



SANDRA  
*and* DAVID



*we're*  
**SANDRA and DAVID**  
*- from houston, texas -*

- getting to -  
**KNOW**  
US

*We met at work in 2008, at an accounting firm.* Both too shy to actually ask each other out at first, we each opted for walking past each other's desks for no reason and "randomly" being in the same place at the same time. Over time, we realized we had a lot in common and really liked hanging out – like constantly. Sometimes, you don't know what you're missing until you find it! *Four years later, in 2012, we got married and started our lives together.*



BEING SILLY

*hello &*  
**THANK YOU**



*Thanks for picking up our book!  
We hope that our story and lives will unfold here and give you a sense of who we are.*

**W**e know this is a difficult decision that requires a tremendous amount of trust on both sides. **We hope to bring a sense of peace and calm to this journey and allow you to know that your baby will always be safe, accepted and loved in life.** We will raise this child to understand their birth mother's great love for them and to admire her strength and selflessness. Maybe we're the ones you'll consider as part of your family – **THANKS FOR LETTING US HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT!**

*Sandra and David*



OUR WEDDING DAY



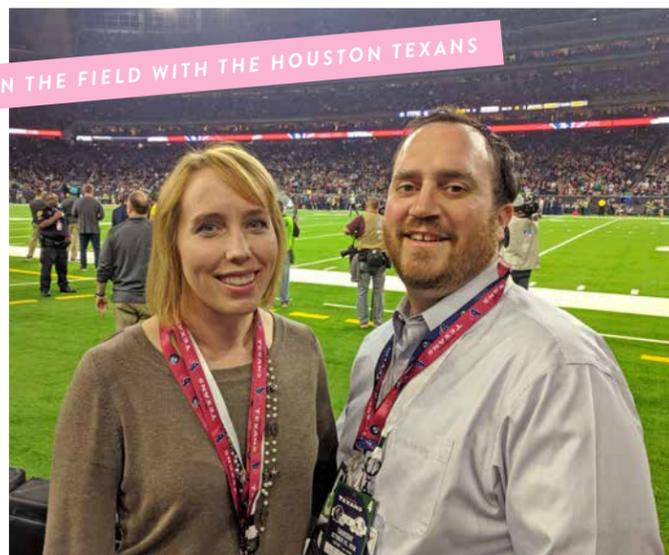
**S**ometimes, walking a different path in life brings you joys you could never have planned for otherwise. **That's why we've always felt like adoption was the perfect choice for our family.** As a couple, we have a strong bond that has grown with every unique experience we've had so far. We want to make that bond stronger still by providing a loving family for a child to grown up in. Our families have a very strong presence in our lives. They are always there to provide us with love and support, just as we will do for our own child!

HIKING AT SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK



SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

ON THE FIELD WITH THE HOUSTON TEXANS



We are each happy individuals with unique strengths and weaknesses, and together we function as greater than the sum of our parts. **We consider ourselves a team first and foremost.** When one of us cooks, the other cleans. When one of us is busy at work, the other takes on additional roles around the house. **PARTNERS IN EVERYTHING WE TACKLE. TRULY EACH OTHER'S BETTER HALF.** We think we have the building blocks to make great parents and we hope you will agree!

- a little -  
**ABOUT  
 SANDRA**

I LOVE A GOOD  
*adventure,*  
 whether it's in a story I'm  
 reading or in our lives.



YELLOWSTONE - MY FAVORITE PLACE ON EARTH!

5 THINGS YOU MIGHT  
 BE SURPRISED TO  
 LEARN ABOUT *sandra*

**PLAYS WITH SWORDS** –  
 Sandra was a nationally-ranked sport fencer  
 in college (*en garde!*)

**SPENT HER SUMMERS GROWING UP  
 IN KANSAS WORKING ON FAMILY  
 FARMS**

**RESCUED 2 BABY SQUIRRELS AFTER  
 A HURRICANE** and hand-raised them  
 herself

**LOVES ANYTHING THAT CALLS FOR  
 A COSTUME** - and gets her friends to  
 dress up, too!

LOVES A GOOD PUN



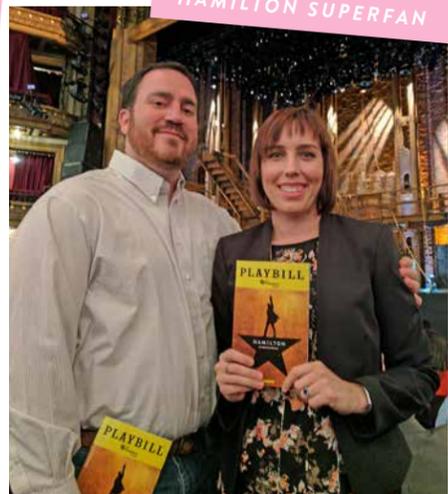
LOOKING FORWARD TO FAMILY HIKES!

**H**ow to describe yourself in just a few short words?!  
 That's hard for me - I love words! I studied English  
 in college, which means I love to read them and  
 to write them. Words can be wonderful - and in this book, I  
 want to find the best ones to tell you just how much it means  
 to us to build a family to love for all our lives.

So about me... I want to be out in nature whenever I can.  
 Inside the house, I love to bake – I try lots of new things, but  
 basic bread is my favorite. I make jewelry – something my  
 nieces love to do with me! **I adore musicals – MY FAVORITE IS  
 HAMILTON** and I can sing all the words (and I do, all the time).



MAKING JEWELRY



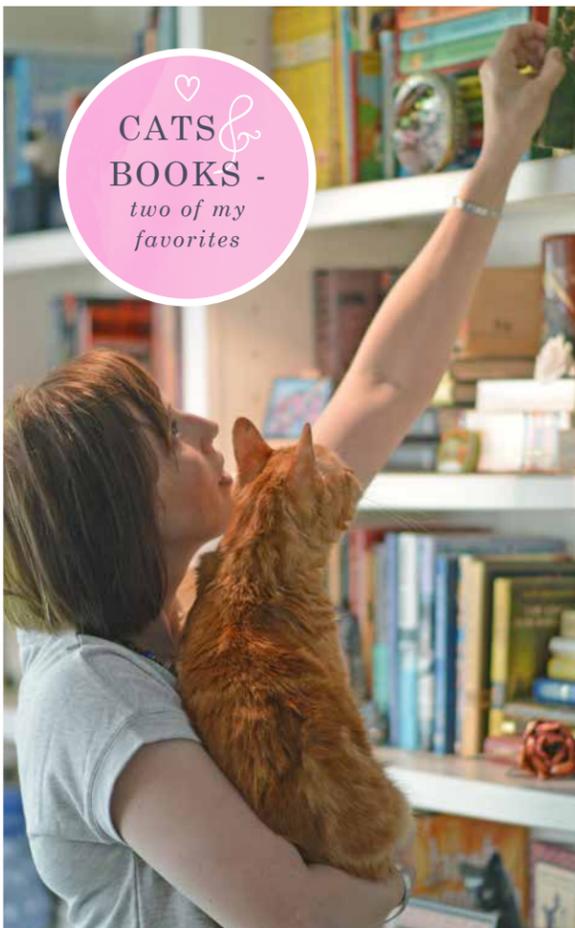
HAMILTON SUPERFAN

MY FAVORITES

- ACTRESS** – Kristen Bell
- FOOD** – Stuffed Pasta
- CHILDHOOD ACTIVITY** – Building Blanket Forts
- CHILDREN'S MOVIE** – The Emperor's New Groove
- BOARD GAME** – Ticket to Ride

- HOBBY** – Designing Jewelry
- HOLIDAY** – Christmas and the whole month before it!
- ICE CREAM FLAVOR** – Baskin Robbins Peanut Butter & Chocolate
- MUSICAL ARTIST** – Lin Manuel Miranda (*Hamilton*)

- PLACE TO TAKE A CHILD** – The Zoo
- SEASONAL ACTIVITY** – Firepits in the Fall, especially with s'mores
- TV SHOW** – The Good Place
- VACATION SPOT** – Any National Park



CATS & BOOKS - two of my favorites



MAKING BREAD



NEVER TOO OLD TO PLAY DRESS UP



PLAYING WITH MY COUSINS AT THE BEACH

I'VE ALWAYS  
 LOVED BEING  
 AROUND KIDS -  
*they're so much  
 funnier and more  
 genuine than a lot  
 of adults.*

I spent my high school and college years being a babysitter, a nanny and a pre-school teacher and always thought that working with kids would be my life. Imagine my surprise when I ended up being an accountant! If we are so lucky as to become parents, I would like to focus my attention on our child and would be open to being a stay-at-home mom or to work part-time, if needed.  
**Everything would depend on the needs of our child – WHO WILL ALWAYS COME FIRST.**

LOVES MR. ROGERS & DINOS - PERFECT COMBO



I am a CPA and have worked for the same accounting firm for the last 13 years. **My job comes with the flexibility to work from home as needed and a great work/life balance.** I am looking forward to balancing my current life of routine with the excitement that comes with new adventures every day.

After sitting in front of a computer all day, I like to unwind at the gym and cook as much as I can. **I enjoy being active and love any chance I can get to play sports, especially basketball and tennis with friends, or golf and bowling with family.** I don't have as much time to watch TV as I used to, but I love following baseball, especially the NY Mets.

# - a little - ABOUT DAVID

**MY BIGGEST JOY**  
comes from taking care of  
*people, my wife especially.*



WEEKEND GRILLING!

## 5 THINGS YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT *David*

HE COOKS DELICIOUS MEALS without recipes and rarely makes the same dish twice (*probably because he didn't write down the recipe!*)

THINKS BACON IS OVERRATED

IS FAMOUS THROUGHOUT THE FAMILY for singing Dean Martin's "That's Amore" at family events

FRACTURED HIS NOSE WHILE WHITE-WATER RAFTING IN PERU

HAS A SECRET TALENT FOR MAKING PHOTO ALBUMS - he made our wedding album and albums for each year we've been together

IN ITALIAN CULTURE, FAMILY AND FOOD TEND TO DEFINE YOU, *and I am no exception.*

Nowadays, it is my brothers and I taking over the kitchen from our mom. *OUR NIECES LOVE TO JOIN IN THE FUN* and we would love to have our kid join the mix from a young age as well.

My biggest joy comes from taking care of other people, my wife especially. Her smile lights up my world. Luckily, she finds my cheesy jokes funny. Anyone can have flowers delivered, but I have hand delivered flowers, pies, and donuts to her workplace over the years. She has changed my life so much over the last 11 years, even turning me into a cat person. **Now, I am excited to ADD ANOTHER BLESSING TO MY LIFE, another smile to light up my world.**

A BASIL PLANT IS A MUST IN AN ITALIAN HOUSEHOLD



IN THE HOUSTON ASTROS DUGOUT



HOMEMADE PIZZA NIGHT!



CHEF FOR A DAY

- with his brother



### MY FAVORITES

ACTRESS - Tina Fey

FOOD - Sandwiches

CHILDHOOD ACTIVITY - Playing Baseball

CHILDREN'S TV SHOW - Mister Rogers' Neighborhood

BOARD GAME - Risk

HOBBY - Cooking

HOLIDAY - Christmas of course!

ICE CREAM FLAVOR - Our homemade Caramel Delight ice cream

MUSICAL ARTIST - Queen

PLACE TO TAKE A CHILD

- To a Baseball Game

SEASONAL ACTIVITY -

Walking around to see Xmas lights

TV SHOW -

The Simpsons

VACATION SPOT - Europe

SANDY CRAFTED THESE PARTY FAVORS FOR DAVID



UNCLE DAVID GIVES GOOD HUGS



ADVENTURING IN KEY WEST



COTTON CANDY MAKES THE RODEO EVEN BETTER

# HOME *sweet* HOME

WE LIVE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS in an older neighborhood that is popular with young families for its many parks, pools, trees, restaurants and top-rated schools.

For us, it's more personal than just a good neighborhood – IT'S WHERE SANDRA'S GRANDPARENTS LIVED FOR OVER 50 YEARS, and where her dad was raised. Buying their home has given us a link to the past, to memories of dear ones no longer with us, while letting us have our own new beginning. We renovated the home in 2015, giving it all the modern conveniences to go along with the historic charm. It's just blocks from the school, library and playground. **We have spacious rooms inside, a huge shady patio to relax on and a big back yard ready for a swing set or a soccer goal.**



THE DAY WE BOUGHT THE FAMILY HOUSE



MAKING JAM - LOOKING FOR A LITTLE CHEF TO LICK THE SPOON!



OUR HOUSE TODAY  
after renovation!

TYBALT LOVES WINDOW WATCHING



SANDRA, THE CAT WHISPERER!

- here, -  
KITTY,  
KITTY...  
KITTY!

WE HAVE THREE  
*super-friendly*  
*rescue cats who*  
*found us over the years*  
*and we can't imagine*  
*life without them!*



CIRCE - SANDRA'S CONSTANT SHADOW



BUDDY LOVES NAPS MORE THAN DAVID

**CIRCE:** The original grand lady, with fur as soft as a rabbit. Shy but snuggly, loves Sandra more than food.

**TYBALT:** The sweet one – he's the first to leap on laps, will kiss your nose. Steals all cat toys.

**BUDDY:** The hungry one. He knows exactly when it's time to eat and has one exact spot he sits in to wait for food.

\* Special guest appearances by: **Dr. Scientist** – Sandra's brother's sheltie – smart and playful; **Ladybug** – Sandra's mom's sweet old beagle; **Pippa** – Sandra's mom's new rescue kitten

## PLACES & ACTIVITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY WE LOVE *- (and why!) -*

- THE ARBORETUM – Houston's nature sanctuary within the city limits
- THE ZOO – trying all their special experiences. We have gotten to feed meerkats and got Sandra's family a chance to walk the cheetahs
- TEXAS BBQ
- We're only one hour FROM THE BEACH
- We love HOUSTON'S MANY FESTIVALS! Some of our favorites are the Art Car Parade, the Renaissance Festival and Via Colori (a street art-drawing festival)
- THE LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO – we go several times every year (if you've never heard of mutton bustin' you should look it up!)
- OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY AND PLAYGROUND - just blocks from our house

IT'S OK TO PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD!



FEEDING MEERKATS AT THE ZOO



# THE PEOPLE we love



TROLLEY IN SAN FRAN

## SANDRA'S FAMILY

*My mom still lives in the house I was raised in, and only 10 minutes from my house now – I'm over there every Tuesday night, doing chores, cooking dinner and just hanging out. It's a tradition we've had since my dad passed away 10 years ago. **My mom is a giant kid at heart whose favorite place on earth is Disneyworld – and I am so proud that I got to take her there for the first time in 2010.** She's looking forward to taking trips with her own grandchild someday!*

DISNEYLAND!



BABY ON BOARD!



BROTHERS' TRIP TO CRATER LAKE

*We grew up taking family vacations each summer and hope to continue that tradition as long as we can manage it.*

## DAVID'S FAMILY

*I come from a tight-knit family with 2 older brothers. They are my best friends outside of my wife. We have all been co-best men at each brothers' wedding. We are lucky that we live only 15 minutes from my oldest brother, Don, his wife Karen, and our 3 nieces. My newly-retired dad and mom live only 40 minutes away, perfect for play dates and babysitting!*

*I was born near Brooklyn, NY but my family moved down to Houston, TX when I was 2 years old. Since then, NYC has become my home away from home. We spent our summers there each year growing up. After college, I would go up to spend time with my Grandma and extended family whenever I could. Several years ago, my brother Mike moved back, and we would love to be able to show our child **REAL NY PIZZA, SEE A BROADWAY MUSICAL, AND VISIT WITH COUSIN MARCO, WHO JUST TURNED 1.***

BEING CHEESY ON THE FRIENDS SET



FAMILY MEANS LOVE



FAMILY BEACH TRIP



DAVID'S FAMILY



MAKING PRETZELS WITH MY PARENTS



FAMILY HIKING VACATION



**M**y brother Michael is two years younger than I am and was my mortal enemy growing up – we're talking Harry Potter vs. Voldemort – but we've become incredibly close now that we're adults. His favorite thing on the planet is his dog, Dr. Scientist. Mike is the life of the party wherever he goes and **he is definitely ready to be the fun uncle.**



While my immediate family is small, my mom's extended family is huge. **They all live in the Houston area and we get to spend every Christmas Day with them, enjoying the sheer chaos of 30 kids and adults in one house.** This same group rents a beach house for a week every summer, right on the water. **SAME CHAOS, BUT WITH SANDCASTLES!**

## 5 FAMILY TRADITIONS

- **DICKENS ON THE STRAND FESTIVAL** - For over 20 years, Sandra and her mom (and David, too!) have dressed up in gorgeous Victorian outfits at this weekend Christmas festival in Galveston, TX.
- **HOMEMADE PASTA SESSIONS** - Sandra's family makes traditional Russian dumplings, and David's family gathers to make pasta of all shapes and sizes all throughout the year.
- **ANNUAL BEACH TRIP** - Sandra's family loves this week together at the beach - we know our future little one will love it, too!
- **HOLIDAY MEALS** - David's family celebrates with 5-course Italian feasts!
- **FAMILY VACATIONS** - We take annual trips with each of our families and look forward to travelling the world with our little one someday!

- our -  
**PROMISE  
TO YOU**

Our dream is to share the blessings that we have enjoyed in our life with our child and give them the opportunity to change the world in their own special way. We each had a childhood filled with love and support and want to provide a child that same experience to become the best person they can be. In a world filled with prejudice and judgment, we want to enable our child to see the good in everyone, to stand strong and be true to themselves. **But we also want to share A LITTLE FUN WITH THEM AND SHOW THEM THE WORLD, TOO!**



*one* **LAST  
THANK  
YOU**

**T**hank you for considering us to raise your baby. We would love to show our child the best this world has to offer, starting with a loving family and offering security. You and your baby would be welcomed into our family. Just as we value our heritages, **we would welcome the chance to bring any of YOUR TRADITIONS INTO OUR FAMILY.**

*Sandra and David*