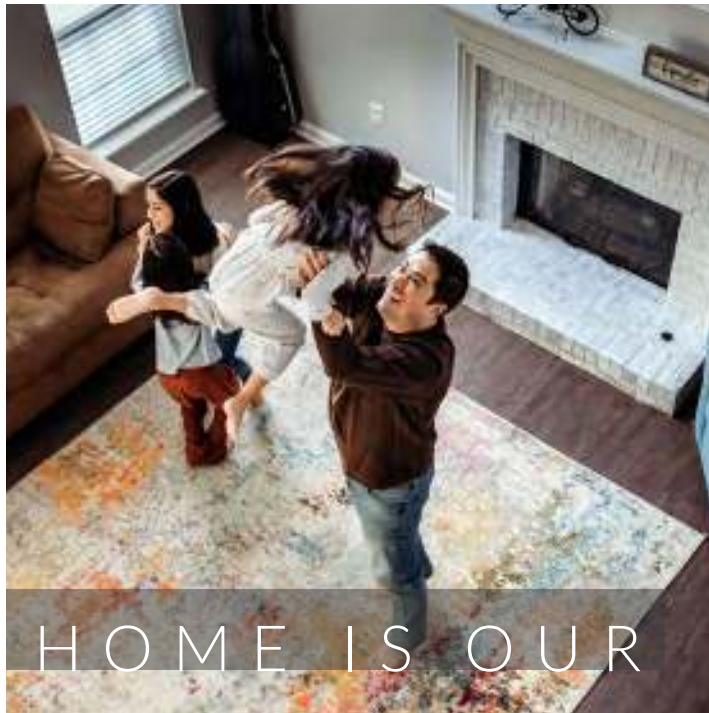


It's a feeling. And we are so grateful for the safe, cozy feeling of ours. This is our first home, and we love it. When we moved to Georgia, we discovered a quiet, out-of-the-way neighborhood with good schools, friendly neighbors, and a beautiful two-story home; we scooped it up as fast as we could! We have bedrooms upstairs, a playroom downstairs, and vaulted ceilings that let you look down on the living room! **We also have a fenced-in backyard with a play-set and a trampoline and big trees in our front yard that hold a rope swing and are perfect for climbing.** We love the closed-circle street our home sits on where all the neighborhood kids play safely and ride bikes together.

our *sweet* pets



We have 2 furry family members! Luna is our Balinese cat and Zoe is a “teddy bear”. Both are hypoallergenic, fluffy, and gentle. Luna is shy and keeps to herself, while Zoe is extremely playful and cuddly. We adore them!



HOME IS OUR



SAFE PLACE.



Luis's family



My family is close, balanced, and loving. My father is a farm boy from a tiny town in Kansas, and my mother is a city girl from El Salvador. They met through my dad's time in the Peace Corps and have dedicated their lives to helping others in one way or another. They love without condition, are generous to a fault, and have made our family their life's focus. They only live about 20 minutes from us, and we see each other frequently. **As an only child, my family is everything to me, and we are intentional about staying invested in each other's lives.** While I don't have any brothers or sisters, my extended family is very close, and my cousins have always been more like siblings and we, too, stay in touch.



My parents have taught me so much throughout my life but, more than anything, how to care for others. I was in elementary school when my parents started taking me to community help functions and on mission trips where I could serve as interpreter (and later as a physician) and help others well outside of my comfort zone. They have taken in children, families, and people in need, always with unconditional love and a giving heart.



"When my mom first heard we were adopting, she was practically speechless - which is completely out of character for her! She simply hugged me and cried with joy, as my dad sat quiet and smiled."

-Luis

Diana's family

My family is close, loving, and fun. They can also be pretty loud! They laugh hard and love hard. My parents and my brother and his family live in Mexico. Although we are far apart in distance, we are extremely close and not a day goes by without a video call or a text. **My family comes to Georgia to visit often, and we go to Mexico at least once or twice a year,** including most of our summers - enjoying family time together, traveling, and eating great food.

The closeness and love I experienced growing up is something I have always cherished as well as something I have tried to carry into my life as a mom. My parents always showed us what it looks like to put family first, to encourage one another, and to empower each other as we blossomed into ourselves. This is something I am blessed to share with my husband and my kids today. **They also taught me that it's okay to not be perfect;** that a life well lived is one of chasing your passions, finding reasons to laugh, and investing in the people you love. I cannot imagine who I would be without them, and I love watching them love our kids as they grow.

"My family is incredibly excited and supportive of our plans to adopt. My parents love being grandparents and can't wait for another grandson or granddaughter to pour their love on."

- Diana



before you go

a few final words

Thank you again for letting us be here. There is so much more we wish we could say, but more than anything, we hope you know how loved you are. Whether or not you choose adoption or choose our family to come alongside of you, **we hope you feel supported, surrounded, and seen.**

If given the chance to join you in loving your sweet little one, we promise to...

1. Cherish this child as the gift from God that he or she truly is
2. Love him or her unconditionally.
3. Do everything we can to ensure he or she grows up knowing a safe, secure and loving home where there is joy in the simple things and every day knows love and laughter.
4. Provide a loving structure and discipline that allows him or her to discover who they really are and encourage them to dream big dreams, pray big prayers, and do big things.
5. Offer them every opportunity we can to learn, discover, and grow in their talents and passions.
6. Share with them the beauty of culture, language, and the world.
7. Recognize their unique background, diversity, and culture and help them to see themselves as part of the beautiful tapestry that God is creating both in our family and in the world.
8. Surround them with family who love them and support them.
9. Raise a man or woman who is sure of the love that surrounds them and can be confident in whom they truly are and always will be, no matter what happens in the life before them.
10. Tell them about his or her story, their heritage, and you.

No matter what comes, we wish the very best for you. Far beyond this moment, you matter, and we pray you find the peace and the confidence to do what is best for you and your baby. If we are chosen to be the family for your child, we will ensure that this decision of loving sacrifice is shared and known.

-Luis and Diana