

BRIAN & CARLOS



hey there!

Although we haven't met yet, we can only imagine that there must be so many feelings flying through your mind. **We know that you are a brave and loving person who wants the best for her baby.** As two fathers, we also know that your hopes for your daughter/son are the same hopes that we have for our own daughter.

Children should know where they come from, and we are already having those conversations with our own daughter. Your child will also know who his/her mother is, the story of her life, and her bravery in making the best choices for him/her. We know he/she will be just as proud of you as we already are. **We don't yet know what is in your heart, but we are supportive of any degree of open relationship you would want to have throughout your baby's life.** Whether you want us to share photos and updates with you regularly or have greater frequency and types of contact or visits as our relationship grows, we never want you to wonder about whether you made the right decision.



Our home is filled with singing, music, the occasional flamenco dancing, good food, and love. We were raised singing in church choirs and are down to earth people, with good values and a strong work ethic. We are very close to our family which includes very present grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, along with our two small dogs.

Our blended family includes both Puerto Rican and Midwest heritage. **We speak Spanish and English in our home and are teaching our daughter both languages. We honor our cultures and stories already and when raising your baby, we would honor yours just as passionately.**

The day we welcomed our daughter into this world, our lives changed forever. Every day since, she has been showered with love and protection from both Papa and Dada. Your child would be given every advantage in life that we can offer. We are both well-educated and believe that education has saved our lives while giving us the best opportunities for success.

*With Love and Hope,
Carlos and Brian*



Our STORY

Meeting the right partner in this life can come down to almost anything. Timing. Opportunity. The stars aligning in just the right way. Or, it can come down to a quote from Sister Act.

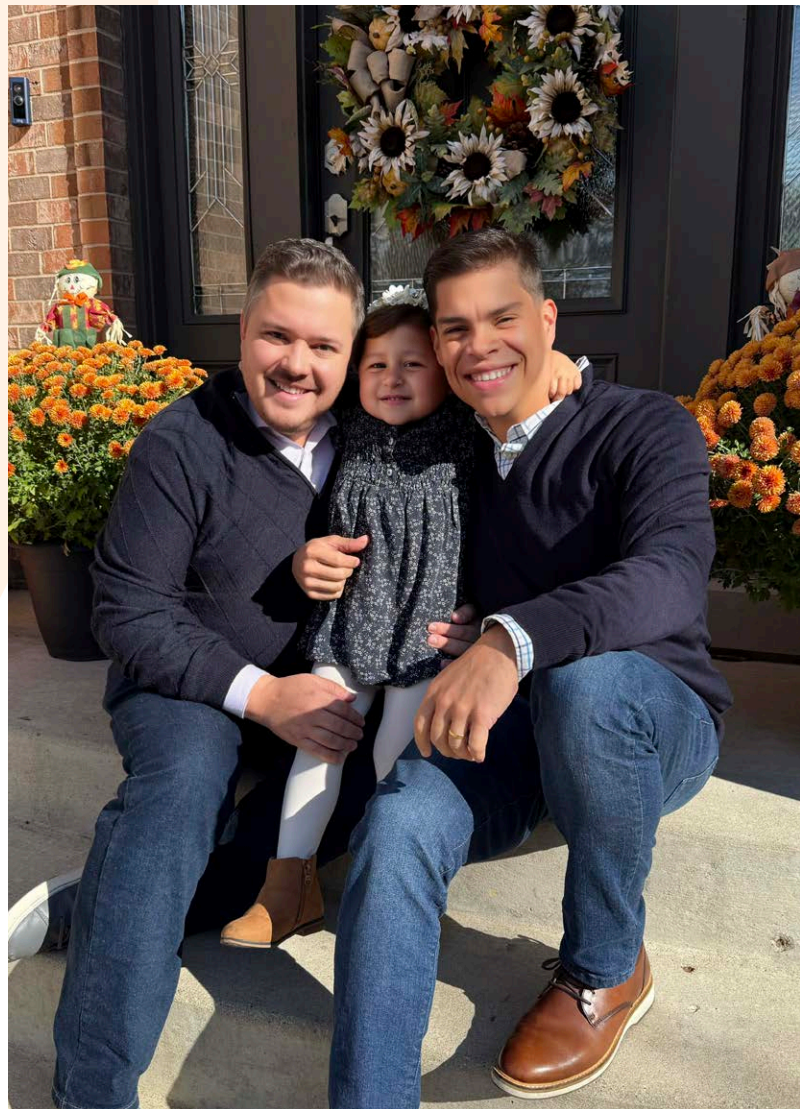


In May of 2015, we had been living in Chicago for the better part of a decade. We had full lives with friends, long work hours, and goals for the future. But an initial spark between us occurred because Carlos included a quote from Sister Act in a dating profile. Brian read the quote and bonded with Carlos over it (while debating which of the two movies in the series was better), and that quote opened the door to a long courtship. When we imagined the stars aligning in just the right way to find a partner in this life, neither of us anticipated that the stars would be Whoopi Goldberg and Dame Maggie Smith in nuns' habits.

It would be a number of months before we met in person, and from that point forward, each of us focused on bettering each other. Carlos would provide Brian with novel insights and observations on the daily happenings in his life, since Carlos is the smarter of the two. As the more charming of two, Brian would let Carlos believe that. It was a partnership that blossomed out of mutual respect for each others' talents and abilities.

Since then, because of the other, both of our lives have changed for the better. Carlos has become an important human resources voice in corporate America and Brian has taken on a position as a leader with a real estate company. We've each pushed the other to reach his fullest potential. We've each used our experience in this world to heal the other and move forward as a stronger pair.

Our marriage is truly one of equals, and as we've grown our family and worked to support each other, we will continue to look forward to the long-awaited next chapter... of Sister Act 3.



OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

We are focused on building and celebrating our family. We make memories by going to the park, visiting the children's museums, taking Sofia to swimming lessons, and the occasional trip to Chuck E. Cheese. In the summers we go to the pool or visit Carlos' sister in Orlando. We work out, cook meals together, and get our work done in the office and at home. We take moments each day to bring out the best in each other and to make each of us laugh along the way.



hi, i'm
CARLOS



I absolutely love learning about people and cultures and can't wait to travel together to new places—experience the local foods and customs and bring something new we've learned during our travels back home. I have always tried to be a source of support and inspiration for others and like to surround myself with people who do the same for me. Growing up, we moved away from extended family at an early age so I didn't have

that growing up, although I did have my parents and siblings, so spending time with aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews is something I cherish. At any given moment, you can find me singing, dancing, humming, whistling, or all of the above, and often, I don't even realize it. It's just how I express my happiness and positive outlook.

what brian loves best about carlos

One of my earliest memories of Carlos was watching what a good uncle he was with his own nieces and nephews. On our first date, we talked about whether we wanted to have children and build a family. We connected over how much we loved the Sister Act movies as kids. Most importantly, I knew quickly that our shared goals of building a stable and successful family would make us stronger together than we were on our own. In the ten years we've been together since, I've only grown more sure of how much I admire and love that Carlos is one of the most genuinely happy people I know. He wakes up smiling, he sings and dances around the house with our daughter, he makes her laugh, and he goes to bed happy. I am convinced that when Sofia thinks of all of the warm and happy parts of her life, she will think of all the ways that her silly Papa Carlos makes her giggle. He is a great father, a great partner, and a great protector.





hey, i'm
BRIAN

Some of my favorite memories from my childhood were decorating my bike for the neighborhood holiday bicycle parade, playing the piano and singing in church, and visiting my grandparents' farm to see the animals. I remember my parents taking me to see Jurassic Park in the movie theaters and to see the New Kids on the Block as my first concert. I remember playing in the marching band and loving the movie Sister Act with Whoopi

Goldberg. For every one of those memories, as a child I felt happy and safe and respected. As an adult, I now know how much of my own childhood was happy because of how much my parents and family made me and others feel seen and valued. As a business professional, I've worked to build a working life and career around helping others. As a father, I now get to help the most important people and make a childhood special for my own children.



what carlos loves best about brian

Brian is the perfect combination of thinker and doer—he's smart, resourceful, dedicated, and action-oriented, all of which make for a great partner in helping to raise a family. He's a sweet and loving dad who works hard to ensure we're able to live a great life now while building a wonderful future. Brian is always up for new adventures, but also knows how to relax and unwind, both of which are important qualities when raising kids. In all the years I've known Brian, he has genuinely only wanted what is best for people, and I see that everyday in his work, with our parents, with our family, and of course, with Sofia and me.

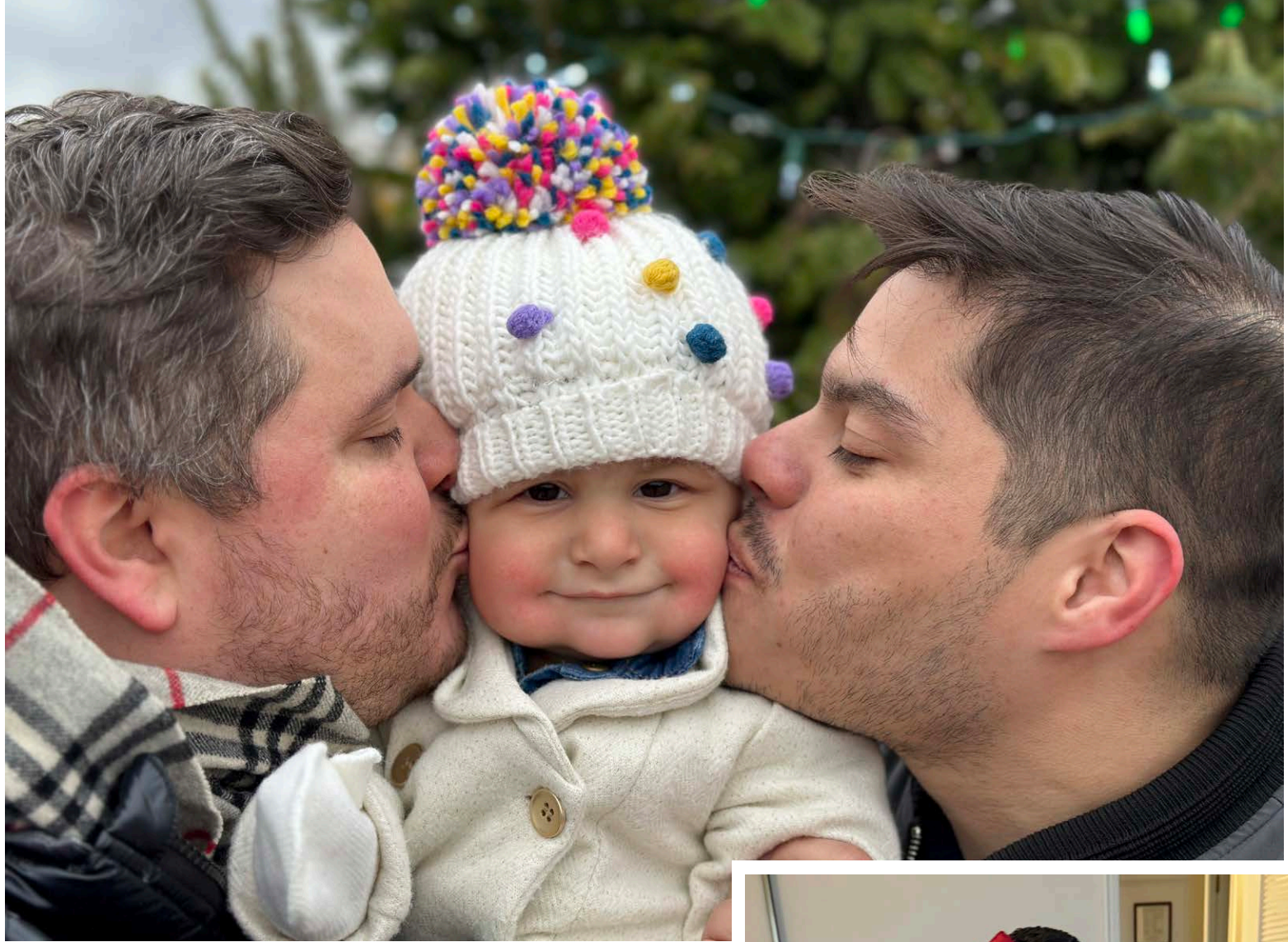


meet Sofia

Sofia turned 3 years old in November and has truly developed a strong and happy personality.



She is smart, caring, adventurous, curious and funny. She loves animals and playing sports. She has started singing and speaks in both English and Spanish. She is an excellent big sister to our two dogs and shows kindness and care to children younger than she is. She loves to help her dads with projects around the house, cooking and cleaning her own small kitchen, and picking out her own outfits. She loves swimming and loves to make others laugh.

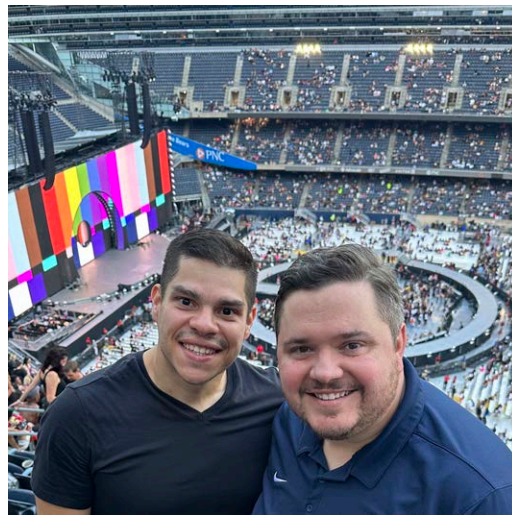


SHE DREAMS OF:
*being able to stay up as long
as she wants...one day!*

HER FAVORITE SONG IS:
*the theme song to Paw
Patrol and Mickey Mouse
Clubhouse.*

SHE LOVES TO:
*dance, clap, and sing. She
also loves sidewalk chalk and
taking her dogs for walks.*





A FEW OF OUR favorite things!

We both love music and often attend shows or concerts in the area.

Carlos: I love to keep house plants and gardens alive and thriving. While I have been running triathlons, practicing yoga, and truly working on my fitness goals, I also love finding the perfect bakery or cookie for my sweet tooth.

Brian: I love movies (including the previews!) and singing. I have also become a bit of a handyman around the house and work on projects to keep our home up to date.

Both of us are working professionals and have dedicated an important amount of our lives toward creating a solid and safe foundation for our children.





Gingerbread House Decorating Fun



Busy Bee on Halloween



Thanksgiving Crew



Family Night Out



Getting Ready for Santa

family TRADITIONS

- We have built several traditions including celebrating our birthdays with family and friends.
- During the holidays, we decorate our Christmas tree and our home (while starting to decorate gingerbread homes too!).
- We are often dressed as a family costume for Halloween and love giving out candy to trick-or-treaters. Our neighbors turn their house into a haunted house which draws hundreds of people from around the town.
- Every week we take Sofia to swim class and she loves riding through the car wash and watching the soap and scrubbers through the car windows.
- In the fall we go to apple and pumpkin orchards and celebrate the season.
- In the winter, we build snowmen and go to the sledding hill a couple of blocks from our house.

★ CARLOS' family ★



My family is big, and they live all the way from California, to Texas, to Florida, to New York, and of course, Puerto Rico, where I was born.

I'm incredibly grateful to have two of my siblings live in close proximity, and two others that live in Florida and New York. My siblings all have kids, and in total, I have 11 nieces and nephews, all of whom are loved dearly by their Uncles Brian and Carlos. My siblings are extremely supportive and we make it a point to get together often so that our kids can spend time with their aunts, uncles, and cousins—that is very important to us, since we didn't always have that growing up. Our parents are nearby, with my dad and Brian's parents both retired, and my mom looking to retire in a few more years. Both sets of grandparents are very involved and can't wait for us to bring another bundle of joy home for them to love just as much as they love Sofia and all of their other grandkids.



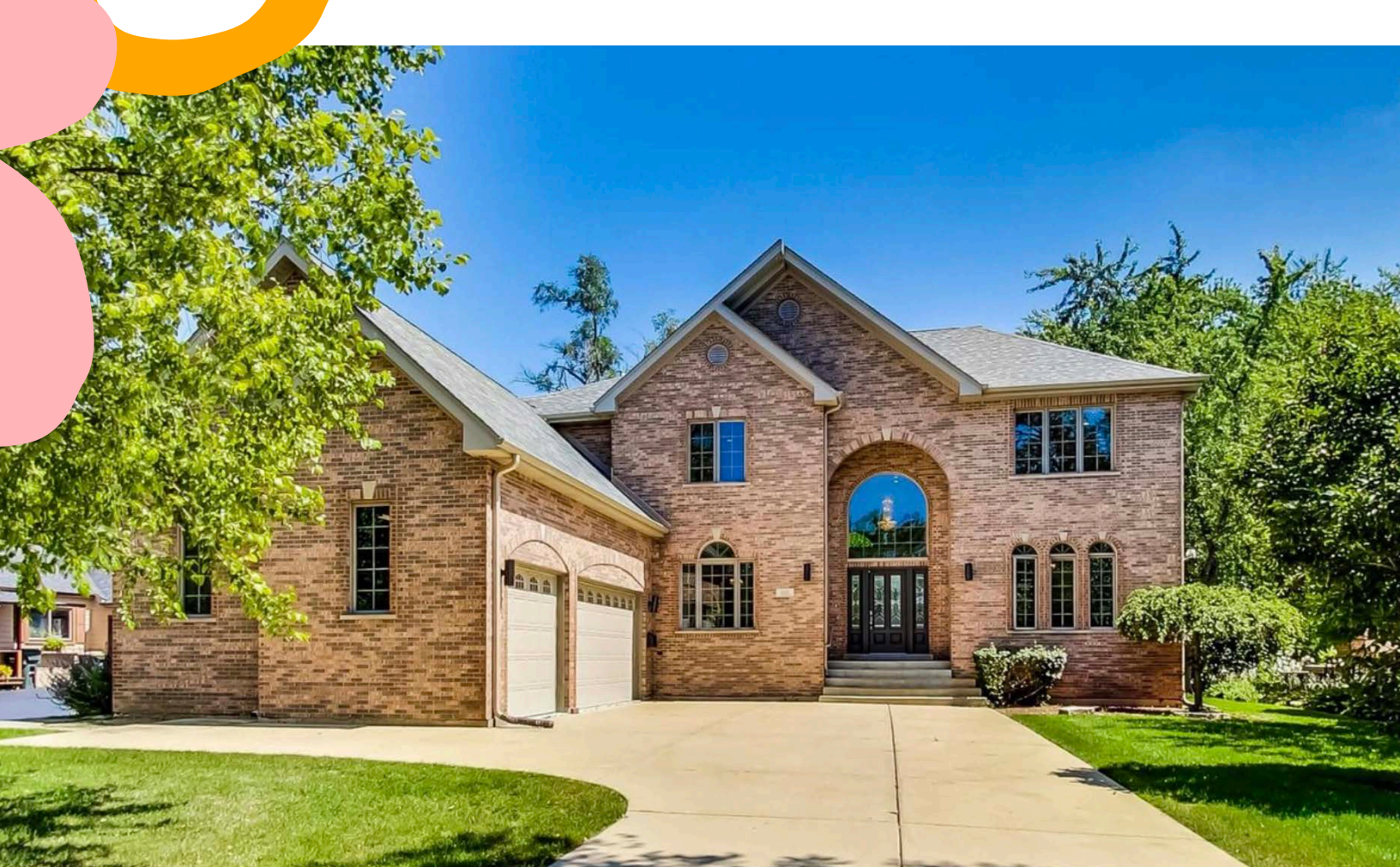
★ BRIAN'S family ★



We live a short distance from both my parents and Carlos' parents. Sofia calls my mother "Gaga" and father "Gogo," because they're always on the go!

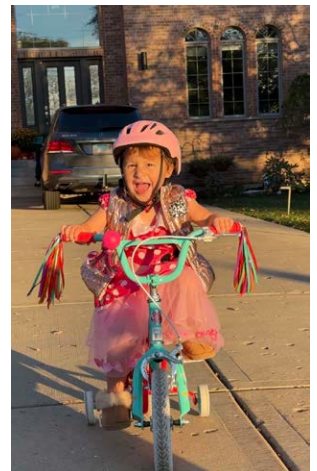
We see them several times per week and they fill our daughter's life with magic. My brother lives in the same city we live in. Sofia sees Carlos' parents and his siblings often. She loves eating Puerto Rican food, especially rice and warm soup, and playing with our dogs Jaxson and Abbie. My parents are both retired and are focused on not missing a moment of Sofia's life and are thrilled at the prospect of welcoming a new baby into our family. Carlos' mom Daisy is a kindergarten teacher and is the queen of craft projects and learning activities and his dad Edgar is musical and warm.





WHERE WE hang OUR hats

We moved to a smaller town a couple of years ago when we had Sofia. The community is safe, suburban, and diverse. We have foods and restaurants from all around the world. A dozen languages are spoken in Sofia's daycare and we love knowing how all of the families are different and appreciated. We live in a house on a cul-de-sac where Sofia rides her bicycle and walks our two dogs. We have a neighborhood park that she loves that is a 5 minute walk from our house and our community pool that is 3 streets away. The public schools are some of the best in the state where we live and we couldn't have chosen a better place to raise a family.





*Thank you for getting to know us a bit!
xoxo, carlos & brian*

WHY WE HOPE TO ADOPT

Since starting our family over the last several years, we have worked to continue to grow together and bring more love into our life. In watching several of our friends and family members adopt children, we are more sure than ever that this is the next path for us.

OUR PROMISE

We promise to give this child our love, respect, and support just as we do with our daughter. Just as importantly, we promise to open our lives now and in the future to the degree you wish and to provide every opportunity and chance in life that this child could hope for.