A Loving Adoptive Family Aaron & Nina

DRADO

Hello!

Thank you for taking the time to read our story and for the privilege of being considered as the family for your precious child. We have one child, Emersyn, who is ten years old, and we cannot wait to add another child to our family!



Aaron: "I look forward to raising another little one. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching Emersyn grow up and being involved in all of his "firsts". I can't wait for middle of the night wake up calls from our baby, teaching them to read, teaching them right from wrong, and watching them grown into a responsible and driven young person. I am most excited to learn about our child, to discover their passions, and support them in every way."

Nina: "What I'm looking forward to most as a parent is everything! When I have time to spend in prayer or just alone with my own thoughts I often dream about the simple things like nighttime routines, the sounds of little feet going up and down the stairs, the happy tired feeling after a busy day of taking the kids to all their after school activities, the challenging parenting moments and seeing them throughout all the stages of their life."

We hope to pass on the tradition of loving God to our children and make sure that they have an understanding of the core principles of being a good Christian. We value the importance of being honest, being a good friend, making good on your commitments, and learning how to make good decisions. It's important for us to make sure that we always keep open lines of communication with our children and talk through the tough things in life so that they will learn how to make good decisions in the future.

We live in Southern California in a two story home that we share with our two Boxers, Rocky and Claire. Our home is in a gated community within a few minutes of a great elementary school and both private and public parks. We are very close to both the beaches and the mountains, so we have plenty of options for weekend getaways. Disneyland, Sea World, Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Idyllwild, and Newport Beach are all within an hour of where we live as well.



Our Story

Nina: "Aaron and I met on a dating app in January 2018. We talked over the chat for about two months before we finally met. I asked him out first! We met at a restaurant and talked for hours. We both knew we had a connection on the first date and continued to see each other every day going forward!



We took a trip to Mammoth Lake for a friend's wedding and really discovered at this time that we were in this relationship for the long haul. The next time we went back, about a year later, is when Aaron decided to propose. We drove up to our favorite trailhead, with Emersyn in tow, and hiked into our favorite spot called "Little Lakes Valley". This is where he asked me to marry him! I was shocked and surprised and so incredibly happy. I would have said yes anywhere, but it was extra special in that spot!

Aaron and I had both been married before so we didn't want to have a big wedding. We also did not want to wait! We were married a week and a half later at the Santa Ana courthouse. We were surrounded by our family and close friends and it was perfect!

The few weeks leading up to our trip to Mammoth we were in the process of closing on a house and the day before our wedding we received the keys! Our first night as a married couple was spent moving (literally) into our new home, and we still live there to this day."



Aaron HIT THE TRAIL

I have a lot of interests and always try to stay busy with extra curriculars and hobbies. I recently started to play hockey after my son started training last year. Watching him play looked so fun and I couldn't resist investing in my own equipment and getting out on the ice! Since then, I started my own hockey team at our local rink and we are enjoying our first season playing together. I also enjoy hunting and fishing. Outside of these hobbies, I enjoy simply



spending time with my family. We enjoy watching movies, swimming in our pool, taking the dogs on walks and to the park, and enjoying family meals together.

I am currently the Director of Vendor Management for a general contractor. I have been in the construction industry for about fifteen years and I really enjoy my work. I make sure to have my priorities aligned, however, so I can take our son to school each day and have time to volunteer as a coach for his hockey team. I also make sure to enjoy quality time with Nina often as well.

grew up in a God-centered home. My parents were active in church and still attend today. My beliefs are a constant presence in my life. They provide a solid foundation to hold me accountable and are a constant reminder for me to do the right thing. I also work hard to remind our son to be a good person and always stand up for what is right. We attend church regularly and incorporate prayer into our daily lives as much as possible.

What Nina says about Aaron:

"Aaron has such and enormous amount of patience and love, and he always makes sure that Emersyn and I have a good time wherever we go. He has endless energy and remains calm, collected, and determined to solve issues when they arise. Aaron is very loving to his family and makes sure to be present in their lives. He believes that a dad's presence in a child's life is so vitally important and he exercises that on a daily basis. Emersyn and I always love to make him laugh, which usually begins when we start to laugh! I love our relationship because we can talk to each other about anything and we always have so much fun together."



Nina

I initially went to college for Graphic Design, but decided my true passion was Interior Design. I think I am in my element the most when I'm able to decorate a room or a space and create an aesthetic other people can enjoy. Decorating for the seasons is one of my favorite things to do! Emerysn always asks me to wait for him so we can do it together. Our favorite holiday is probably a split between Christmas and Halloween.

I've always wanted a really big family. When Aaron and I bought our home, our hope was to fill it will children. We have family and friends over as often possible to fill the house with love and laughter, which is something we both enjoy. I am loyal to my family and would truly go to the ends of the earth for Aaron and Emersyn, or anyone in my family. I believe that is very important for family to stay close.

I currently work as a Client Success Manager for the company I have worked for the past sixteen years. My work is important to me, but my most important role is being a wife to Aaron and a step-mom to Emersyn. They are my first priority.

What Aaron says about Nina:

"Nina is a truly special woman and she has an amazing blend of qualities that make her truly stand out. She is always making our family smile and laugh with her silly nature and witty humor. She leads by example and shows our son the importance of caring for others, being responsible, and doing what makes you happy. Her protective nature is evidence of her strong commitment to the people she cares about and she always ensures that their needs are met. Nina will often put her needs aside to prioritize the needs of her loved ones. She has a nurturing spirit that encircles everyone she cares about, and she has a natural ability to comfort and support those in need. Nina's thoughtfulness is reflected in her attention to detail, whether it's keeping track of our family's schedule or offering encouragement or advice when a family member is struggling. Her loyalty is unmatched. Plus, she is always up for going on a new adventure with me!"



Emersyn

Aaron has one child from a previous marriage named Emersyn. Emersyn is the only child for his mom and dad and splits his time between the two homes. He is really looking forward to a sibling! He asked us the other day, "So, what's going on with our adoption? I've waited for this my whole life!"

He is in 5th grade and an honor roll student. Emersyn is an accomplished hockey player and plays for a junior club team. He is in his first season of the club, but has played three seasons prior to that. He loves it so far and his team won 2nd place recently in his first tournament! Aaron is an assistant coach for the team and shares Emersyn's passion for the sport. It has been a great bonding experience for the two of them.

Emersyn also just started band this year. He's chosen to play the trumpet like his great grandfather and great uncle to carry on the tradition on his mother's side of the family. He's enjoying it very much so far!



Emersyn is passionate and protective over his family. He loves spending time with his parents, and gives out hugs almost hourly. One of my favorite things about Emersyn is his thoughtfulness. He's such a special kid and fills our house with laughter and happiness. He takes a piece of us with him whenever he leaves.

His favorites include: Star Wars, baseball, tech guy, starting businesses, singing karaoke, playing with the dogs, Elvis, hanging out with his dad and Nina, sushi, cooking and baking, and hunting.



Our Pets!

We have two Boxer dogs named Rocky and Claire and one cat named Jeter. Rocky is five years old, Claire is turning three soon, and Jeter is thirteen. They are all such a joy for us to have and are truly a part of our family. They come with us on every vacation if at all possible.



We chose the Boxer breed because of their energy and because they were good dogs for kids. We love their personalities! We rescued Jeter when we found him in a trash can when he was just a kitten. He's such a sweet kitty that enjoys being around people. He's very fluffy and everyone loves to pet him!

Rocky has such a sweet temperament and makes friends anywhere he goes. All of our neighbors love it when Rocky is outside and bring their dogs and kids over to play with him. He is such a sweet boy to have in the family.

Claire is lovingly referred to in the family and "Claire Bear" or "Tanky Girl". She is very attached to Nina and follows her everywhere. Claire is shy around new people but always warms up quickly. She has the best dog kisses and loves to play with all the balls when the boys are outside.

The dogs couldn't have more different personalities, but they are attached at the hip. They sleep together every night and whenever Claire is tired we know because she'll go and lay on top of Rocky wherever he is. If Rocky or Claire could talk we think Claire would just be gabbing all day long asking for head rubs and Rocky would tell us he loves us and asking for treats. They are so much fun and we love to have them in our family!











Family and Friends

Aaron: "My extended family consists of my mother and father and three sisters. My only brother passed away back in 2001. My mom and dad recently moved to West Virginia to live with my older sister and her family. My younger sisters are twins, one lives in San Diego and one lives in Portland. My folks and my sister from Portland usually visit once a year and we also try to visit them once a year. We try and stay connected through texts, emails, letters, and gifts, but due to distance we can't see each other as often as we'd like to."



Cookie decorating with Nina's sister and her children



Good friends!



Aaron, Emersyn and a cousin



Pool day with cousins



Nina and her mom



Christmas with Nina's family





Emersyn with his cousin

Cookies!

Nina: "My parents have been married for forty three years this year! They truly are the bedrock of our family and keep us all close and grounded. I have one older brother named Wesley, and two younger sisters named Julia and Taylor. Each of them has children for a total of seven. I am very close with them and talk to each of them every day. We have a group text and always say good morning and check in on each other. We get together every year for what we call "Stewpalooza". We all usually come to our house and have a fun day eating, laughing, looking at hold pictures, and spending quality time together. My Dad is the story teller of the family and all my nieces and nephews love sitting around listening to him. My Mom is a loving and caring, God fearing woman who puts her full trust in the Lord and ensures that we are too. She's very open about sharing her testimony with us so that we remember "God's always at work".

Thank You!

First of all, we want to say hello and we've been praying for you for a long time. We feel so blessed and grateful that our paths have crossed. We have been together for five years and are excited to grow our family through adoption. Since the beginning, we've always talked about adoption. Our dream is to have a big family with lots of kids.

Life doesn't always work out as planned, but one thing we knew without a doubt was that we wanted to raise children together. We truly love one another very much and feel so blessed to have found each other. We want you to know that we are committed to providing a loving and nurturing home for your baby. We will do everything in our power to make sure that they are happy and healthy and raised to know that they are loved beyond measure. We know that this decision you are making is hard and we want you to know that you are being lifted up in prayer by us constantly.

We don't understand directly what you are going through, but we do know that this decision you have to make is one of the most difficult. You have our support and love throughout. We are beyond excited about the chance of becoming a part of your life as well as welcoming you and your baby into ours. Even if we never meet, please know that you are special to us and will be in our hearts always.

