



Richard and Annalisa



Our Wedding Day



Our Home



Gathering with our Family





HAVING FUN AT HALLOWEEN



Our son, Zander, loves to play

Richard, Annalisa, and Zander

Dear Birthmother,

We truly admire your decision to place your child with an adoptive family, and although we may never begin to know how difficult these times are for you, we realize that it is one of the most selfless and loving decisions a person can ever make. Please know that if you choose us as the adoptive parents of your child, we will provide a home in which she will be loved, safe, and deeply cared for. We will foster her imagination, help her discover the world around her, and teach her to be a good person as others have taught us. We will give your child all the opportunities to explore her interests and achieve her dreams.

This profile is just a snapshot of our lives together from when we first met to when we became first-time parents to our son, Zander whom we adopted from Guatemala. Through this first adoption, we are more than familiar with the responsibilities and joys that come with raising a young child such as yours. We would feel honored and blessed should you choose us to raise your child.

Annalisa's Story

I grew up within a nontraditional family of choice instead of birth. When I was three, my parents separated. Instead of trying to raise me on her own, my mom joined two other women who had three year old daughters and liked the idea of living communally. The two girls became part of the group of friends I have known since pre-school. Though we now live all over the country, we still stay in close contact.

In September of 1983 when I was thirteen, my mom and stepfather became my teachers and took me to Southeast Asia on a four-month trip. I fell in love with Asia and traveling. In 1995, I decided to go back to Asia. Traveling alone for six months and revisiting the places I'd seen at thirteen was wonderful. When I got back and began teaching in a pre-school, I realized that I loved teaching and working with children of all different ages. After getting my Master's in Education, I became a middle school teacher.

In 2002, I was diagnosed with a non-life threatening medical condition. The hardest thing about my condition is that I can't have children. Adopting Zander in 2008 changed my life in so many unexpected and wonderful ways. I look forward to how another child will continue to change my life for the better.

Richard's Story

Though born in California, I grew up in Michigan where my family settled. I had the childhood of small town America, with my parents and my two brothers. I was the oldest. I know from first-hand experience and the joy of having siblings. It is everything that I would wish for Zander and for this child.

Our home had a huge back yard where we played baseball. In the summer our large extended family would come to visit and camp out in our backyard. We would go swimming at the local beach on the lake or take out our boat for water skiing or inner tubing.

After graduating from high school, I joined the Navy and entered the Submarine Service Program. After being in the Navy for six years, I was honorably discharged and decided to go to college. In college, I earned a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Our Story as Told by Richard

In 1996, I was stationed at the base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Annalisa was living in Massachusetts. We both enjoyed dancing and would go to a Portsmouth club called Spin. It was there, on a Saturday night in May, that we met. We started dating though Annalisa had already planned to move to San Francisco in the fall. Within a month, we fell in love. For two years, we maintained a long distance relationship in which almost all our contact was over the phone or through letters.

When I was discharged from the Navy, I moved in with Annalisa. Two years later, in 2000, we were married in the fall. We got married in Annalisa's parents' backyard and friends and family from across the country celebrated with us.

Family, Friends, and Community as Told by Annalisa

The three of us live together in a small diverse community in Massachusetts. We own a home that provides a wonderful place for our family to flourish and grow together. We live on a quiet street and have a big back yard that borders conservation land. Also within walking distance of our house are a great playground and a wonderful library.

In addition to participating in Mom's club (which plans activities almost every day of the week for stay-at home moms), we do a lot of things with Zander. We love to go camping when we can. We also enjoy taking Zander to various playgrounds in the area and a nearby lake. At home, we love to play with Zander and his trucks and firehouse. Zander loves books, and always picks out several for us to read to him. One of our favorite activities is to dance as a family in our living room. In the wintertime we play outside and build snowmen and throw snow into the air. In the summertime we have barbeques in the backyard and play in our kiddie-pool or go to the local Audubon for nature walks.

My parents, who love being grandparents, live near us and are very involved in our family. Every year, we travel to Michigan to visit Richard's family. His parents also love being grandparents and sharing their lives with their grandson. Richard has a large family in Michigan, including his two brothers. We also have a time share on Cape Cod right on the beach. Friends visit us there, and Zander gets all the time he needs to play in the sand and swim in the ocean and the pool.

Thank You

We know that this is a really important and difficult decision for you to give your child up for adoption. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel to the young woman who gave us our son, and we will feel the same for you should you give us another child. You can rest assured that your child will have a wonderful childhood and will lack for nothing. We take parenting very seriously (unless the situation calls for a little levity) and are more than ready for an addition to our family. Thank you so much for taking the time to read about us.