

# Elana & Daniel



*We Love Hiking*



*Staying Active*



*Our Cats, Rascal & Raggie*

# Thank You



**Our hearts are filled with gratitude** to know you are considering us as potential parents for your child. We understand that this must be a very difficult decision that requires strength and courage, and we appreciate and admire you for it.

We hope our profile will give you **a glimpse into the love, warmth, and joy** that we are ready to share with your child. We are grateful for this opportunity to open our hearts and share our journey with you.

# About Us



*A relaxing weekend afternoon*

**We love hiking.** We hike trails near our home every weekend, take yearly hiking trips to Mammoth Mountain, and try to find local trails whenever we travel, especially if we get to see a beautiful view at the end. Recently, we even went on a six-day hiking trip to the coast of Italy - it was the perfect combination of amazing views and even better food!



*Hiking the coast of Italy*



*Elana and her birthmom, Cindy*

Our decision to adopt was shaped by **Elana's amazing relationship with her own birthmother, Cindy.** Elana was adopted as a baby, and her adoption story is one of love and honesty. Elana never felt like her adoption made her any less a part of the family. In fact, she felt extra-loved, knowing that her parents had gone through great lengths to make her a part of their family, and that her birthmother had made such a difficult sacrifice to give her a life she didn't feel ready to provide.

# Becoming A Couple



It was a spring day in May 2016 when we went on our first date to a small Mexican restaurant in Santa Monica after meeting on the online app Bumble, and **we've been two peas in a pod ever since.**

When we met, Elana was going through a tough time in her life and finishing treatment for cancer. Now, Elana is in remission and totally healthy. Going through that experience together showed us **how strong we can be** during hard times.

We had only been dating for a few weeks when Elana had a chemo appointment. She told Daniel, and he quickly said, "I'll take you, of course!" Elana was surprised that **he was so kind and willing to help** even though they had just met.



Because of Elana's cancer treatment, we are not able to have biological children. However because Elana is an adoptee, we always knew our plan would be to pursue adoption. We know **it is not biology that makes a family, but unconditional love.**

# About Elana

(By Daniel)



**Elana is the most inspiring person I know.** Her ability to help others shows in everything she does. Even though she went through a tough time with cancer, Elana chose to share her story on a blog, hoping it might help others. The blog was read by tens of thousands of people. One day, Elana got an email from a blog reader who lived in London but was visiting our area. The reader was so moved by Elana's story that she wanted to stop by and bring her flowers to say thank you!

Elana **loves adding surprises and adventures to our lives.** One day, I came home and saw her writing French words on note cards. I asked her why she was learning French. With a smile, she revealed her big plan. She had arranged a trip to Europe to meet her birthfather, Rachid, and decided to learn French beforehand!



*Visiting Europe*



*Presenting at a cancer conference*



*Cooking a healthy dinner*



*With our cat Raggie*

Elana has a **special ability to help others see their potential and believe in themselves.** Your child would grow up with a mom who encourages them to dream big and supports them in everything they do.

# About Daniel

(By Elana)

Every day with Daniel is an absolute blast. He's the jokester of the family, and family events usually turn into him cracking jokes, making up song lyrics, and doing impressions that leave us all dying with laughter. His sense of humor is contagious and brings people together. Daniel will definitely be a **fun dad** who is always entertaining (and maybe embarrassing) your child.



*Throwing a surprise party for Elana*

Not only is Daniel funny, but he is also **the most thoughtful guy I know**. When I turned 35, I told him we could just have a small get-together with family to celebrate. I noticed him making a lot of phone calls as the date got closer, but didn't think much of it. When I arrived at the place for our "small dinner," about 40 friends jumped out and yelled, "Surprise!!" He had planned a surprise party for me!



*Jamming on the guitar*



*With our nephew, Teddy*



*Being a jokester*

**Daniel is amazing with kids and animals.** Your child would have a fun playmate in Daniel, who knows how to make everyday moments into exciting adventures

# Our Active Lifestyle

**We love staying active as a family.** Both of us grew up with sports – Elana played water polo, and Daniel played tennis. On a family trip to Hawaii recently, we challenged Elana’s parents to an epic pickleball game. Daniel’s inner competitive tennis player came out and he and Elana’s mom (on the same team) hit some ‘legendary’ shots against Elana and her dad.



*A fun weekend tennis match*



**We enjoy adding physical activity to family vacations.** Last year, we went on a hiking trip to Mammoth with Daniel’s dad, brother, and sister-in-law. At a store before the hike, Daniel insisted on two smaller “BPA free” water bottles, while Elana argued a bigger one made more sense. Later on the hike, a couple recognized Daniel from the store and joked, “You’re the BPA free water guy!”

*A family hiking trip to Mammoth Mountains*

**Daniel never grew out of his love for tennis** and still plays several times a week with his dad (who taught him when he was little!). Daniel even got Elana in on the game. She had never played before, but Daniel was very patient in getting her up to speed, and now the three of us often play together. Your child would be a part of a family that values a love for physical well-being and shared fun.



*Daniel and his favorite tennis coach (his dad!)*

# Our Big, Blended Family

*If you choose us, your child would have 5 grandparents, 4 aunts and uncles and 4 cousins – PLUS a bonus grandma and 3 bonus uncles! How does that math even work out? Daniel's parents are amicably divorced and his father is remarried to an awesome stepmom. Elana is also close with her birthmother and half-brothers.*



*Spending time with family*

**We have big, blended, ride-or-die families.** We are very lucky to have big families who live nearby. Your child will be surrounded by cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents who will celebrate their successes, help in tough times, and always be there for them. They will have a tight-knit group who will love, support and protect them no matter what.

Daniel's brother and his wife just had their first child, Teddy, and **we feel extra grateful to be close by.** For mom's birthday recently, we babysat so the new parents could enjoy a night out. We walked Teddy in his stroller, fed him, and rocked him to sleep. When mom and dad came back from their dinner and saw how soundly he was sleeping, they said we were naturals!



*Babysitting our nephew Teddy*



*Elana & her birthmom and parents on vacation!*

**Elana has a close relationship with her birthmother, Cindy.** They've celebrated holidays together, vacationed together, and Cindy even helped take care of Elana when she was sick with cancer. Last year, we even took a family vacation with Cindy and her three kids to Elana's parents' house in Hawaii!

# Our Family Traditions



We're lucky to have a **family from different parts of the world**, which makes holidays extra fun! This year, we **celebrated both Christmas and Hanukkah**. For Christmas, we went to Daniel's aunt's house and had a traditional dinner with Middle Eastern dishes like kebabs and crispy rice. We come from a Jewish background, but we care more about cultural traditions than strict religious rules.

## *Celebrating Christmas & Hanukkah*

One of our favorite family traditions is Sunday night board games – **and we take our board games VERY seriously**. Last weekend we got into an epic match of Rummikub. After two hours, Daniel's mom was on a winning streak, but then in hour three, Elana broke the streak and emerged as victor!



## *Sunday night board games*

Elana's birthfather is North African (from Morocco), and **her parents made sure to teach her about her cultural roots**. When she visits, they cook North African food, and last year, her mom even threw her a Moroccan-themed birthday! We want your child to connect with their culture too and would celebrate important holidays or cook traditional foods to make that happen.



## *Elana's Moroccan-themed birthday party*

# Meet Rascal & Raggie,

## The Ginger Kitties



We rescued our cats, Rascal and Raggie, as kittens, and **they've been our best buddies ever since**. Elana grew up with pets, but Daniel didn't, so he needed some convincing. Now, he's a **true cat dad**. They follow him around the house, and he even bought them a special chair to sit on next to him when he works.

*Rascal & Raggie as kittens*

Rascal and Raggie are brothers and like typical orange cats — **sweet, loving, and a little bit nuts**. Once before a vacation we left them at a cat hotel, but within minutes, they jumped into the ceiling! Since then, we gave up on keeping them contained and installed a kitty door. Now, they roam the neighborhood by day and cuddle with us at night.



*Daniel with Raggie*



*Elana with Rascal*

Rascal and Raggie are **amazing with people and kids**. Recently one of Elana's friends came over for a BBQ with her four year old son, Noah. Rascal in particular became obsessed with Noah, and kept rubbing against his leg and then rolling on the ground next to him so Noah would pet him.

# Our Home & Neighborhood



*Our home and street*



We live in **sunny Southern California**, in a **quiet beach town steps away from a major city**. We feel like we get the best of both worlds – a safe, suburban environment where children play on the street, but with all of the educational and cultural opportunities of big city living.

The last time we had family visiting from out of town, we hiked in a state park, visited the famous Getty Museum, sat by the beach and went to a big movie premiere in a new IMAX theater – all in one weekend!

A beautiful beach is just a short five minute drive (or fifteen minute walk) away. You can even see a **view of the ocean from our street!** This year we did our annual Father's Day picnic at the beach.



*Surfing the local beach*

*Father's Day picnic*



*Our backyard (and BBQ!)*

We have a beautiful garden in the backyard. In the mornings, we sit outside together sipping coffee, and on the weekends, Daniel loves to use the BBQ to make burgers. Your child would have the best view in the house, with a bedroom overlooking the garden.

# Our Weekdays



Elana runs a **telepsychiatry practice from home**, giving her a flexible, part-time schedule. Her caring nature makes her a great psychiatrist who listens closely to her patients.

Since Elana sets her own hours, she'll be able to **attend appointments and join school activities with your child**. While she loves her job, being a mom will come first.

*Elana at her home telepsychiatry practice*

Daniel is a software developer and started a healthcare company focused on longevity. As his own boss, he **sets his schedule and works from home**, so he always has time for family.

Daniel loves to take breaks during the day to have lunch with Elana and play with the cats. He is excited to be a **steady, caring presence** in your child's life.



*Daniel at his home office*



*Snuggling with the cats at night*

One of our favorite weekday evening routines is **snuggling up with our cats reading** our favorite books. Right now Daniel is reading a biography of Abraham Lincoln, and Elana is reading a novel called "Lessons in Chemistry." Your child would enjoy regular quality time with the family.

# Until We Meet



Thank you so much for getting to know us and considering us as potential parents for your child. **We truly believe adoption can be a beautiful way to join two families**, and we hope to maintain an **open and honest relationship with you**, just as Elana's parents and birthmother have done with her.

Elana's birthmother, Cindy, was at our wedding and gave a toast. She thanked Elana's parents for raising her, and turned to Elana's mom and said, "Thank you for being the mother of my child." Elana's mother stood up, and with tears in her eyes gave Cindy a hug. She said, "Thank you for being the mother of my child."

If you choose us, you will always be an important part of our life, just like Cindy is for us now. Thank you sincerely for considering us, and we hope to start this journey with you.

*Elana & Daniel*