### CX IS

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### "AS SOON AS I SAW YOU, I KNEW AN ADVENTURE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN." - WINNIE THE POOH



## $\vdash \mathsf{ELLO},$

We are Hai (pronounced "Hi") and Isaac and this is our pup, Sgt. Pepper.

AS WE SIT DOWN TO WRITE TO YOU, OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION FOR THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE YOU POSSESS.

We can only imagine the amount of emotions you must be experiencing, and we want you to know that we are here with open hearts, ready to walk this journey alongside you.

If we could, we would invite you into our home right now, where the aroma of a meal prepared with love would greet you at the door. Hai would most likely be in the kitchen, stirring a pot of Vietnamese noodle soup, its warmth mirroring the warmth we hope to extend to you. Isaac, on the other hand, would most likely be in his rose garden, carefully selecting a few blooms to place in a vase on the dining table—a small gesture to make you feel welcomed and cherished.

Perhaps one day, we'll have this chance. But for now, since this is just a letter, we hope our words and pictures give you a glimpse of who we are.

Our family is a beautiful tapestry woven from different cultures and languages, and there is so much we long to share with a child. And yet, we know this process is not just about us. **We have thought about you often and the love it takes to bring a child into the world.** We understand that, for whatever circumstances, you may not be able to raise them, but that they will also always be a part of you. We hold space for this and space for you as you navigate this journey.

**Please know we are here with open arms and open hearts.** We would be honored to get to know you better—to hear your story, your hopes, and your dreams for your child. **We look forward to providing a nurturing environment filled with love, laughter, and cultural richness** and if it is your life that intersects with our own, we eagerly anticipate the gift of figuring this out together.

- Ani and I gave

#### A BIRD'S EYE VIEW:

#### BASICS

What we...

Read: Harry Potter & The Percy Jackson series <u>Play:</u> Mario Party <u>Watch:</u> The Incredibles <u>Cook:</u> Pho, Pozole, & Pan Dulce <u>Visit:</u> Waterparks and state parks <u>Cheer for:</u> Mexico and the US in the 2026 World Cup

#### OUR HOME

We own a 2-story home in Texas. It has 4 bedrooms, a large living room, and is nestled around miles of scenic nature trails and amenities.

#### RELIGION

Hai is atheist. Isaac is Catholic (nonpracticing). We are supportive of whatever religion/ faith our child may choose to pursue.

#### RELATIONSHIP

We have been together since February 2016.

We were married in February 2018.

#### LANGUAGES

We speak Vietnamese, Spanish, and English within our home and our extended families.

We hope to raise our child to speak all three languages, as well!

#### CHILDCARE

lsaac plans to stay home full-time to care for our child.

#### BIRTH FAMILY

We are open to open-adoption and committed to navigating what is best for a child and his/her family.

### our Family

We're a loving, multicultural family living in the lively Austin, TX area. **Our backgrounds create a beautiful mix of Mexican and Vietnamese cultures**, and our dream is to raise a child in a diverse, inclusive environment, surrounded by a community that celebrates what makes us unique.

#### MOST IMPORTANTLY:

- We are best friends first. Our bond is one where laughter is abundant and communication flows effortlessly.
- Our kitchen is a melting pot of cultures where Vietnamese pho meets Mexican tamales, creating a symphony of flavors that celebrate our diverse backgrounds.
- We love to be outdoors and enjoy a range of activities including river tubing, camping, hiking, surfing, snowboarding, scuba diving, team sports, and more.
- One of our favorite family activities is playing kickball. It's not just the game; it's teamwork, laughter, and creating memories together.
- We deeply value culture and love to travel.
  We've visited family in Mexico and Vietnam, gone snowboarding in Tahoe, surfed in Hawaii, hiked in Canada, and so much more!









## HOW OUR TWO LIVES

#### FROM TWO FARAWAY COUNTRIES BECAME ONE.





family immigrated to the U.S. (**Dallas,TX**)



to be closer to family.

Our history adds so much to our lives - both individually and together - as well as the life we hope to provide for a child.



Hai is a dual citizen of the US & Vietnam; Isaac holds citizenship for the US & Mexico. We travel to our countries of origin at least once a year, sometimes multiple times per year, to visit our extended relatives. We dream of taking our future child on adventures across Mexico and Vietnam, immersing them in the rich histories and vibrant cultures that helped shape who we are.



We have an amazing support system not only in our hometown but also across the US and in other countries. With relatives in Mexico, Vietnam, and Canada as well as family and friends scattered between Texas and California, there are so many places to go and people to see. Wherever we are, we never feel far from "home" and we cannot wait to share these connections with our child.



We LOVE cooking and enjoying each other's cuisines as well as sharing our diverse cultural culinary experiences with family and friends. We often say that **cooking is one of our love languages**, a way for us to share a piece of our hearts with those we care about. The food we make simmers with love and tradition, much like the stories we look forward to sharing about our lives.







### MEET HAI

#### CHÀO BẠN!

WHOIAM. I'm fun, outgoing, and the "connector" in most of our social circles. I present like an extrovert, but I'm actually an introvert who loves a bit of downtime and close connections with my people. I'm very proud of who I am and where I come from and hope to share that same joy and confidence with my child one day.

WHAT I DO. I have a bachelor's degree in Information Technology & Systems from UT Dallas and work as an engineer at Shopify. I love connecting with people and helping them solve their biggest business and technical challenges.

WHAT I LOVE. Spending time with Isaac and our dog // Traveling (+ surfing, scuba diving, snowboarding) // Playing kickball on Sundays // Trying new food at restaurants or cooking them at home // Daydreaming about the future: trips, building a family, financial goal setting, etc.

#### A FEW FUN THINGS YOU MIGHT ENJOY KNOWING ABOUT ME!



I love playing **board games with friends and family.** Some of my favorites are Pandemic, Ticket to Ride, and Scrabble, but I'm ready to add a few kid-friendly ones to the mix!



I have **visited over 20 countries and love exploring new cultures.** My favorite destination has been the Philippines for its beautiful beaches and rich coral reefs, perfect for scuba diving!



**My favorite type of jokes are dad jokes.** Why do I love dad jokes so much? Because they're how *eye-roll*, of course! (*Thank you, thank you. I'll be here all week.*)

"Hai is going to be an incredibly loving and supportive dad...with an arsenal of jokes ready to go!"

#### Who Hai is in Isaac's Words:

"Hai is one of the most caring and supportive people I have ever met. I particularly adore how loving he is towards his family. He is also **someone** who constantly encourages others to strive for their best. For instance, when I decided to pursue a career as a Software Engineer, he supported me wholeheartedly. Not only did he provide financial support during my BootCamp, but he also took charge of household chores, allowing me to focus on my studies. Recently, he's been a lifesaver with my grandparents, assisting them whenever we travel together. His organizational skills are another blessing. His support and attention to detail continually remind me of how lucky I am to have him, and I cannot wait to watch as he extends the same love and encouragement to a child."



#### LOOKING FORWARD TO FATHERHOOD:

I can't wait to: Watch my child **grow and find themselves while providing them unconditional love** • Support their dreams and aspirations • Bond with them over their interests and hobbies • Share my languages, cuisines, and traditions

"Hai is the super glue that holds groups of people together. He's the joy and light that we all look forward to every time we meet." (words from a friend)









# MEET ISAAC

#### ¡HOLA, ES UN GUSTO CONOCERTE!

WHOIAM. I'm kind, patient, and empathetic. I love being around my family and friends but am just as happy to be home and doing nothing with the two loves of my life: Hai and our dog, Sgt. Pepper. I also take great pride in contributing to the development of the future of America and love helping others see the potential they can't see in themselves.

WHAT I DO. I have a bachelor's degree in Biology and work as a high school science teacher. I love helping teenagers build the confidence they seek during this pivotal stage of their lives and feel rewarded every time I see a kid improve socially or academically.

WHAT I LOVE. Spending time with the people I love // Traveling and experiencing different cultures // Playing sports such as soccer, kickball, and volleyball // Gardening, which clears my mind and helps me relax // Thinking about our future as a growing family through adoption.

#### A FEW FUN THINGS YOU MIGHT ENJOY KNOWING ABOUT ME!

0 1

When I was 7, I wanted to be a professional soccer player. While that is a dream that didn't come true, I still frequently play soccer on the weekends



I love to put on a concert in the shower. I primarily sing pop, Spanish rancheras, and Spanish regionales.



I love **everything related to space exploration**. A big bucket list item of mine is to visit space one day. Whether that happens or not, I can't wait to share this joy with my child.

"When it comes to being a dad, there is no one who will be more present and patient than Isaac."

#### Who Isaac is in Hai's Words:

"Isaac is the most kind and patient partner anybody could ask for. Since the first day we met, he's worn his heart on his sleeve and shared his desire to start a family with the right person. His kindness and patience are present in the way he navigates his relationship with those around him. He goes out of his way to make others (friends, family, acquaintances) smile, whether that's cooking them his favorite meal or gifting them his favorite plant cuttings from his garden. As a teacher, **he fosters an** environment that makes his students feel safe to be themselves and to approach him as a trusted adult if they are ever facing obstacles in school or life – I don't see how anyone could do that without having genuine passion, patience, and kindness for others."



#### LOOKING FORWARD TO FATHERHOOD:

I can't wait to: Nurture my child through their growth • Celebrate milestones • Learn from their curiosities • Foster a loving home filled with laughter and shared experiences • See the world through their eyes • Support their interests

"Isaac is someone who genuinely cares about helping others and strives to make a positive impact on those around him" (words from a friend) (Acatenango Volcano, Guatemala)





(Snorkeling in the Caribbeans)



### OUR PEOPLE

#### A few things to highlight about the people who have loved us and will love our child:

(Hai's family) My family is loving, vibrant, and inclusive.

- I have two older siblings one in California with two children and another in Dallas.
- My mom is also in Dallas and is an amazing woman (and cook!) who wants nothing more than to babysit and bond with her grandchildren.
- When we get together as a family, **we eat, talk and bond!** We plan our menus weeks in advance to make sure we can get all the ingredients to cook as a family.

#### (Isaac's family) My family is energetic, adventurous, and affectionate.

- I have three brothers with 9 nieces and nephews between them!
- My parents are both retired and love to host extended family BBQs so all the grandchildren can gather together and bond.
- One of my family's favorite things is **going to waterparks or theme parks together,** and my mom can't wait to teach all her grandkids traditional Mexican dances.

(Our community) Our "community" is **made up of family and friends** from elementary school, high school, university, places we've worked, sports teams we've been on, and neighbors.

- We love to host parties where **our entire community can hang out**!
- We also love to have "destination" events, like camping at a state park or tubing down the Austin rivers near our home, where we invite friends and family to join.

















# THE SHORT VERSION



FEB 2016



FIRST DATE

We matched online on a cold winter day in February and went on our first date the very next day! We went to a Vietnamese restaurant where Isaac confidently ordered his favorite and talked until they kicked us out!



#### SECOND DATE

We decided to go big for our 2nd date and took a 6-hour road trip; we knew by the end that <u>this</u> was our person. After 2 years, we decided, "This is it! Let's go for it." And we got married at a courthouse in Texas.

FEB 2018

#### JULY 2020

Instead of spending money on a big wedding, we saved and took a month-long honeymoon to Southeast Asia.

#### OUR HEART AS WE STEP INTO ADOPTION

As a same-sex couple, we are unable to have children biologically. However, our hearts have always been open to parenting. We both come from family-oriented families that prioritize children and would love to have an opportunity to grow a family of our own. We want to recreate the awesome, loving families we had as children while also providing our child with new opportunities that we didn't get the chance to experience growing up in immigrant homes.

Over the years, we have grown together and reached a level of maturity that provides a strong foundation for welcoming a child into our lives. We are financially stable, ensuring that we can provide a secure environment. Additionally, we feel deeply ready and committed to embracing the responsibilities and joys of parenthood. Our hearts are open, and we are eager to offer a nurturing home where a child can thrive, be cherished, and feel supported every step of the way.

We also want you to know that when we think about family, we think about you. We pride ourselves in having a diverse support system and look forward to extending a melting pot of colors, cultures, and definitions of "family" to our child. We understand the importance of your role in your child's life, and we will always want to be part of your team. Should "our story" be a part of "your story", we will hold it with honor and respect you every step of the way.

### SEA-TO-SKY

If there is one thing you should know about us it is that **we are adventurers at heart with a wide variety of interests** in outdoor activities, sea-to-sky. Traveling is also one of our greatest passions, and we cannot wait to share all of our favorites with a child. Whether we're snowboarding down snowy slopes, surfing ocean waves, scuba diving into underwater worlds, or camping under starlit skies—we cherish every moment spent exploring the great outdoors together.

#### A couple trips we've taken and are already dreaming about sharing with a child include:

- Visiting immediate family in Dallas
- Seeing friends and family in Los Angeles
- Scuba diving in Cozumel, Mexico
- Camping in the Texas Hill Country
- Surfing in San Diego
- Snowboarding in Colorado
- Visit relatives in San Luis Potosis, Mexico
- Road tripping to California and hitting up multiple national parks for hiking along the way
- Meeting extended family in Vietnam and exploring the city of Ho Chi Minh City
- Eating at hawker stalls in Singapore













(Breckenridge, Colorado)







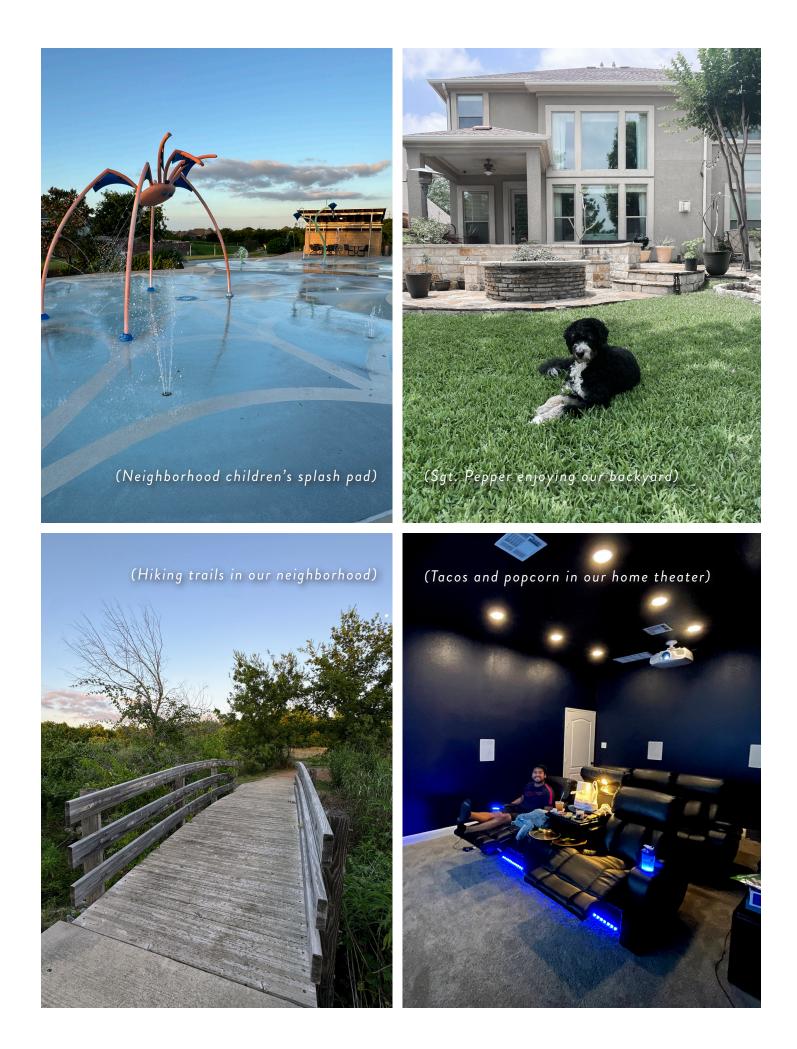
## our home

Our cozy two-story family home in the suburbs of Austin, Texas has 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and **plenty of room for a family to grow**.

We've spent tons of time and energy creating the most comfortable environment by personalizing every room to serve a different purpose. We intentionally purchased a home with a big kitchen because we love cooking. We built an in-home gym because we value health and fitness as a family. We also transformed our media room into a full-scale home theater because we love spending time together watching our favorite movies or entertaining friends in our home. We also have a beautiful **backyard** with a fire pit where friends and family gather for outdoor parties and BBQs. When we're home, Isaac finds immense joy in caring for his rose garden and it makes the space feel even more warm and welcoming. All in all, we have intentionally focused on setting up our home in a way that it is ready to raise a little one and we cannot wait for the day he or she comes home.

#### A few quick things to know about our city:

- It is ethically diverse and family-friendly.
- It is part of an amazing school district.
- It is conveniently located near tons of outdoor activities (hikes, lakes, rivers, etc.).
- Our neighborhood community hosts tons of activities year-round for kids.



### THE LIFE WE LIVE AND...



### A.M.

Every morning, Isaac loves to brew his morning cup of coffee from whole beans using our espresso machine while Hai works out in the home gym before logging in and working from home in his office. Isaac then takes Sgt. Pepper for a morning walk before going to work himself. **We love this rhythm to start our day.** 

# P.M.

We cook almost every night and typically serve up Asian or Latin cuisines with a spread of items rather than everyone having individual plates. After dinner, we relax in the living room, reading a book, watching a movie, or simply talk about our day in our big U-shaped sectional. Most nights, we also go for a walk on one of the many neighborhood trails.

# RELAX

On Saturday mornings, we love to go to a local Mexican grocery store and buy menudo, barbacoa, and pan dulce to have for brunch. Then we pick a weekend activity like hiking, gardening, or exploring a nearby state park to do together as a family. We also love working on home improvement projects, going to plant nurseries, and visiting theme parks when we can!

### ... CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE!







# WINTER

Christmas is by far the biggest holiday on both sides of our family. If we are not hosting, we will split our time between both families (who both live in Dallas). Instead of opening presents on the morning of the 25th, **we open** gifts after Christmas Eve dinner on the 24th. We still participate in traditions like Santa Claus, he just comes to us one night earlier!

# FALL

Halloween is also HUGE at our house. We go all out with decor, haunted houses, and full-sized candy bars. It is the one holiday that brings us both back to our childhood, going door to door looking for sweet treats! We also love to watch horror movies as we wait for trick-or-treaters. It is our way of celebrating the end of the summer in Texas.

# FAMILY

One final big thing for our families is birthdays! Isaac's family is HUGE, which means there is always a birthday party to attend. This involves a ton of family getting together for a bonfire, BBQ, birthday cakes (plural!), and tons of fun. Whenever a girl in the family turns 15, there is a huge "Quinceanera" (occasionally, it's in Mexico!) to celebrate the occasion.

#### ONE FINAL HELLO FROM

### SGT. PEPPER

**OUR PUP.** At a massive 80 pounds, Sgt. Pepper is a gentle giant who has a heart as big as his size. At four years old, he has brought endless joy and love into our home.

HOW HE IS WITH KIDS. Sgt. Pepper loves children and is incredibly gentle. He learned from his first family to wait for kids to approach him, ensuring he never intimidates them despite his size. His calm and patient demeanor makes him the perfect companion for little ones.

#### SOME OF HIS ADORABLE INTERESTS. He loves

walks around the neighborhood trails and often stops by the playground, refusing to continue walking until a few kids have had a chance to say "hi" and pet his fluffy chest. He also enjoys dipping his toes in bodies of water, though he prefers not to get completely wet. In the summer, his favorite snack is ice cubes, which he happily crunches to stay cool.

#### A FEW FUN THINGS FOR YOU TO KNOW ABOUT SGT. PEPPER!



Originally a foster dog, Sgt. Pepper quickly became a "foster fail"—a term for a dog so irresistible that we couldn't let him go.



His journey began with a family whose children **named him after The Beatles' song "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.**"The name suited him, so we decided to keep it.



When he's not actively playing or walking, **he's napping in one of three dog beds** in the house, as he prefers to sleep up to 16 hours a day!





### IF GIVEN THE CHANCE TO JOIN YOU IN LOVING THIS CHILD, WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY PROMISE TO...

- 0 1 Love your child unconditionally in 0 5 a safe and nurturing home. We will value their individuality, nurture their heart, and advocate for their needs.
- 0 2 Provide them with endless opportunities, supporting them in whatever hobbies, interests, and passions they may choose to pursue.
- 0 3 Raise your child in a multicultural household, passing down our rich tapestry of family traditions, customs, and languages.
- 0 4 Honor your child's culture, heritage, and background by making it a part of our everyday life. Their story will always be a part of our story as a family.

- 0 5 Continue pursuing adventures as a family by sharing our favorite activities and inviting them to experience all that our "sea-to-sky" adventures have to offer.
- 0 6 Be open and transparent with your child, answering the toughest questions they will have and making space for whatever they will feel.
- **0** 7 Remain available and committed to an open relationship, including you as a close family friend or treating you as an extended family member.
- 08 Honor your story and your child's story by sharing it with love, respect, and honesty, allowing them to take pride in embracing it!

Your decision to entrust us with the care of this beautiful soul is a responsibility we hold with the utmost reverence. With deepest thanks and heartfelt commitment, we embark on this journey together, honoring the incredible legacy of love you've given. - Afric and Janac

