



Hello We Are...



Yara & Jose



# Our Hopes & Dreams

Our family is built on love and faith—values that strengthen our bond through every stage of life.

Since our second date, we have talked about the importance of building a family rooted in faith, love, support, and commitment. As a young couple, we focused on laying a strong foundation for our future, knowing that our hopes and dreams would always center around children and family.

We were teenagers when we began our journey together, milestones like graduating high school were our dreams. As life unfolded, we learned resilience, made real sacrifices, and grew stronger together. Over the years, we have been blessed to grow our family, travel, experience both joy and heartbreak, and most importantly, continue to dream together.

Adoption has always been part of our hearts and our vision for our family. It is a dream that has remained constant since we first met. We have always enjoyed caring for children and have dedicated our time to supporting them through different stages of life.

We have been privileged to mentor, coach, and teach at-risk youth in our community. We also had the opportunity to raise three family members, ages 9 to 16, providing them with love, stability, and a sense of home. Through structure and unwavering support, we helped them graduate high school and move on to college. Today, two of them are married with children of their own.

Since our son, Jaiden, joined us in 2013, parenthood has been a continuous blessing. We often joke that we started parenting in reverse, raising teenagers first. That experience taught us invaluable lessons about commitment, patience, and the many stages of life.

As we move forward in our adoption journey, we promise to offer the same love, dedication, and stability to your child that we have given to all the children in our lives. And for you, the word “peace” resonates deeply in our hearts. Choosing a family to love and nurture your child is a decision filled with strength, and selflessness. We want you to know that you are not alone. We pray for you and your child daily, and we want to learn as much about you and your life story as you are willing to share with us.

Blessings,

*Yara & Jose*

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# Our Values & Beliefs as Parents



**COMPASSION** - Building meaningful connections with others strengthens our shared humanity. It allows people to see us beyond the surface, understanding the values that guide our actions. We are grateful to be part of a strong community, actively participating in food drives and collecting clothing and supplies for those in need. We will teach our children that extending kindness and support to others not only enriches the lives of those in need but also nurtures our own well-being. We will show our children how compassion influences the choices we make, strengthens our moral compass, and builds resilience within our family.



**FAITHFULNESS** - Our dedication to one another provides a foundation of acceptance, devotion, and support, allowing us to navigate both strengths and weaknesses together. Our son has experienced a deep sense of security in the way we approach every situation—with unwavering loyalty to each other. We are committed to instilling this same sense of faith and resilience for all of our children, helping them understand that everything happens for a reason. By holding on to our faith, we find strength in difficult times and remain steadfast in our support for one another.



**LOVE** - Love is at the heart of everything we do, guiding us to focus on what truly matters. It shapes how we care for one another, respect each other's dreams, and navigate life together. Our love for family, our individual passions, and even our daily needs help us understand how to support, uplift, and celebrate each other. Whether rejoicing in each other's achievements or patiently waiting through challenges, love keeps us connected. We believe that self-love is required in order to show love to others.



**JOY** - Joy brings hope and positivity into our lives, shaping the way we approach each day. From the moment we wake up, choosing gratitude—no matter the circumstances—helps set the tone for a brighter day. Joy is a mindset, a conscious decision to see the cup as half full. We strive to create an uplifting and harmonious environment where self-expression is encouraged, and thoughts and emotions can be shared openly and positively. By fostering a positive outlook, we help our children find happiness and contentment within themselves—an inner joy that no one can take away.

**PEACE** - Peace fosters harmony, happiness, and well-being. By practicing cooperation, consideration, and effective communication, we can cultivate peace within ourselves and in our relationships with others. Enjoying nature walks, quiet moments like reading, or actively helping others fills our hearts with peace. Teaching our children to value life and to be active listeners nurtures their ability to resolve conflicts effectively, deepening their understanding of empathy, kindness, and mindfulness. Just as important, we strive to model inner peace in our daily lives, reflecting our beliefs and values.

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# Our Home

Our home is our sanctuary—a place where we feel complete, safe, united, and valued. It is a space filled with love, laughter, and a deep sense of belonging.

We live in a wonderful community that offers an ideal environment for raising children. With multiple parks and playgrounds nearby, kids have endless opportunities to have fun, explore, and build lasting friendships. Our neighborhood also has a community pool, perfect for cooling off on hot summer days. No matter the season, children gather to play—whether it's running through sprinklers in the summer, sledding down snowy hills in the winter, or enjoying nerf battles year-round. These shared experiences create special bonds and cherished memories.

Our large backyard serves as an extension of our home—a peaceful retreat where we listen to birds sing, watch deer pass by, and enjoy the simple joys of outdoor play. We love shooting hoops, playing volleyball, tag, and catch, often inviting neighbors to join in the fun. When family and friends visit, we explore historical sites, visit nearby Smithsonian Museums, and end our days gathered around a fire, roasting marshmallows, sharing stories, and celebrating our culture over delicious home-cooked meals.

Inside, our home radiates warmth and togetherness. The kitchen and dining room are the heart of our gatherings, where we prepare and enjoy meals steeped in Puerto Rican tradition. Depending on the season, our home is filled with music and dancing, bringing joy to every celebration. As the weather warms, we spend more time outdoors, grilling on the patio and sharing meals with friends and family.

Children have always been at the center of our home, bringing joy, curiosity, and hope. We believe in fully integrating them into our daily lives, from displaying photos of loved ones to passing down stories of our ancestors and culture. Since we homeschool, every room in our home serves as a space for learning, playing, and strengthening our bond as a family. We cherish moments spent cuddling on the couch with books, engaging in creative play, and exploring the world together.

Our home is ready to welcome another child with open arms. We have a dedicated playroom filled with toys and games, and their own cozy, personalized room decorated with children's art and comforting furnishings. Grandmom lovingly sews special blankets and garments using traditional techniques, weaving cultural art and colors into each piece, making them as meaningful as they are beautiful.

Late afternoons and evenings are our favorite times of day. After work and school, we come together for meals, share stories, and enjoy quality time—free from electronics—focusing on what truly matters: each other. Whether reading, playing games in the yard or board games, doing puzzles, or enjoying nerf battles, we treasure these moments of connection.

We look forward to the joy, love, and new experiences that another child will bring into our home. Our hearts and home are ready to welcome them with open arms.

## HOBBIES:

**Adoptive Mother:** Teaching, playing sports, reading, traveling, spending quality time with family and friends, lifelong learning, listening to music, reading with our son, going on long walks, volunteering in the community, watching movies as a family

**Adoptive Father:** Coaching and playing sports, writing, fishing, traveling, lifelong learning, reading, history, spending quality time with family and friends, reading with our son, going on long walks, volunteering in the community, watching movies with my family

## PROFESSIONS:

**Adoptive Mother:** Home Educator

**Adoptive Father:** Chief Deputy US Marshal

## EDUCATION LEVEL:

**Adoptive Mother:** Associates Degree

**Adoptive Father:** Master's Degree

## PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

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# Our Family

Family is forever—a bond built on love, support, and shared experiences. We celebrate life's joys together and stand by each other through challenges, always navigating them as a team.

We met more than 30 years ago at a birthday party. Though we had mutual friends, our paths had never crossed before. Our first date was at the movies, and by the end of the night, Jose was already calling to plan a second. I suggested going to church together, and he eagerly agreed—marking the start of our journey together.

Our relationship is rooted in strong values—empathy, faith, and hope. As individuals, we are dedicated to our roles within the family, ensuring consistency, commitment, and accountability. As a couple, we blend our strengths to foster unity and resilience, always working together to build a loving and supportive home. Family, to us, is a lifelong commitment filled with moments of joy and challenges that shape us. Through the years, we have learned to face obstacles together, deepening our bond and strengthening our foundation.

The friendship we built while dating taught us the importance of supporting one another. This same principle carries through our marriage and parenting, creating a home filled with love, laughter, and unwavering support.

We have one son, Jaiden, who is 11 years old. He is beyond excited to become a big brother and is already planning to teach his sibling how to get into “good trouble.” As a family, we love watching movies, listening to music, traveling to new places like Disney World, going on nature walks, cooking together, and trying new restaurants. We look forward to sharing even more adventures—fishing trips, reading together, and exploring new places. Evenings are special for us, as we wind down with family devotion and prayer, strengthening our bond and faith.

One of our favorite traditions is celebrating Christmas at home—watching *The Polar Express*, baking cookies, and enjoying the magic of the season. Every New Year, we welcome fresh beginnings by ringing in the holiday with friends and extended family in a different location. As we prepare to welcome our next child, we look forward to continuing these cherished traditions and creating new ones together.

A special tradition we plan to start for our child is a Memory Box—a collection of meaningful items related to their birthplace, birth family, and adoption journey. Over time, we will add pictures and keepsakes from our family adventures, creating a tangible reminder of their story and how deeply they are loved. We are also excited to celebrate our Family Day Anniversary, a special day each year that marks when our child officially became part of our family.

Our hearts and home are ready for the joy, love, and new experiences that another child will bring. We can't wait to embark on this next chapter together.



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