# Dear Birthparent…

# This is our letter to you, from us.

Dear Birthparent,

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We are so excited to share our story with you. We know this is a difficult decision, and we want to assure you that it is our goal to offer a safe and secure environment for your child to grow up in.

STANDING IN FRONT OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW WHERE WE GOT MARRIED IN ICELAND

SITTING WITH DAN'S FAMILY MEMBERS IN OUR BACKYARD

We are very lucky to have come from wonderful backgrounds, with loving and supportive families and friends. We live in a city in which we have a lot of personal connections, including family and friends who have known us our entire lives. Many of our friends now have children, so there are lots of other kids around. We hope you will take the time to read all about us. Thank you so much!

# ERIC:

Daniel and I were introduced in Los Angeles in 2006 by a mutual friend. We went on our first date the very next day, and that's all it took for us to realize our lives would never be the same.

TOGETHER ON A TRIP TO WHISTLER, CANADA

AT THE COURT HOUSE ON NAME CHANGE DAY

In 2008 we moved in together. In 2009, with same-sex marriage in California in a state of limbo, Daniel decided to legally change his last name to mine as a way to express our commitment to each other, and our growing desire to form a cohesive family of our own one day.

In 2010, we decided to move across the country to New York in order to be closer to many members of Daniel's family. We have been lucky enough to establish a wonderful home and watch our careers thrive in the 3 years we have spent here.

BOARDING THE PLANE TO NYC

SITTING ON THE PORCH AT DANIEL'S PARENTS' HOUSE ON THANKSGIVING DAY

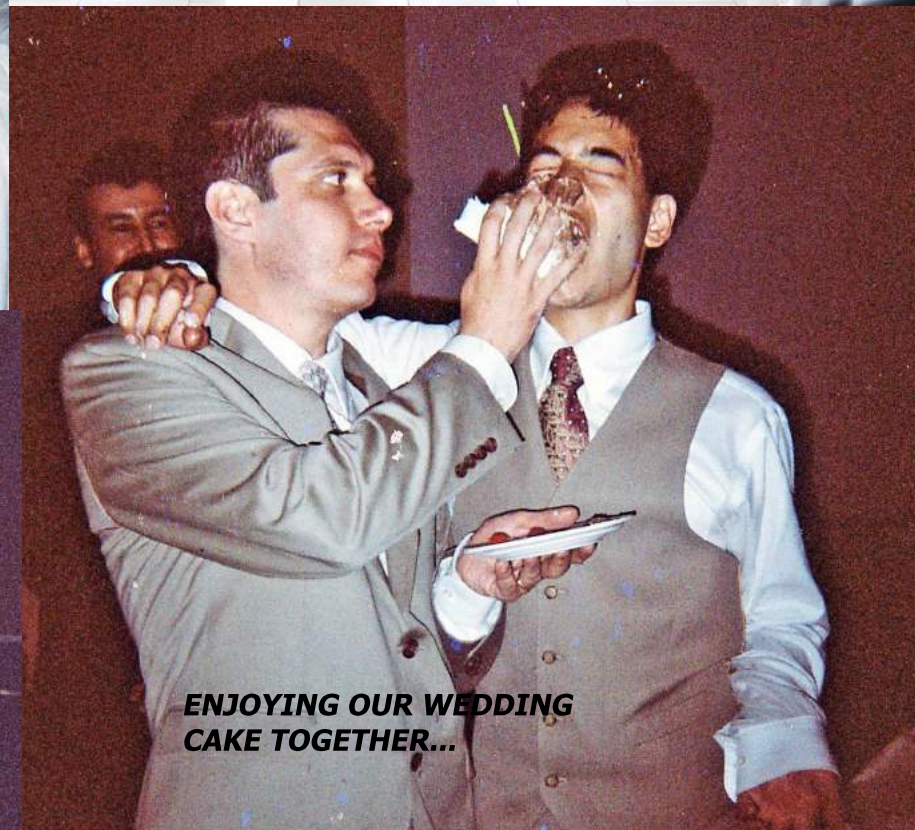
# OUR WEDDING

In 2011, we married in Iceland. We chose Iceland because it is a beautiful place, and at the time one of the few countries where same-sex marriage was legal.

We celebrated with our closest friends and family in a unique ceremony, followed by a joyfully wild reception including nonstop dancing, sing alongs, and the once-in-a-lifetime mingling of all our favorite people in this beautiful far away location.

***WALKING DOWN THE AISLE, NEWLY MARRIED!***

***DANCING AT OUR WEDDING RECEPTION WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY***



***ENJOYING OUR WEDDING CAKE TOGETHER...***

Our wedding in Iceland gave us a chance to gather all our immediate family members together for a once-in-a-lifetime week of memories.

One year later, we managed to gather everyone together again in New York for another family photo!

# ERIC:

I met Daniel at the very beginning of my career and we have watched each other's growing success over the years together. Because of our jobs in television, we basically had a choice between living in New York or Los Angeles, so we are overjoyed that we can live close to Daniel's family AND in a city with so many work opportunities for us. At this point in our careers, we feel ready to shift our energy more towards our home and building our family.

OUR CAT, TOVE

WORKING TOGETHER

WORKING TOGETHER

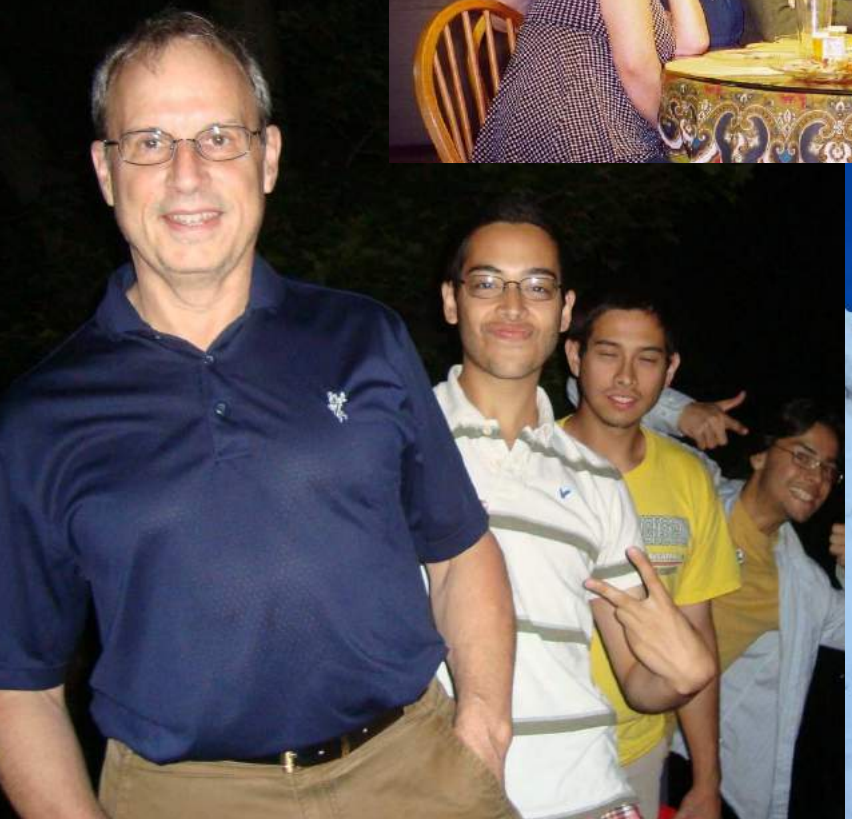
FIRST MEETING OF ALL OUR PARENTS!

ERIC'S MOM SERVING A HOME COOKED DINNER WHILE VISITING NEW YORK

MOTHER AND SONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

WITH ERIC'S FAMILY IN SEATTLE

FATHER AND SONS!

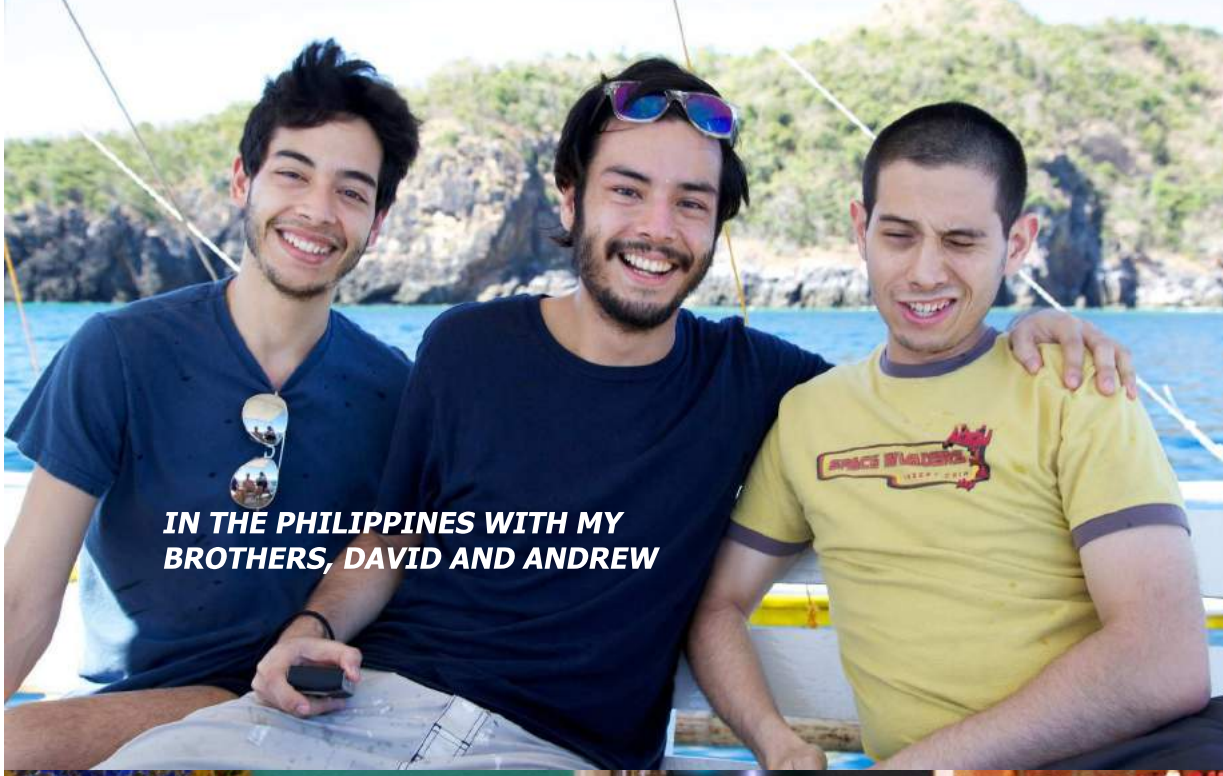


ERIC'S PARENTS, TIM AND ELIZABETH

# ERIC'S FAMILY

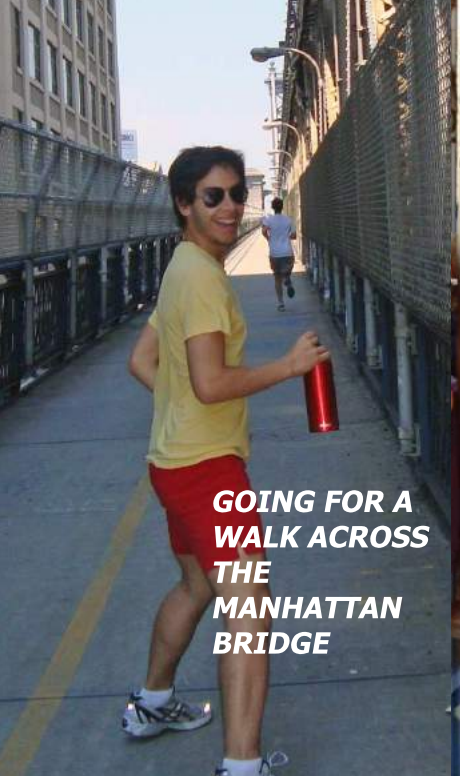
I grew up in Washington and I have two brothers, so our home was always a "boys house" growing up, with lots of silliness and my mom having the special honor being the only girl in the house. The five of us share a very strong bond, and in particular I feel like my parents' relationship has taught me so much about being a loving and supportive partner. My brothers and I remain close to this day -- in fact, my younger brother David lives just 9 blocks away from us.

My mom grew up in the Philippines and attended university in Manila before moving to America. She met my dad in medical school and they quickly became inseparable. My dad grew up in rural Ohio, so for me to grow up biracial with such different influences on either side of my family was a fantastic and eye-opening experience. The value of diversity was always impressed upon my brothers and I as we were growing up, and its importance is something we plan to pass along to the child we are lucky enough to adopt.

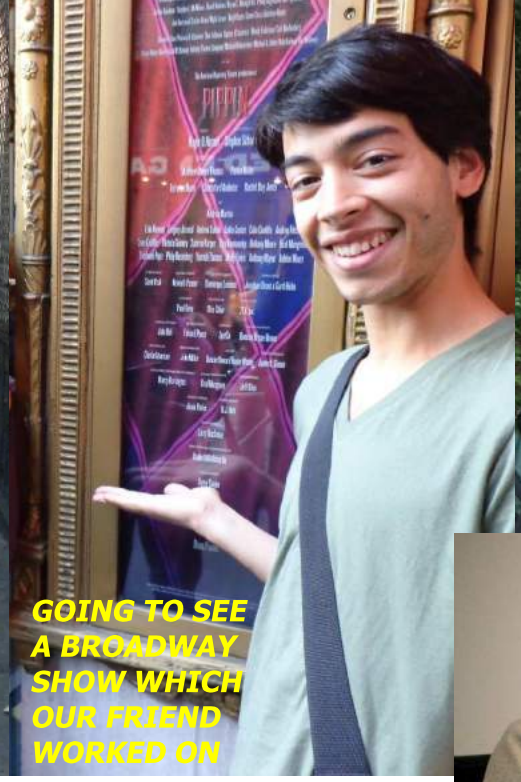


***IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH MY BROTHERS, DAVID AND ANDREW***

***DANIEL SPENDS CHRISTMAS WITH MY FAMILY IN SEATTLE EVERY YEAR.***



GOING FOR A WALK ACROSS THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE



GOING TO SEE A BROADWAY SHOW WHICH OUR FRIEND WORKED ON

CAMPING IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

AT WORK AS A TV EDITOR

# ERIC'S INTERESTS

I am a television editor for a living. I feel so lucky to have a job that requires creativity every single day, as I have always been a creative and outside-the-box thinker. I also enjoy editing just for fun at home, but my biggest hobby is definitely photography. I truly love capturing those amazing on-the-fly moments that happen when family and friends are together, and our home is completely decorated with photo prints from the happy times we've shared with them.

I love exercise and being outside. Whether it's summer or winter, I just love to experience the world around me, and staying in shape has been important to me since my dad and I spent time training at the gym together when I was a teenager. I actually walk to work along the Hudson River every single day!

TAKING PHOTOS AS ALWAYS!

DESSERT TIME WITH BABY CHARLIE

# ABOUT ERIC BY DANIEL

Even though we have known each other for almost 8 years, I am am struck daily by just how smart Eric is. While other people are focused on the tasks right in front of them, Eric knows how to take the long view on everything and focus on long term success. Without Eric's careful planning, we never would have accomplished some of our biggest projects as a couple, including our move to New York.

Childcare comes naturally to Eric. He regularly volunteers for babysitting duty, and thinks nothing of giving an afternoon to spend with our nieces and nephews. He's done so much looking after our landlord's kids that even changing diapers doesn't faze him anymore!

Eric's creativity is going to make him a great dad. He loves taking pictures, and on a recent trip to LA, he bonded with our 2-year-old nephew Everett using his camera together. Everett loved the camera so much he started taking pictures on his own, and Eric turned their photography into a picture book called "My Name is Everett" and sent it to him as a gift!

ERIC WITH OUR NEPHEW, ETHAN

BABYSITTING CHARLIE UPSTAIRS

WITH MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THANKSGIVING DAY

CELEBRATING MANY BIRTHDAYS AT ONCE WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE

MY MOM NANCY, AND STEPDAD HERB

WITH MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THANKSGIVING DAY

## DANIEL'S FAMILY

I grew up in the suburbs of New York. My parents got divorced when I was very young, and my mom did an amazing job raising my brother and sister and I. When I was in high school, she married my stepdad, Herb. Since then, he has been exactly like a father to me, and he has made our family feel like a whole unit.

I am extremely close with my siblings, of which I am the youngest. Growing up, our house was a very happy place. My mom is a musician, so our house was always full of the sounds of her playing piano, my brother playing drums, and me singing.

My stepdad Herb adopted his daughter over 40 years ago, so we talk to Herb a lot about his experience as an adoptive parent.

MEETING OUR NEW NEPHEW EVERETT

My sister Cheryl and her husband Michael have 2 incredible kids, Samantha and Ethan. Samantha is 14 now, but I remember the day she was born as if it was yesterday. Today we share a special bond, and she comes into New York a lot, where Eric & I have taken her to see a number of Broadway shows. It's amazing to think it's the same tiny person who I held for the first time 14 years ago.

3 years later, her little brother Ethan came along. Even at 11 years old, Ethan is already one of the smartest people I know. He competes in his school's science fairs, and he and his dad keep themselves busy building robots for fun. But like most members of my family, he also has a musical side, and he is learning to play the piano and the trumpet.

My brother Adam his wife Rebecca live in LA. In 2011, they had their first baby, a little boy named Everett. Adam composes music for film and TV, and Rebecca is an elementary school teacher. Everett likes to go on hikes, and even at 2 years old he REALLY loves using Eric's camera to take his very own pictures!

MY BROTHER ADAM AND HIS WIFE REBECCA

OUR NIECE SAMANTHA HITS THE PHOTO BOOTH WITH ERIC

OUR NEPHEW ETHAN PLAYING THE TRUMPET

***PLAYING THE PIANO WITH NADIA ON A TYPICAL SATURDAY NIGHT!***

# DANIEL'S INTERESTS

I have worked as a TV producer for almost 10 years. My job involves supervising the filming of reality shows, and working with editors to get the show ready to appear on television.

I come from a musical family, and enjoy singing and making music of all kinds. We have a piano in our house, and we always enjoy a good old-fashioned singalong.

Staying healthy and in shape is really important to me. I have always been a runner, and have completed two marathons, one in LA and one in New York. Last year, I used one of my marathons to raise over $7000 for charity!

***PLAYING THE PIANO WITH BABY CHARLIE FROM UPSTAIRS!***

***RUNNING THE LOS ANGELES MARATHON***

PLAYING WITH BABY CHARLIE!

# ABOUT DANIEL BY ERIC

Even before we started talking seriously about raising children together, I knew that Daniel would make a great dad. He has a naturally easy way of interacting with kids, and it's so funny to watch him be silly in a way they instantly respond to. Daniel is such a caring and compassionate person, and these qualities made me love him from the moment I met him.

Daniel has always impressed me with his limitless work ethic, and commitment to seeing things through to the end. If anything, the biggest influence I've had on him over the years is to encourage him to slow down and take things in as they happen. In return, his incredible ambition has propelled us to accomplish things together I never dreamed of.

Daniel's greatest defining quality is his passion for music. He is an amazing singer and piano player, and he's even written original songs just based on jokes we made up, including one which he produced and gave to our niece as a birthday present! I know that music will be a strong influence on the child we raise and I'm so happy that Daniel brings that to our family.

PLAYING WITH ERIC'S NEPHEWS, JERICHO AND INDRU, ON CHRISTMAS DAY

SPENDING TIME WITH MY BROTHER'S SON, EVERETT, ON THANKSGIVING DAY

# TRAVEL

One of our favorite activities together has been seeing the world together. Since the earliest days of our relationship, we have always loved to travel. We have done everything from driving through the state parks of Oregon to flying off to London and Paris. Even more fun is when we involve our family and friends in our journeys. In the past few years, we have gone to the Philippines with Eric's entire family, flown to Florida and North Carolina with Daniel's family, and have traveled with our friends Bill & Nadia and their children on a vacation to Disneyworld.

# ERIC:

Daniel and I are open to adopting a child of any race or ethnic background. We would also be equally happy to adopt either a boy or a girl. We feel strongly about providing your child with a loving home and we welcome these factors as just more reasons to consider your child special and valued, especially considering my upbringing in a biracial home, as well as the unique cultural perspectives Daniel and I bring to our marriage.

For child care, Daniel and I have decided to alternate our work schedules so that one of us can be personally caring for your child. Because of the nature of our careers, we are free to manage our time off and would be able to take turns between earning the money and being a stay-at-home dad. We can't wait for this to happen!

***TOGETHER IN THE PHILIPPINES, OUTSIDE MY COUSIN'S HOUSE***

***DANIEL FEEDING BABY EVERETT***

***DANIEL HOLDING BABY KENNEDY***

# ABOUT OUR HOME

We live in a newly remodeled building owned by our friends Bill & Nadia. They bought the building as an empty shell, spent several years renovating it, and invited us to be their lucky tenants downstairs!

Bill & Nadia have two kids, Jack (age 5) and Charlie (age 2). Because we're right there, Daniel and I are frequently called upon for babysitting duties, which we absolutely LOVE. We are so happy to be around for them, and the kids are always so excited when we come upstairs for dinner or movie time.

WITH BILL & NADIA AND BABY CHARLIE ON THE DAY WE MOVED INTO OUR HOUSE

BABY CHARLIE'S FIRST SNOW DAY!

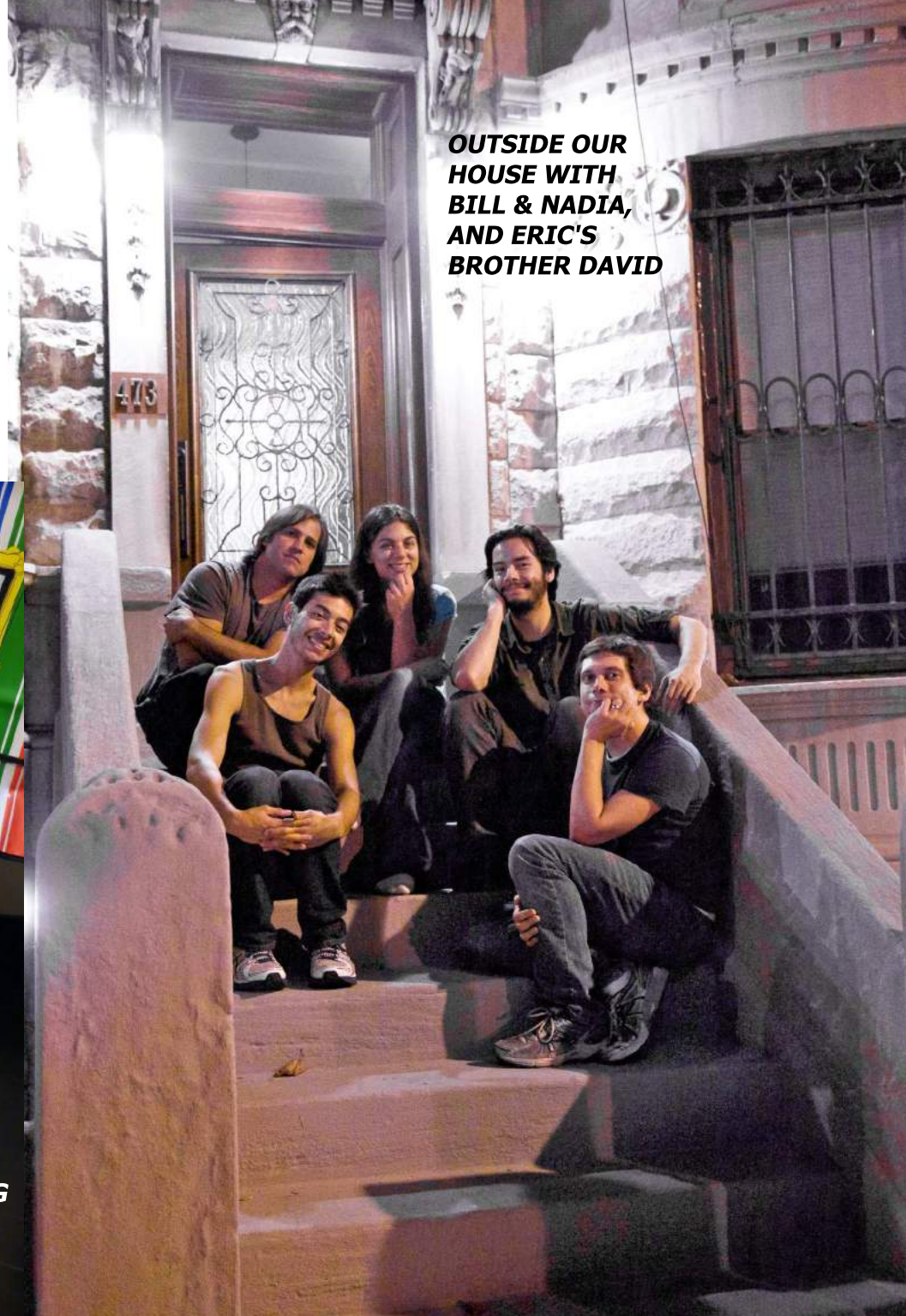
RUNNING INTO BILL & THE KIDS OUTSIDE

BABYSITTING JACK AND CHARLIE

We all moved into this building when Jack was 3 years old and Charlie was just 5 months old, and we're so happy that we've been part of their daily lives for so long now. Jack loves to jump all over the furniture playing Star Wars games with us, while Charlie enjoys looking at books and learning to say our names (he's got "Dan," but is working on "Ackick"!).

Our house is a totally kid-friendly zone and it is wonderful to rely on and be relied upon by our friends just upstairs. We can always count on each other in times of need, and for good times any day of the week!

***BABYSITTING JACK AND CHARLIE***




***OUTSIDE OUR HOUSE WITH BILL & NADIA, AND ERIC'S BROTHER DAVID***

***Christmas at Eric's parents' house. Your child will enjoy many loving family members from coast to coast!***

Christmas holiday time is extremely special to Eric's family. It is a time to gather as many of our extended family members from around the world to spend time together for a week or two every year. We share home cooked meals, play games, and reconnect as our family grows larger. Almost every Christmas there is a new baby welcomed into the family as Eric's cousins have started building families of their own! We would be so excited and blessed to bring your child into such a strong family network, with a variety of role models, male and female, and of all different races.

***WITH ERIC'S COUSIN JON'S FAMILY***

***HOLDING MY NEW NIECE, IYLA***

**FOREVER FAMILIES THROUGH ADOPTION**
**62 BOWMAN AVE**
**RYE BROOK, NY**
**10573-2804**
**(914) 939-1180**

**Thank you so much for taking the time to read our story. There is so much more about us we would love for you to know, and we hope you'll follow up with any questions you may have.**

**We are interested in pursuing an open adoption, and would be happy to meet you and involve you in your child's life to the extent that you feel comfortable, including photographs and other updates.**

**We know that this decision will be a difficult one, and we wish you the very best.**

**- Daniel & Eric**

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