



**Nick and Mica**

# Hello

We are Mica and Nick. Thank you so much for choosing to read about us. It is probably hard to feel like you really get to know someone from a short profile (and have all of your questions answered), so we hope we tell our story in a way where you feel like you get us and can really picture who we are and the love we have to share with a child.

We can imagine this whole process brings a range of emotions, and can feel at times everything from uncertain, overwhelming, intimidating, lonely, and hopeful. We hope that in the midst of it all, whether it's from us or another family, that you get to feel the reassurance, trust and security that you deserve.

We would be honored to be a part of your journey. We have a clear-headed and strong sense of the truly fulfilling and happy home that we could provide; otherwise, we would not be writing to you today. It is only with the most open hearts that we share our story.... not just with you, but for you.



# How We Met

Nick grew up in Michigan, while Mica grew up in Wisconsin. However, we both chose to settle down in Chicago. Even though we aren't living in our original hometowns, we are fortunate to have a big circle of longtime friends who live in Chicago, including friends from high school.

Nick's friend from high school met Mica's friend from high school, and asked her on a first date. They each invited a few friends to come along - including both of us. The date took place immediately after Nick and his friends had played their regular Friday night flag football game in the park. Yes, that means the guys showed up for the date in gym shorts and tennis shoes! Our friends didn't stay together after that night - but we did.

Since the night we met on someone else's first date, our life has been filled with incredible friends and family, successful careers, giving back to causes we care about, and, of course, our sweet Australian shepherd, Maddy. Our years together have been built on support, mutual-respect, and a lot of fun. We are a family where trust, comfort and familiarity is a constant, but we know our family is not complete.

We began the journey to expand our family years ago, and spent quite some time working with fertility doctors. After realizing that having a biological child wouldn't be possible for us, we started considering adoption. Mica has always had a strong intuition that we would adopt someday, and we both truly believe that this would be a beautiful way to build our family.



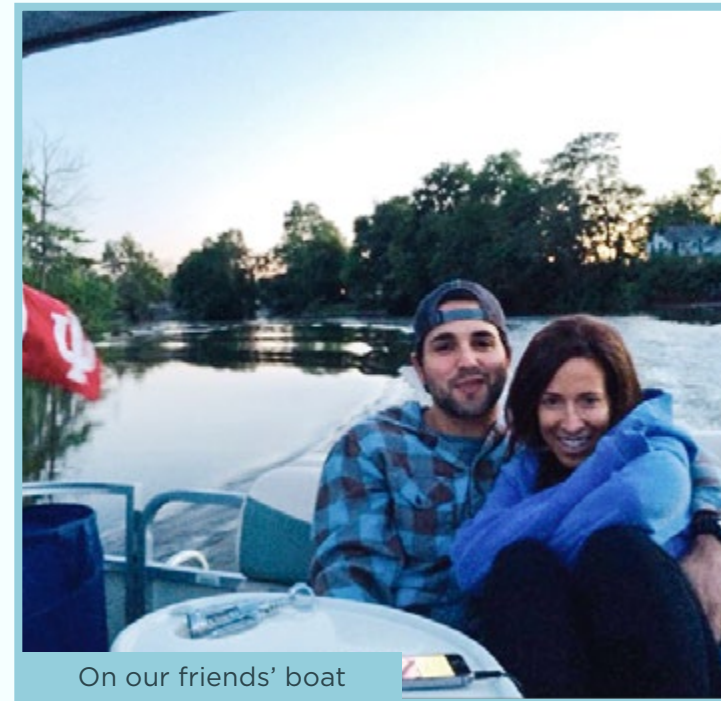
With our oldest niece after Sunday pancake breakfast



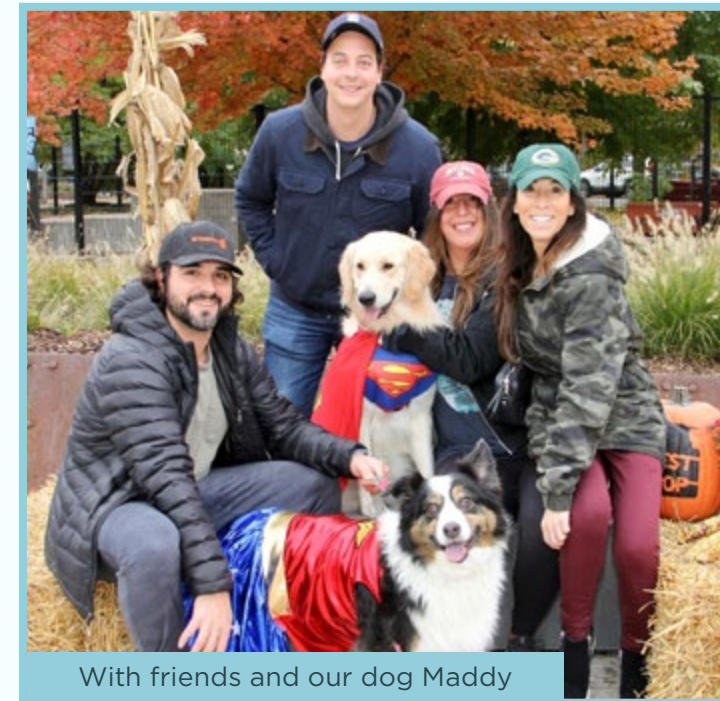
Our youngest niece



Baseball game with family



On our friends' boat



With friends and our dog Maddy

# About Mica by Nick

Mica's north stars for anything she does in life are family, kindness, humanity and joy.

She is the most loving, dedicated and fun sister, daughter, and aunt. Our nieces light up when she walks in the room, and she will play with them for hours. Her whole family is the best of friends.

Mica feels so much empathy and compassion for those in need, and it's important to her to take action to show her support. She serves meals to the homeless, builds houses in Miami, organizes a Christmas gift donation and wrap party for deserving families, and joins walks to support causes. She hopes to instill this sensibility of giving back and kindness to all to a child.

She really is superwoman, and anyone who is in her orbit feels lucky! Mica is modest about her career, but she's extremely smart, hard-working and has held very important roles in the government. She's the most well-adjusted, highly adaptable person, and always seems to know how to delicately navigate any difficult situation.

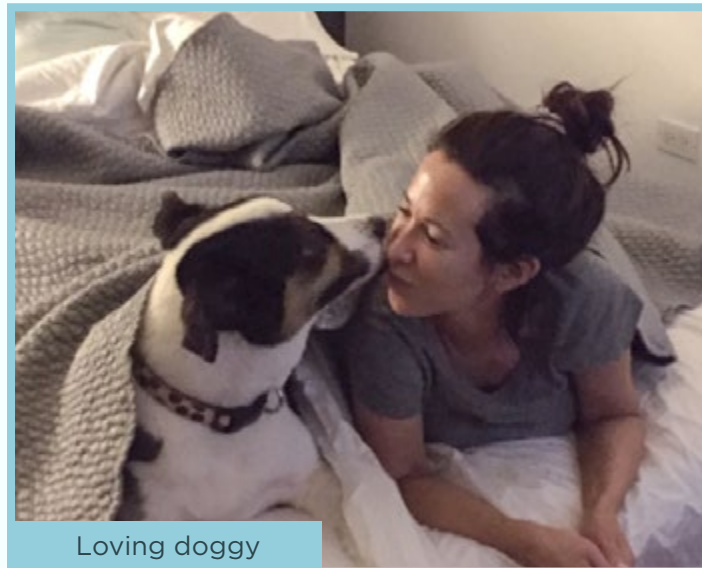
Mica would be the best role model for a child. She's empathetic, supportive, extremely smart, and is also the most fun person to be around!

## Mica Loves...

- Organizing get-togethers for family and friends, like birthday parties, bbqs, and picnics
- Sports (cheering for her favorite teams)
- Beach days
- Summer weekends away at the lake
- Planning or joining events for those in need
- Going all out for every holiday (Halloween to 4th of July)
- Spending time and swimming with our dog, Maddy



Mica and friends on a girl's trip



Loving doggy



Reading books with our niece



Rooting for Mica's college team



Dressing up the pup for Christmas fun



Visiting friends in Colorado

# About Nick by Mica

Nick is an extremely motivated, hard worker. He was the first in his family to graduate college - and did so with high honors (Magna Cum Laude). He grew up the middle child of three brothers. He had respect at a young age for how hard his parents worked to give him a great life. His mother worked during the day, his father at night, and together they shared the responsibility of taking care of the home and the family.

If you walk down the street with Nick, you'll be struck by the fact that he knows everyone in the neighborhood by name. From the landscapers to the waiters to the moms with strollers and the teenagers on bikes, Nick is warm, friendly, and genuinely cares how they are doing. He truly has a heart of gold.

Everyone comments on how he's the apple of our four-year-old niece's eye. I know that 'Uncle Neeko' equally adores her, and some of his favorite moments have been teaching her how to swim, read her books, and even play golf. I know he looks forward to doing the same with a child who joins our family.

Nick Loves...

- Hockey. He was recruited to play professionally, and still enjoys playing in a rec league.
- Golfing. In fact, he's the Director of Marketing for a golf company!
- Running in the parks by our house with our dog, Maddy
- Cooking great food on the bbq grill
- Skiing
- Road trips



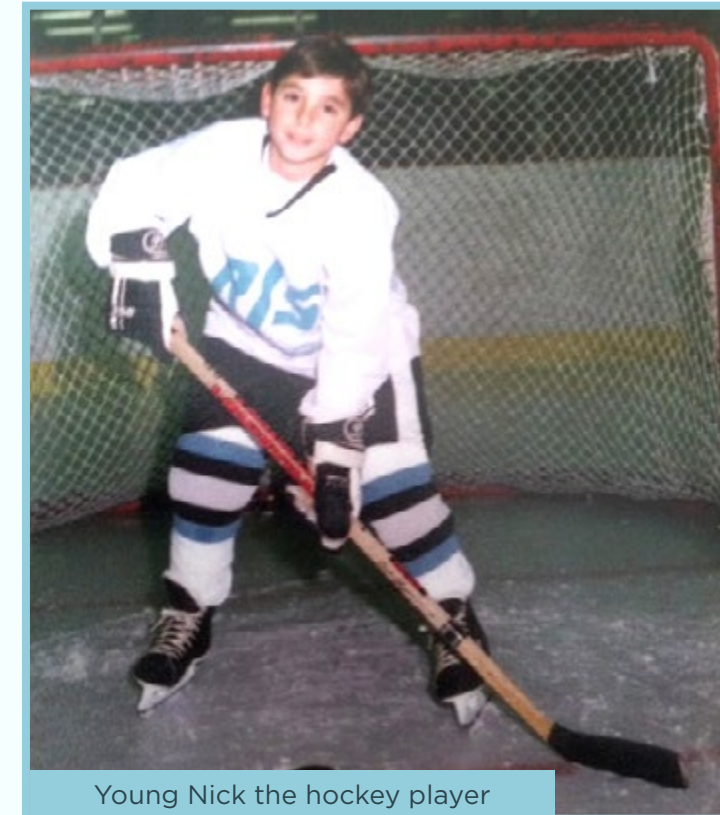
Bowling with our niece



Our niece rooting Nick on at hockey game



Nick working at a Chicago Cubs game



Young Nick the hockey player



Golf trip with buddies in Michigan

# Our Home and Community

We live in a nice area of Chicago with a cute riverwalk, lots of parks and playgrounds, and outdoor restaurants and bakeries. In the summer, our neighborhood really comes alive with kid's movies, concerts, and movement classes in the park every weekend. We live in a subdivision which has homes built around two fun courtyards where all the children play together, ride their bikes and scooters, do chalk art and much more.

We are so proud to call Chicago our hometown. It can be a small, friendly city when you want it to be (our neighborhood feels like a little town or community!), but when you want to experience all a bigger city has to offer, you have it right there! Chicago has so much energy, diversity (26 different ethnic groups have more than 50,000 people), art museums, Broadway shows, exciting sports teams and loyal fans, and socially-minded residents who are passionate about causes and protecting those in need. It is a great place for a child to get well-rounded, cultural, worldly exposure, while still having a close-knit, small town, friendly sensibility. Where we live feels like the best of two worlds!

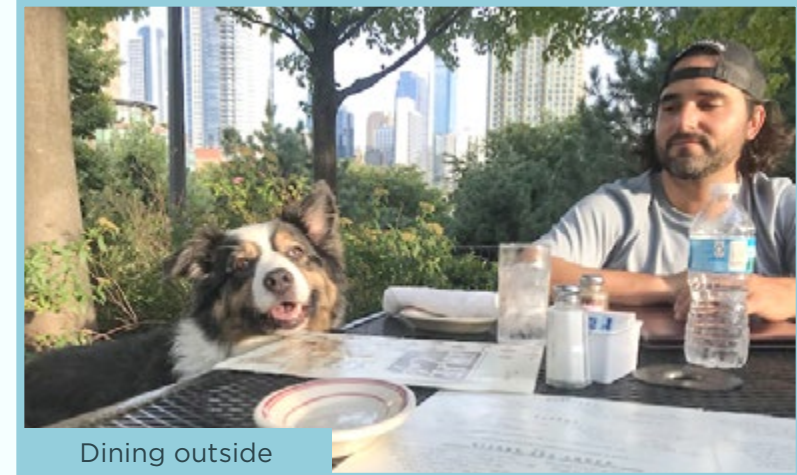
We cannot wait to take a child to the children's museum, Lincoln park zoo, baseball game, or to join in all that our neighborhood parks have to offer like a movie, concert or picnic!



Family street fest



Seeing a show with friends and family



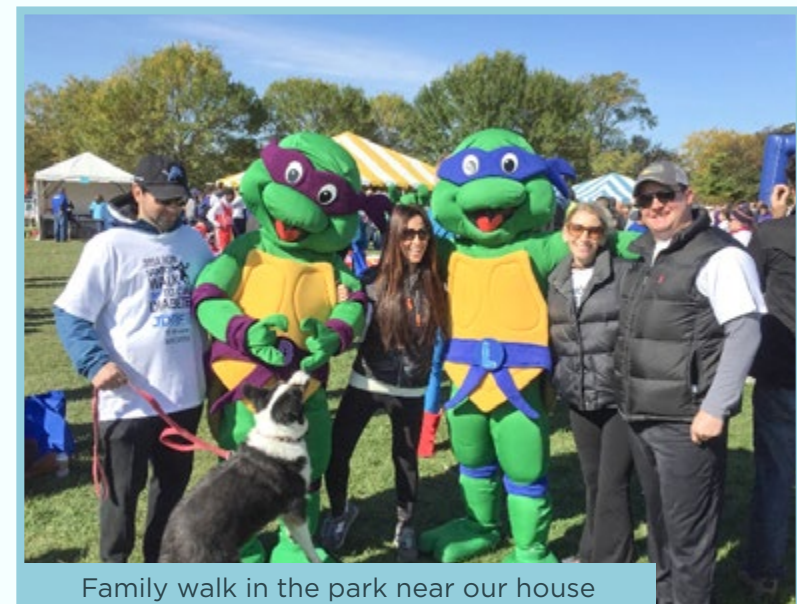
Dining outside



The courtyard in front of our house



Playground down the street from our home



Family walk in the park near our house

# Our Family

We are so fortunate to have the most loving, supportive, fun and easy going family.

Mica's sister, brother-in-law, and two nieces live only 10 minutes away, and they are a huge part of our lives. When we're all getting ice cream, home making pancakes together, or playing in the park - we think about the love and fulfillment a child would have in our family. Mica's parents are close by (Wisconsin), so we see them every two weeks. Every summer, we all spend a week at a lake house with a pool, and then another week at a kid's water park and mini golf resort.

Nick's parents and brothers are in sunny Florida. We make regular trips to visit everyone in Florida, where we drive golf carts around their community, go to the beach and pool, and play lots of board games and cards.

We also have what we call "family" - which is an amazing circle of friends who see often. All of our friends have young kids (or babies on the way), and we are frequently planning fun get-togethers with the families. We think it would be very meaningful and memorable for a child to grow up with all of their 'bonus cousins' from the family.

There is a big, loving group of family and friends that cannot wait to welcome another family member!



At the lake with our family



Friends and family together at a 5k walk



Watching football at parent's home



Summer weekend away with our family



With friends at a baseball game



Lunch and bowling with our cousins



Friends & family at a picnic in the park

# Traditions

With each season comes new traditions as a family, and we cannot wait to share these special moments with a child. Some of our favorites include:

**Summer:** A highlight of summer is the 4th of July, spent at our friend's lake home where we take part in a competitive flotilla (that includes decorating the boat and dressing up ourselves!). We have won once, and received honorable mentions twice. Summer also means trips with our family to a lake house in Michigan, and waterpark resort in Wisconsin. Back in Chicago, summertime is baseball games, picnics, movies in the park, and much more!

**Fall:** Halloween is a favorite because we love to dress up. We go to the park where all the kids and dogs dress up. Thanksgiving is always spent in Wisconsin with Mica's family, where we go bowling, cook dinner, and play games. It's also football season! We are big college and NFL fans, and every year, we load up the car with family and friends and go to games.

**Winter:** After we organize our gift donation and wrap party for families in need, we head to Florida for Christmas where all the families play in the pool and visit the turtle farm!

**Spring** is our annual Cinco de Derby party - where we celebrate both Cinco de Mayo and the Kentucky Derby. Parents and kids dress up for either holiday (sometimes both), and there are pinatas, horse balloons, and lots of excitement.



Annual holiday gift donation for families in need



Cooking for a BBQ with friends



Mica and our niece at the beach



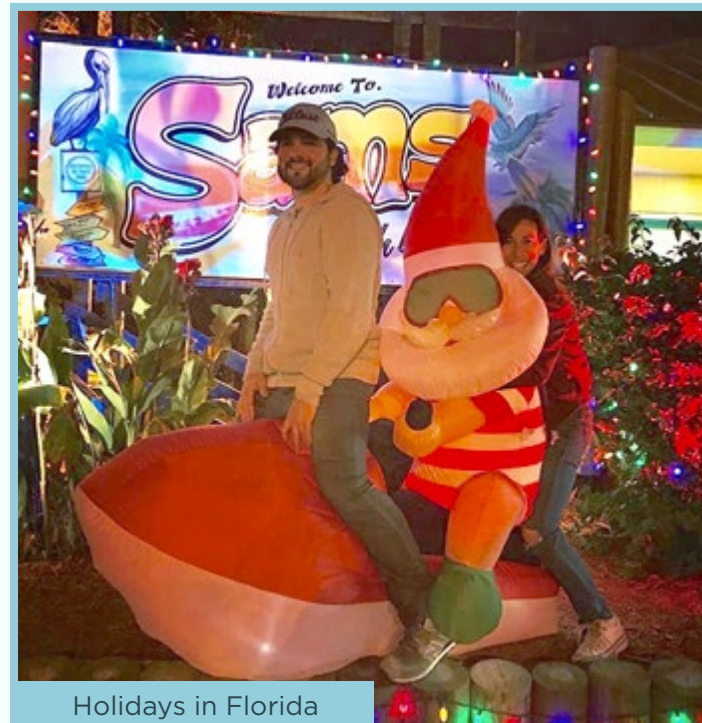
With friends on their family boat



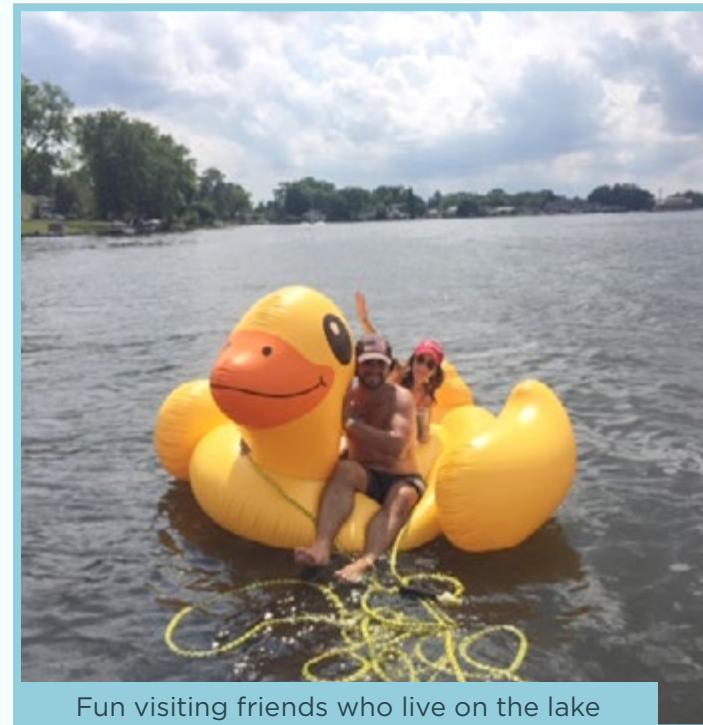
Mom, sister and niece on our summer trip



Holiday-time football game with friends



Holidays in Florida



Fun visiting friends who live on the lake



# Thank You

Thank you so much for looking at this book to learn more about us as hopeful adoptive parents. We know you also have many things that are meaningful to you and make you who you are, and these things will forever be part of the child you bring into this world.

Thank you for considering us for this honor. We feel deep in our souls that we would give a baby a happy, healthy, and extraordinary life filled with love, unconditional support, a great education, strong role models, an adoring extended family, and much more.

We vow that our focus and inspiration, and every corresponding decision, will be all about the child's happiness, growth, and development. Regardless of the level of openness that you choose, we will always tell them the beautiful story of their birth mother, and how she had great dreams for their future and a heart full of selfless love.

