

**CATHY AND** | **AND**  
**SONALI** | **Raj**

Hi there!

# THANK YOU

for taking the time to

**VIEW OUR PROFILE,  
LEARN ABOUT OUR LIFE,  
AND CONSIDER US**



## **FAMILY** IS THE **CENTER** OF OUR **LIVES**

We are both native New Yorkers (Sonali from Long Island and Cathy from Niagara Falls) who met in Boston, Massachusetts. We have been married for 7 years and been together for 11 years in a loving, fun, and committed relationship. We had our son, Raj, in 2014 and ever since, our lives have been filled with immense joy and love. We also have an 11 year old dog, Milo, who loves children and is best buddies with Raj, especially when Raj drops food (which happens often).

**We are truly honored and humbled. We greatly admire you and the decision you are about to make. For us, family is the center of our lives and we would be grateful to have another child.**

Our wedding day



**OUR FRIENDS**  
SAY WE ARE

- ✓ **Funny**
- ✓ **Kind**
- ✓ **Generous**
- ✓ **Loving**
- ✓ **Intelligent**



About Us

WE LIVE IN

CHICAGO,  
ILLINOIS

**W**e live in Chicago, Illinois, specifically in Hyde Park, a diverse community that is both academic, cultural, and filled with kind people. We live near the University of Chicago and close distance to museums (science, art, and history focused), which we have enjoyed. Raj also enjoys the many local parks and playgrounds and the lakefront beaches. There are also many excellent schools in our community and Raj attends one of them, a highly rated school affiliated with the University of Chicago.

**We are honored to be considered by you as the family for your child.** We are raising Raj to be kind, respectful, generous, and hard working. These are values we embrace and embody. Your baby will be part of a loving home with a sibling who is overjoyed at the prospect of being a big brother. We are committed to give them every opportunity to grow and become the amazing person they are destined to be.



One of our family traditions is to attend the **PRIDE PARADE** every year in June. It's our favorite month!



Disney is one of our most favorite vacations!



We love soccer—go Chicago Red Stars!

WE **EMBRACE** AND **EMBODY**

- ✓ Kindness
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Generosity
- ✓ Hard Work

At a friend's wedding



THINGS  
THAT  
MAKE US  
Happy

- ✓ Raj's laughter
- ✓ A great joke
- ✓ Completing a difficult task
- ✓ Being with family
- ✓ Watching comedy shows
- ✓ Raj's growing vocabulary
- ✓ Eating foods that we grew up with

WRITTEN BY

# SONALI

**There is so much I love about Cathy.**

Her heart is so full of love for me, Raj, her family and friends.

In addition to her own full time job as a software engineer, she is fully supportive of me and my career. Cathy's humor makes me, and everyone around us, laugh - the deep down laugh where tears come to my eyes and I need to catch my breath. Cathy is a phenomenal "mommy" to Raj. Seeing them interact, the genuineness in her face and voice - she exudes love and makes my heart full. Her patience, humor, and just "Cathy-ness," is something that any child will benefit from. In her spare time, she loves to make bracelets, think about anything Disney related, and spend time with me and Raj.



Cathy's humor brings us joy



We love ice cream



## ABOUT CATHY

Walking with our dog Milo



### CATHY'S Career

I fell in love with computers and software in college and realized it was a way to help people. My career allows me to help people in different industries which wasn't possible before online software was available. Whether it be in healthcare or financial tech, my job touches many industries. My previous work involved healthcare software where I helped both patients and providers deliver quality care. **My current job in financial tech is also flexible so that I can work from home whenever I need to.**

### CATHY'S FAVORITES

- ✓ Crafting
- ✓ Watches and bracelets
- ✓ Hot sauce (sriracha)
- ✓ Disney!
- ✓ Traveling

Cathy's first 5K run in Disney World



# ABOUT SONALI



## SONALI'S Career

In addition to my family, my life's work makes me whole. I am a transplant hepatologist - a physician who specializes in liver disease and transplant. I take pride in advocating for my patients so that they may have a second chance at life. I am grateful to be able to do the work I do. I am honored and humbled to be a part of their lives.

### SONALI'S FAVORITES

- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Spinning
- ✓ My work (helping others)
- ✓ Time outdoors
- ✓ Family time

WRITTEN BY

## CATHY

**Sonali is a loving mother, a generous friend, and a caring physician.** She has the biggest heart and cares for everyone around her deeply. Raj loves spending time with her, whether it is cuddling together

watching their favorite TV show, or making dinner together - if Raj gets the sniffles, he will often run to Sonali because he knows she's a doctor and he feels like she can always make him feel better. Sonali's generosity as a friend is evident in the moments when she spends time with friends laughing and sharing stories, and whenever they ask her for advice because they value her opinion. Sonali's caring heart is also evident in how she cares for her patients - she will give them her personal cell phone and often go into the hospital on her day off to check on them. My favorite memories with Sonali are in the small moments, like in the morning rush of getting ready for work and school, she always makes sure to say "Love you!" and give us a kiss on the cheek before leaving, or at dinner whenever we as a family sit down together and share our "Rose and Thorn" - sharing the best part of our day (Rose) and the hardest or least fun part of our day (Thorn).

Sonali with the Ducks in the Boston Public Garden



Sonali at work



Sharing lunch and giggles





Running in Disneyland with Cathy's brother

# OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

We have close family relationships in New York, Florida, Boston, and Hawaii.

Cathy's parents and sister and most of her extended family live in Niagara Falls, NY and her brother lives in Orlando, Florida. Sonali's parents live in Long Island, NY and she has an extended network of friends, really a second family, in Boston. And Cathy's close cousin lives in sunny Hawaii.



Raj and Dadu have a special relationship

Raj loves spending time with his "Papa" and "Lola" (Cathy's parents). He also loves to be with his "Dadu" and "Didima" (Sonali's parents) and help them with their garden. He loves his "Tito Pah" (Cathy's brother) who is a great role model and lives in Orlando, very close to Disney World, where we love to visit. We also spend time with "Tita Michelle" (Cathy's sister) and "Tita Lizel" (Cathy's cousin) and their families - time spent playing games, making and eating great food, and having fun laughing and making memories.

BOTH OF OUR FAMILIES ARE

**LOVING, FUN, HUMOROUS, AND ENERGETIC**

Because of shelter in place, we have started doing zoom family meetings - for holidays and now playing pictionary, which has been a great way to spend time together while socially distant.



Raj's 3rd birthday party with all of our family

## FAMILY Traditions

We spend holidays between our parents' homes (usually Christmas at Cathy's parents house and New Years at Sonali's house). Christmas mornings are spent in our pajamas, gathered around the tree, opening presents and eating delicious Filipino food. New Years Eve is spent also in our pajamas, watching Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve, and toasting to the New Year at midnight. Our respective extended family members join together in these traditions. **These holidays are filled with joy, amazing food, and conversation.**



Raj and his cousin building a snowman



Pizza night with Tita Michelle

Raj's Rice Eating Ceremony





Spread kindness ♥

# About **RAJ**

**ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE RAJ**

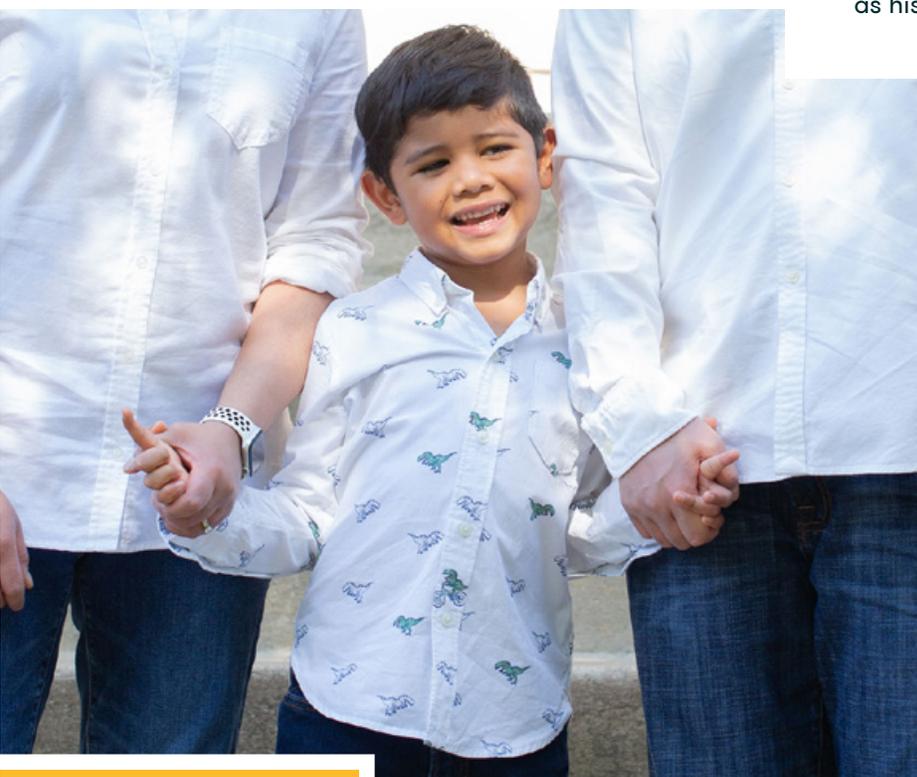
**Kind**

**Raj is a caring, humorous, and energetic 5 year old. Sonali is his biological mother.** If one word were to describe Raj, it would be kind. His teachers describe him as charismatic but

gentle, and friends with everyone. If a friend falls down or gets hurt playing on the playground, Raj is the first person to run up to them and make sure they are ok. He is always willing to share, whether it is a toy or food, with his friends and family. He loves watching Food Network on tv (Bobby Flay and Worst Cooks in America are his favorites) and enjoys helping Sonali in the kitchen. He likes building and fixing things with Cathy and asking questions about how things are made. A surprising fact - his eating habits for a five year old are also remarkable with tomatoes, carrots, and snap peas as his favorite snacks.



Raj loves building Legos



## FUTURE **BIG BROTHER**

Raj is very excited to be a big brother. He often starts a sentence with “when the baby comes...” Whenever he plays with his toys, he always mentions the toys he would like to share with his sibling, and the ones he would have to put away because they have parts that are too small for a baby. **We know Raj will be an amazing big brother!**

Raj and Milo are like brothers



## ABOUT **MILO**

**We have an 11 year old puggle (half beagle, half pug) named Milo.** He has been a caring member of our family. He greets us when we come home, enjoys taking long walks, and loves eating carrots and turkey. He has been so gentle and protective with Raj - they truly have a loving relationship. Raj also calls him “Da” which in Bengali means big brother.



Raj and Milo



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# IT'S A WRAP

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**W**e hope that you have been able to get a glimpse of our lives - a family life filled with love and joy. We would be honored and blessed to welcome your child into our lives to be a part of our family. As we do with Raj, we promise to put your child first, raise them in a loving and safe environment, and give them every opportunity to grow to their potential. **Thank you for considering all of us - Sonali, Cathy, Raj, and Milo - as a loving family for your child.** We can't imagine how difficult this must be for you, but we have so much love to give and the utmost respect for you and your decision.



WITH WARM REGARDS

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**Sonali, Cathy, Raj,  
and Milo**

