

Lia, Michael, & Willy



Welcome. It's so nice to introduce ourselves.

Our Letters to You

Our story shared

Our life journey thus far

All about us

Our Family

How we live

Facts about us

Dear Birth Parent(s),

Hello, I'm Lía. Thank you for choosing our book and considering us as your baby's adoptive parents. I hope you find in our book the ideal family you imagine you could give to your baby if your situation was different. Even though we have not met, I have so much admiration for your strength and courage during your journey. I cannot imagine the feelings you have, or will experience, in your decision to plan an adoption for your baby. I offer my sincere support during this time. Michael and I had adoption in our hearts before meeting each other.

My plan had always been to adopt a toddler by the time I was forty years old, whether I was single or married. For many years, I did not feel that urge to have a baby until I met my husband, Michael. I always feared having such a huge responsibility of taking care of a baby and not having the right partner to lean on during such a beautiful yet difficult journey. Having Michael in my life has made me want a nuclear family with that beautiful little newborn more than ever. Michael is such a patient and kind soul that I know having him on my team will make this new phase of our lives go smoothly.

Michael and I have been married for over three years. We met in July of 2017. Michael proposed a year later, almost exactly to the day we met. We married a year later in the summer of 2019. I would've preferred an autumn wedding in October of 2018 but Michael wanted a summer wedding. This was his first lesson to me, teaching me patience, so I waited until the following summer to marry him. These past five years as a couple have been wonderful. We started living together in January of 2018. Living together will either grow or end your relationship. Our relationship flourished as I got to know what a sweet man Michael is. Any child would be so lucky to have Michael as a father and we are looking forward to that opportunity.

One thing Michael and I enjoy doing a lot is lounging on the couch watching one of our shows or a movie. We usually do this in the evenings before bed on the weekdays and sometimes during the afternoons on a weekend. We have a little eight-pound Yorkie, Willy, who also loves to snuggle with us on the couch. We can't wait to do this with baby!

One of my hobbies is swimming. I love to swim! My favorite Disney Princess movie is, of course, the Little Mermaid. I will teach baby to swim at a very young age. There are classes at our fitness center for babies as young as six months. I have always dreamed of being that parent holding their little one in the water. Teaching them not to be afraid of it.

I learned to swim at a young age. One of the first memories I have of us on a family trip was at a pool in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico. I was four years old and remember being a little afraid of the water but it was my dad who made me feel safe. He stayed by my side while I treaded water in a float donut. He then took the donut away and showed me how to float on my own. Which I was able to do fairly quickly and since then loved the water! My mother signed me up for swim classes that same year. I learned all the swim strokes along with my older brother and cousin.

It was also in this vacation where I remember been forced to eat shrimp cocktail by my paternal grandfather. I was a picky eater and did not want to try it but he eventually stuffed a shrimp in my mouth. I loved it! I ended up finishing all the shrimp cocktail by myself!

My mother always emphasized in me the importance of a good education. I have a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. I worked as a manager for fifteen years for a Public Accounting firm in audit and financial services. Recently in October of 2021 I decided to take some time off work, a mini sabbatical of almost four months. I was working long hours and on weekends. I did three rounds of IVF in 2021 which really drained me physically and emotionally. Michael was extremely supportive of me taking time off. The break gave me time to recharge and reevaluate my career and personal life. I started my new job at the end of January of 2022 as a Senior Accountant in a Hospital fifteen minutes away from our home. I can work from home and currently required to go in once a month to the office. This job has given me more flexibility to concentrate on my physical and mental health and spend more time with Michael and my family.

I was baptized and raised Catholic. My parents were not too religious, so it did not stick too much with me. As I got older, I felt more drawn to Buddhism. It is a very honest and kind religion. I do not fully follow a set religion but a mix of Catholicism and Buddhism. I consider myself a spiritual person. We do plan on a Catholic baptism for baby.

I promise that your baby will be loved and cherished, nurtured and guided throughout our lives together. Baby will be bilingual! I am Mexican and fluent in Spanish. Baby will be taken care of during the day by my mom when I go back to work. She lives less than a mile from us in the same neighborhood. I plan to be off work for at least three to six months. Baby will call her Abuela which means Grandma in Spanish. Abuela will read and sing to baby in Spanish just like she did with me. I will also read and sing to baby, but it is my mom who has a beautiful singing voice.

We are open to keeping ongoing communication throughout the life of your baby. Whether it is sending pictures and letters through the agency or direct texts or emails with you. Whichever the three parties, child, birth parents, and adoptive parents, feel more comfortable with as we get to know each other and our relationship grows.

Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to tell you about our future dreams. It is important for us to be open with your baby about their roots, background and story, and especially to honor the importance of you, their birth mother, in their life. Thank you for taking your time and viewing our book.

Lia

Dear Birth Parent(s),

Hello, I'm Michael, thank you for providing me the opportunity to share my thoughts and our story on family with you. We appreciate the courage and strength it takes to make an adoption plan.

I'm not sure where to start, I think the meeting of my wife, Lia, would be a good point. I was a bachelor for many years, and pretty happy with it. However as I got older, the allure of the bachelor life started to fade, and I of course knew I did not want that lifestyle forever. I wanted a wife and family, I always did. It wasn't until the panic, or maybe should I say urgency set in, that I decided to pursue this desire with a bit more meaning. That urgency and meaning did bring me to the meeting of my loving wife Lia. It was neat, and fun, and great, although I did get in trouble sometimes. We met on a dating app, however we only lived less than a mile apart. We clicked right away, and realized even though we had some differences, we shared many of the same views. We both wanted marriage, and family. We were both good people who cared for our family and friends. We wanted to and still are pursuing making the world a better place for us, the people around us, and for the good of all people we can help.

Two years later, we were married, and looking to start our family. We are currently married for 3 years and have been together for 5. We had always talked about adoption. Lia had been wanting to for the past few years prior to meeting me. However, we wanted to try for awhile, which we did. Then we went onto a few rounds of IVF. Unfortunately nothing has been successful for us since starting. So we then both started prioritizing something we knew we both wanted to do which was adopt. We joined our local agency, and we have been learning and connecting since.

Our family and friends are greatly supportive. We know they will help us as much as they can. They are all mostly close by. My mom lives a block away, Lia's mom lives less than a mile away. Our sisters and brothers and most friends all live within a few miles. We have a great group of people to help support us. Lia's plan is to take off work for 3-6 months maybe more to take care of baby. Her mother would be helping as well, and if Lia does intend to go back to work her mother would take a larger role in child-care. Both Lia and I have the option to work from home as desired, which will surely help.

Lia and I come from different backgrounds, and have now come together. We have many things we enjoy and want to share with a child. Growing up I always enjoyed activities with my dad. From building Legos to models, setting up model railroads, learning about space and the sciences, or learning about sports and watching our favorite local teams together.

His model trains became mine of course, mostly. As I got older the models got bigger and eventually turned into cars, the science was focused in school to a degree he was proud I achieved. My mother was the caregiver and teacher. Maybe not as much fun, but always kept me focused, knew who my friends were, participated in school events. Also helped me in pursuing that degree which she is so proud of as well. It's for all those great things I have from my parents that I am so excited to pass down, in my own way.

Lia and I are both established in our careers. I have an architecture degree and have been working in the construction management field for almost 20 years building many new exciting buildings. I've developed stability and flexibility in my career to provide for our family financially and with time available to parent. We have a nice room as a nursery at our house, and we plan to build a new house together in the same area in several years for additional growth. Again we are very close, walking distance to both of our mothers' houses as well.

We are both very open in our views on religion, I am mostly a believer in science and less on traditional religious beliefs. I have worked for a faith based organization and I realize the importance of diversity in upbringing to allow the child to make their own decision with knowledge. The openness and information in an appropriate delivery is how we feel the child can understand the most and make their best decisions, still with our guidance.

It is that same view on openness that we have now learned can be very helpful for a child in adoption. They would always know that they were adopted, even before they could remember. Knowing as much as they can about their birth mother we feel would be great. We are very flexible on communication and would want it to be appropriate. Regular updates through the agency would be set up as preferred. Being an out of state adoption we do feel in person visits would be limited and a teleconference type visit more accommodating. As we are new to this process, the note of flexibility is greatly emphasized. We want the best situation for all three groups in the adoption; child, birth parents, adoptive parents.

It's very difficult to convey who we are in just a few pages. I hope we have been able to give you some idea without completely boring you. So if you are still with us, Thank You. We also thank and appreciate your process, courage, and planning in working with ANB and potentially us in your journey.

Michael

How we met & dating

We met through an online dating site in July of 2017. Michael messaged Lia on a Sunday morning and suggested to meet up since we lived close by. Shortly thereafter our first date occurred as a meeting and walk at a neighborhood park that same morning. It was love at first sight for each of us! Well not exactly, but we did form a connection even on the first date and knew each had great qualities that we were both searching for. Little did we know that being close by on a dating app was actually more as we were basically neighbors who had never met. Our first time meeting was a connection that started a love that will grow and last.



San Francisco February 2018



Our Wedding



We were married on June 29, 2019 in a small Chapel in Naperville, Illinois. We had only thirty-five guests. We invited only our closest family and friends.

From front Left: Michael's mom, Us, Lia's Grandma & mother, Julian Lia's nephew, Carly & Everly Michael's nieces-in-law, George Michael's nephew, Lori & Cheryl Michael's sisters, Yanitza Lia's sis-in-law, Edgar Lia's brother, behind Edgar Debbie Michael's sister. The rest are extended family and friends.



We did the traditional Catholic Mexican lazo after saying our vows, symbolizing our ever lasting union.

Stuff since marriage



Chicago White Sox game July 2019

Lia's Birthday 2019 Downtown Chicago



John Hancock Observatory



Honeymoon July 2019 Bahamas



In front of the Art Institute of Chicago

All About Lia

Lia is a wonderful person, and the love of my life, which continues to grow and enrich year after year. I only wish we had met sooner. She balances me in many ways as I balance her, and we are a great team together. Lia has a diverse background. She was born in Mexico City and raised there until she was 7 years old. She travels back often and so much of who she is comes from her roots and family in Mexico City. Her father loved the United States and insisted it was better for the family. When Lia was 7, the family came to the United States to live with family in the Chicago suburb of Woodridge, 25 miles west of the city. Lia grew up in Woodridge, and learned many new things about her new country so fast. Lia grew up with her mother, father, and brother, as well as many cousins and relatives around. Eventually her parents settled and bought a house to raise that family just a block from where I was raised. Lia enjoyed school, and loves learning. She graduated from high school and pursued a degree in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has worked professionally in the accounting field for many years. Lia's love is her family, and spending time with them. She adores her nephew Julian, and has been heavily engaged in his life. She will miss him as he goes off to college. Although Lia and I both love spending time together at home, Lia has a love for travel. That love has rubbed off on me and we as partners have taken some fun trips. Lia is wanting many more. Lia loves to go out and eat and sometimes dance. She loves movies, she loves family. Lia like I, is excited about our life ahead.



All About Lia



Mexico City 2022

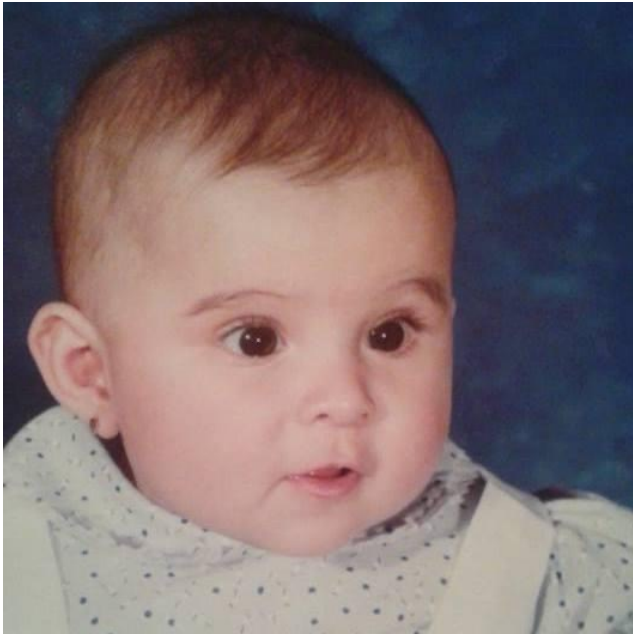


Hollywood Wax Museum 2022



Pikes Peak 2020

Little Lia



Baby Lia at six months



From Left: Luis cousin, Lia and Edgar brother



From Left: Edgar brother, Lia and Karina cousin

All About Michael

Michael is the sweetest man I have ever met. One of the many reasons I married him. He always makes me laugh even when he is not trying. He is kind and caring. He is a family man. He is very close to his mother and three sisters. He was also extremely close to his father who passed away in 2007. Michael was born in Hinsdale, Illinois. He grew up in Woodridge, IL, where we currently live. He is the baby of four siblings. He has three older sisters, Debbie, Lori and Cheryl. Even though Michael has three sisters he basically grew up as an only child. His oldest sister is twenty years older and youngest is thirteen years older. Michael's favorite hobby are cars. He loves cars and hopes to have a collection of them in the future. His first car was a '91 Mustang which was originally his father's and still owns. He loves to work with his hands and is a pretty good handyman but at times gets distracted easily and his home projects can tend to drag on. He graduated in 2002 from the University of Illinois in Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture. He has almost twenty years of experience in his field. He currently works as a Project Manager at a Hospital in the Construction department and has been there since 2018.



Just relaxing on the couch with our little guy, Willy.

All About Michael

Pike's Peak Colorado

Summer 2020

We drove from Illinois to Colorado, 18 hours.

Michael loves driving so he is a great road trip partner. I did not do any driving at all!



Cantigny Park near where we live

Summer 2022



A Mexican Breakfast

Tamales in Mexico City

One of Michael's favs, May 2022

Young Michael



Baby Michael at six months



With mom



Mom, Dad & Me



Father & Son

Lia's Family



From Left: dad Edgardo, brother Edgar, mom Esther and Lia



From Left: nephew Julian, sis-in-law Yanitza, brother Edgar at my dad's memorial tree. My dad passed away in January of 2018 at the age of 65



From Top Left: Maternal Grandma Rosa, sis-in-law Yanitza, brother Edgar, cousin Karina (she is like a sister), Lia, nephew 's Max and Lucas (Karina's sons) and mom Esther

Michael's Family



From Left: sister Debbie, mom Jeri, Michael, Lia, sisters Cheryl and Lori



From Left: sisters Debbie & Cheryl, Michael



Michael & Sisters

Our family—Willy!



Willy is our fur-baby. We got him in December of 2020. He turned two years old in October 2022. He is a Yorkshire Terrier mini. He weighs 8.5 lbs, you might not think this but he is overweight by a 1.5 lb! He loves to eat and loves to go on walks. His favorite thing to do is nibble on Michael's toes and fingers. He is a very sweet boy and Lia has trained him well. He has earned three certificates in Puppy Training, Intermediate Training and Advanced Training through PetsMart!

Family Traditions



From Left: Julian nephew, Edgar brother and Lia

Every January 6th we cut La Rosca the Reyes (sweet bread shape as a crown on Three Kings Day). Whoever gets baby Jesus symbolic of a godparent and must host a tamalada (feast of tamales) on February 2nd.



Esther Lia's Mom



Ofrenda de Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead Offering). On the night of November 1st we offer pan de muerto (bread of the dead) and water to welcome the spirits of family members who have passed away.

Our Home



Future Nursery



Walking Distance from Us!



Grandma's House



Abuela's House



Elementary School

There are Playgrounds on
either side of the school



Library



Basketball & Tennis Courts

Fast Facts Lia

Favorites

Number: 13

Food: Mariscos (Mexican Seafood), specifically Langostinos (Prawns), Funnel Cake

Color: Pink, Yellow as a kid

Movies: The Crow, Looks Who's Talking, most horror films, Law & Order SVU (TV show)

Activities: Relaxing with Michael and Willy, Riding Roller Coasters, going to the movies, eating mariscos, swimming, walks, visiting with my family

Interests: Meditation, hiking, training Willy, traveling, exploring the city, finding a good restaurant, music

People: Julian, nephew, Michael and mother

Goals: Becoming a wiser and better person as the years go on, growing our family, building our forever home



Traits

Height: 5'1"

Weight: 140 lbs

Hair Color: Dark Brown

Eye Color: Brown

Education: Bachelor of Science in Accounting

Julian's 17th Birthday, Spring 2022



Fast Facts Michael

Favorites

Number	5
Color	Blue as a kid, now black
Food	Pasta, pizza, Mexican, ice cream
People	My wife, mom, and 2 long term friends
Movies	The Fugitive, the Dark Knight, most 80's Arnold movies
Activity	Relaxing at home watching a movie with Lia. Spending time with family and friends.
Interests	Projects, building things, learning, being outside, traveling with Lia.
Stuff	Cars, models as a kid, tools
Goals	Continue providing our great relationship together as we grow older. Building a family together. Build our forever home.

Traits

Height:	5'6"
Weight	150
Hair color:	Brown
Eye Color:	Hazel
Education:	Bachelor of Arts in Architecture



Thanks for spending some time getting to know us!

