



DANA *and*  
CASEY



# HELLO!

*it's so nice to meet you!*

Thank you for taking the time to look at our profile book! We have done our best to give you a peek into our story and life, but we do understand that we can't possibly express everything about us in a small book. As you can see we are not the "typical" family and that is ok with us. What we hope you will take away from this is that we are a unique, fun, adventure-loving family.

We believe everything happens for a reason. Adoption has always been something we wanted to do, even as children. We both would talk to our parents about adopting when we got older. After trying unsuccessfully to conceive through fertility treatments, we know that we are meant to build our family through adoption. We are very fortunate to have friends who have adopted and they've showed us through sharing their lives with us that adoption is a very special way to create a family filled with unconditional love and support.

Thank you for being brave enough to consider adoption for your baby. We know that this may not be your ideal story, but we honor you for making the tough choices. We hope to provide the love and support you need to make this process as smooth and easy as possible for you and your baby, no matter what decision you make.

**CASEY AND DANA**

# OUR *Story*

Our story is very unique. We met our first year teaching because we both got hired by the same school. We became fast friends and spent a lot of time together going on trips, having adventures around Charleston, and creating our tribe of friends. Early in our friendship Dana's Dad got very sick and passed away. This was one of the events that brought our friendship even closer together. We continued to grow our friendship over the next 9 years. Eventually we realized the love we had for each other was more than friendship. The next 4 years were very tough; Dana's Mom was diagnosed with lung cancer and went through chemo and radiation at the same time Casey's Dad was suffering with prostate cancer. We kept our relationship a secret for years while taking care of Dana's Mom.

**Eventually, we decided to live our life out and committed to each other.**



This changed our lives and with the love and support of our friends and family we decided to devote to each other. Casey planned an elaborate engagement day that ended with a proposal on the beach and then a gathering with our closest friends.

We had the best time planning our wedding unfortunately, Casey's Grandmother and Dad passed before we got married. **Our wedding was the most magical day of our lives.** It was such an honor to have so many people celebrate our love. We spent the night on the dance floor and made so many cherished memories. One memory that we think back to is when we performed a surprise choreographed dance to Beyoncé's "Who Run the World".

The past 3 years of our marriage have been filled with some of our best times as a family but also our hardest. We have traveled, bought our house, added our puppy to our family and celebrated and hosted holidays with our friends and family. We also lost Dana's Mom and Casey's Grandfather. Through all of the joys and sadness we have been able to support and encourage each other and we could not imagine life without each other.



## MEET CASEY

I grew up as an only child in a very small town in Upstate South Carolina. I have fantastic memories of hanging out with my friends in the woods growing up. I got into sports very early in my life and played basketball, volleyball, softball, and tennis all through my childhood. I moved to Charleston after graduating college with my teaching degree. During the first few years of my teaching career, I began to work on my graduate degree in Math and Science and finished it in 2012. I stayed active by playing softball and working out. In 2014 I became a personal trainer and worked with clients on the side. I now work

with the Parks and Rec helping to facilitate races throughout the Lowcountry. I play disc golf frequently and I am on the Board for our local club. I am finishing up my 14th year teaching and I love every second of it. My main focus with my students is building a positive relationship with them. I have found that having a relationship will allow them to work harder and learn more. **From a young age I knew I would love to work with children as well as have my own.** I am looking forward to loving and building a relationship with our child.

*as told by Dana*

Casey is the kindest, most giving, and patient person I have ever met. She is the type of person you can always count on no matter what. She is always thinking of others, and puts everyone's needs before her own. She gives every day to her students, friends and family, and still has energy to play outside with our dog. She is funny, easy going, and really connects with people. Everyone that meets her loves her. She makes life fun and full of adventure. Casey is also a great cook and fur mom to our three pets. Seeing her interact and connect with her students and our friends' children makes me excited to see her become a mom.

## MEET DANA

I grew up on the Jersey Shore and moved to South Carolina when I was 16. I had a wonderful childhood and have fond memories of going to the beach, Six Flags and playing in our pool with my friends and my siblings. I am the youngest of 3, my brother is 14 years older and my sister is 9 years older. Even though we only got to see each other on the weekends and holidays, because they lived with their mom, I cherish the time we got to spend together. I have 3 nephews, 1 niece and a new baby grandniece. Growing up I was interested in everything and I tried it all. I finally found my passion when I started working with children. I knew I wanted to be a teacher and earned a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and earned my Masters in Literacy while teaching Kindergarten. I have been teaching for 14 years. During this time I have also earned my Yoga and Children's Yoga teacher certification. I always want to grow and learn all I can to positively impact my students' lives. In my free time I like to decorate, craft, garden, support my students' athletic teams, and spend time with our pets, friends, and family. **I love living the life Casey and I have built for ourselves and cannot wait to open our home and hearts.**



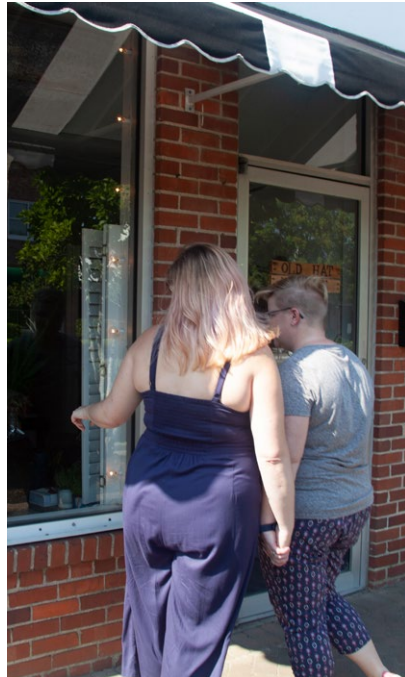
*as told by Casey*

Dana is the most passionate, hardworking, and loving person there is. She loves with all her heart, which is a quality I find so endearing. If someone is in need she will always be right there for them. She loves her students like her own children and will fight for them to make sure they become the best they can be. Dana is an awesome decorator. She has made our home so beautiful, warm, and cozy to live in. Dana is amazing, caring, and adventurous. She makes my life better each and everyday by having her by my side. The way she loves all children is so special to see. It will be amazing to see her as a mom to our child.



# OUR *Community*

We moved to our neighborhood because we were always spending time there at events. Now we are within walking distance to great restaurants, shops, parks, breweries, and schools. We also walk to our neighborhood Christmas and St. Patrick's Day Parade, farmers markets and arts festival. Everyone is very friendly and inclusive of all kinds of families. Last year Casey's mom moved to Charleston and she loves spending time with us. Dana also has some cousins in the area.



# HOME *sweet home*

We live in Charleston, SC. We love our home and neighborhood. Our home was built in 2017 and it has 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a back and front porch. We moved in right after it was built and have already built a tight community with our neighbors. Our street is full of diverse young families and lots of young children.





LOVE IS THE MOST POWERFUL

FORCE IN THE WORLD.

# THINGS *we love*



### **CASEY LOVES:**

- Harry Potter
- Disc Golf
- Musical Theatre
- Tacos
- Cuddling by the fireplace on cold nights

### **DANA LOVES:**

- 90's R&B, rap and hip hop
- When the leaves change color
- The sound of the ocean
- Swimming
- Christmas Lights

# MEET *our pets*

CAPERS, HUNLEY AND GRANGER!

We currently have 3 pets. Dana adopted her cat, **CAPERS**, in 2006 from the ASPCA and Casey's parents found her cat, **HUNLEY**, wandering around their house in the Upstate in 2007. When Hunley would not leave the area and kept messing with their dogs, Casey's mom asked her to take the cat in. For being a wild cat, Hunley is the most easy-going with people! She will let you hold her like a baby and will rub up on anyone who comes to visit. In 2016, our dog **GRANGER LOVEGOOD** came into our life through a friend. They rescued her from an unsafe place and were unable to keep her so we welcomed her into our family.



The cats and dog tolerate each other but usually keep to their parts of the house. All 3 of our pets are very friendly especially Hunley and Granger! Granger wants to kiss everyone she meets and is especially interested in babies and children. **We both had pets growing up and feel that they are an important part of our family.** Our friends also have dogs and we love to plan puppy play dates. We could not imagine life without hearing Capers meowing, Hunley begging for food, and Granger cuddling with us on the couch every night.



# OUR family and friends

We consider our friends our chosen family. We are so lucky to have a groups of supportive, diverse friends. Some of our friends are adoptees and some have also adopted. We are grateful that we have a network of loved ones that understand and encourage us throughout the adoption process. Spending time with our friends and their families is one of our favorite things to do. We host get togethers, go to events, organize group trips to different neighborhood outings, markets, and celebrations. We cannot wait to be able to share the love of our friends with our baby.



## WHAT FRIENDS & FAMILY HAVE TO SAY...

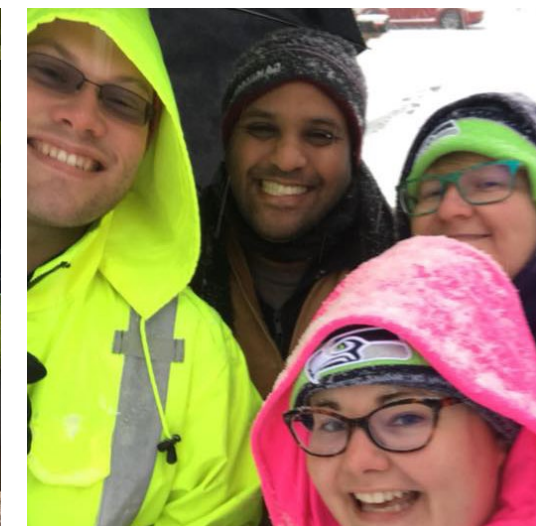
"The child or children who'll be blessed to have them as parents will be met with unyielding affection, attention, guidance and support. And perhaps best of all, they will immediately inherit a close-knit village of adoring, doting family and friends." -**Danita**

"They would be phenomenal parents! Their home would provide a place of love, understanding, empathy, encouragement and belonging." -**Mia**

"Dana and Casey have friends that have adopted children, including myself, and have the knowledge they need to help their child navigate through the sometimes difficult world of adoption." -**Beth**

"Dana and Casey will be wonderful, loving parents. They are strong, responsible, thoughtful, independent, and of good character. They will strive to raise a child (or children) to have those same traits with loving guidance." -**Kathy**

"I can think of no two better people to be parents. As teachers their hearts are already in the process of unconditional love and nurturing. When I think of my wife and I and who we strive to be as parents, we look at Casey and Dana and know God put them as close neighbors for a reason." -**Brad**





# TEN fun facts

1. We love to listen to music and dance in the kitchen while making dinner.
2. Since we have been married we have hosted Thanksgiving for our family and friends who do not have family in the area.
3. We have season tickets to a local theater.
4. Dana was teacher of the year at her school and became one of the top 5 teachers in her district.
5. Every evening we play Question of the Day and Jeopardy with our Alexa.

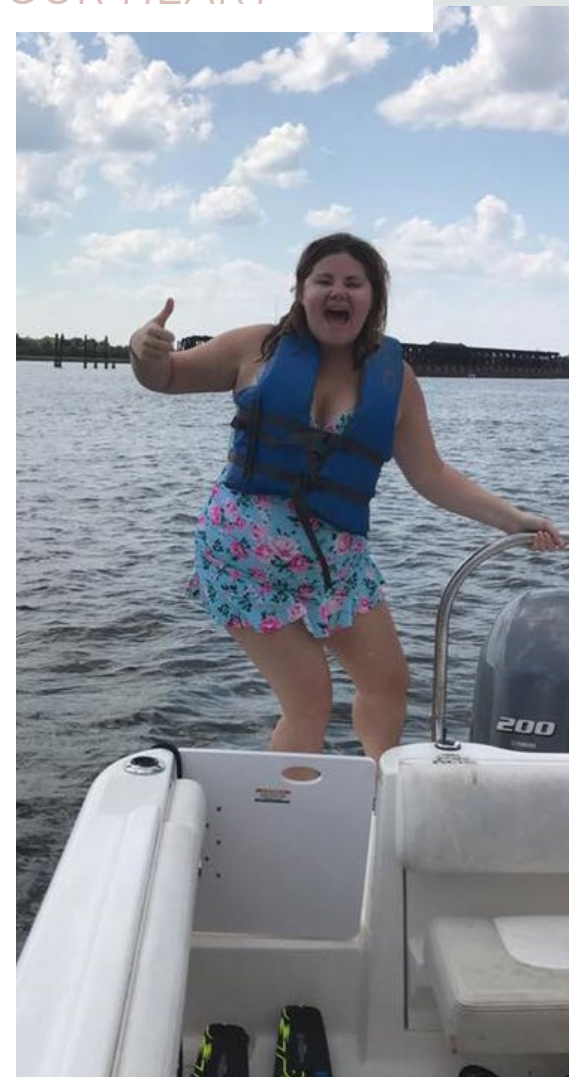
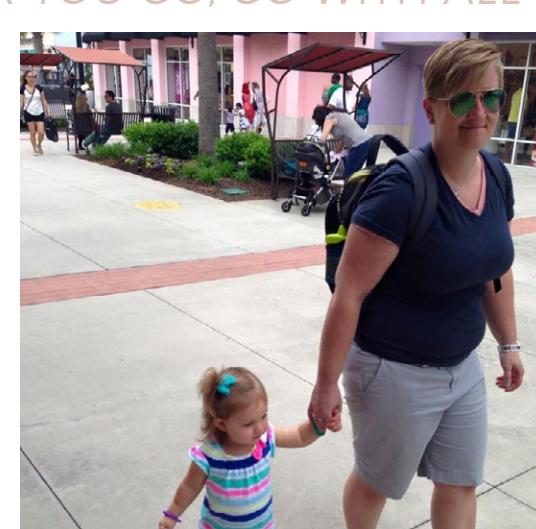


6. Casey was the all-time leading scorer for her high school basketball team.
7. We love to host events at our house for our friends and their families. One of our favorites is our annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party.
8. Every Christmas we take our dog Granger and drive around to look at the lights while listening to Christmas music.
9. We watch a lot of baking and cooking shows.
10. We both have many tattoos. Two of Dana's tattoos are in honor of her parents that have passed. Casey has a Harry Potter sleeve and we both have matching shovel tattoos.

# OUR travels



WHEREVER YOU GO, GO WITH ALL YOUR HEART



Being teachers we are fortunate enough to have summer and holiday breaks to travel. Casey has traveled to many places all over the world. We travel to New Jersey, New York City, and Philly often to visit with family and friends. Since we have been married we have traveled to Mexico, Seattle, Hawaii, New Orleans, Florida and Nashville. Seattle is one of our favorite cities because we are big Seahawks fans and we love the beautiful views. We love taking weekend trips to Atlanta, Asheville, Charlotte, Savannah, and Upstate South Carolina. We also enjoy tent camping and have been to many campsites in South Carolina. Our favorite part of camping is being able to see all of the stars in the night sky. We still have places on our bucket list that we would like to visit and plan on experiencing as much of the world as possible with our baby.

IN THIS *family we...*

TRY NEW THINGS



LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY



CELEBRATE



LAUGH





"WE PROMISE TO FOLLOW THROUGH."

## PROMISES *from us to you*

**If you choose adoption and our two families are brought together, we promise the following things:**

**We promise to raise** this child in a house FULL of love.

**We promise to celebrate** the big and small things in life.

**We promise to model** by example that everyone deserves to be loved, respected, and treated equally.

**We promise to raise** this child in a house with open communication and understanding.

**We promise to provide** every opportunity for this child to grow, learn, and succeed.

**We promise to be open and honest** with this child. We believe it's important to discuss adoption with a child from an early age.

**We promise to follow through** with a relationship with you. We're comfortable with whatever level of openness you'd like to have, whether it be exchanging photos, phone calls, emails, or visits.

**CASEY AND DANA**

BEING A FAMILY MEANS YOU ARE PART OF  
SOMETHING VERY WONDERFUL. IT MEANS YOU WILL  
LOVE AND BE LOVED FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.  
NO MATTER WHAT.

