

# CELENA AND DJ









# Dear expectant mother,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us and our family as you navigate the profoundly difficult decision to choose adoption for your baby. We do not take this journey lightly and fully believe that your baby's lifelong safety, health and wellness is of the utmost importance, no matter who will be blessed to raise him or her as their own. We pray for your peace and security as you move forward and sincerely hope that we will have the opportunity to learn about the selfless, brave woman that you undoubtedly are.

With love and respect,

CELINA AND DJ

# OUR STORY

We met at work in March of 2015 when Celena started her new position as an occupational therapist at the same facility as DJ. It happened to be the day after Celena's birthday, and the day after she rescued her first puppy, Bailey. Looking back, a lot of life-altering events happened within those 24 hours!

Although we were in different stages of life at the time, we clicked! DJ was easygoing and kind, while Celena was compassionate and open. It made it easy to talk and laugh together as we developed a close working relationship and mutual respect for each other.

Within a couple years, we were both promoted to management positions at different facilities. We were proud of each other's growth and remained in touch over the years.

Fast forward to 2020, Celena reached out to DJ for a work reference. We got together and immediately felt a deep connection to each other. Our love grew easily and organically as we spent all of our time together, immersing in each other's families and enjoying travels throughout California, Hawaii, Oregon and Jamaica. We brought each other a sense of peace and excitement for the future.

In November of 2022, we took a weekend trip to a small lake. DJ rented a pontoon boat and proposed out on the water with our doggies in tow, surrounded by swans. It was magical.

We were beyond ready to be married and eloped in January in an intimate ceremony in the midst of trees and the Santa Barbara mountains. A couple months later, we threw a party to celebrate with our closest friends and family at home.

We live a blessed life full of love, joy, and deep gratitude for everyone and everything that has led to our union and laid a foundation for a beautiful future together.







# OUR HEARTS FOR ADOPTION



We've both been blessed with loving families, devoted friends, our health, a college education, and travels around the world. We have countless photos from our pasts capturing celebrations, vacations, holidays and milestones, but they don't tell the full story of the hardships, loss and pain that everyone inevitably faces in between the happy pictures. With our faith and social support, we have individually overcome much adversity, healed, and learned to honor our pasts while moving forward with faith, hope and gratitude. We built our relationship upon this foundation and will grow our family from it as well. The reality is DJ had a vasectomy many years ago, but we were determined and optimistic so we tried several rounds of IVF which all failed. It was a difficult journey, but it strengthened our relationship. Most importantly, we realized that conceiving a baby was not our purpose or destiny. Our hearts call to share an abundance of love with a child in need, to provide them a safe, nurturing home where their unique story and true self will be held sacred and celebrated, so that they may thrive and find their place in this beautiful world.





# Meet Celena

## CAREER:

Occupational Therapist &  
Director of Rehabilitation

## FAVORITES:

Christmas  
Our dogs  
Nature  
Romantic comedies  
Tea time  
Spiritual growth books

## HOBBIES:

Yoga & meditation  
Baking  
Hiking & going on walks  
Swimming  
Traveling

## A LITTLE ABOUT ME!

I was born in California into a close-knit Mexican-American, Catholic family. My father and grandparents were born in Mexico and deeply engrained family, faith, and respect into our values as well as a constant celebration of life--no special occasion was needed for a family party! We moved to Texas and Oklahoma for 10 years before returning to California, and, although I faced a lot of change, I had a joyful upbringing full of camping trips, beach days, pool parties, piano playing, and competitive swimming. I'm truly proud of my resilience, positive attitude, and ability to adapt. I earned a bachelors and masters degree from the University of Southern California and became an occupational therapist with a rewarding career rehabilitating people with physical disabilities and illnesses. Over the years, I've created a healthy work-life balance and grown a deep appreciation for the outdoors and wellness while cherishing quality time with family and friends from childhood, college and church. And, now, with my husband at my side, my heart is wide open and ready to embrace a child.

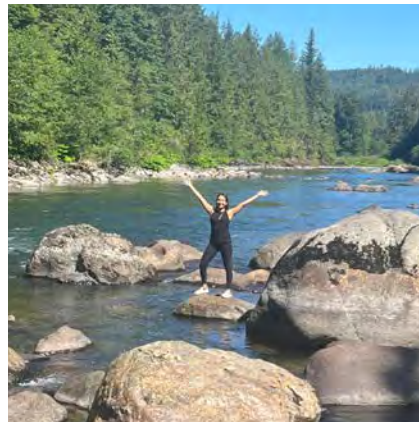




## MY WIFE CELENA

Celena is a beautiful, kind soul. Her care and love for her family is inspiring and heartwarming. She seamlessly fit with my family and has nurtured a loving relationship with my kids who were teenagers when they met. It meant the world to me that she opened her heart to them and makes a sincere effort to connect with them. She goes above and beyond to ensure our home is peaceful and comfortable. Celena brings the best out of me and all people she comes in contact with. She is always calm, cool and collected and that keeps me grounded and feeling loved. She is positive and encouraging in both good and challenging times. Her spiritual life plays an important role in our relationship as she prays and meditates for us, our loved ones, our home and our future. Celena is playful, adventurous, outgoing. She is always smiling, laughing and singing around our house which brings so much light to our lives. She's ready for the next chapter of growing our family and will be a wonderful mother. I am truly blessed to have Celena as my wife as she makes each day a better day.

- prioritizes family before all
- wise and calm energy but fun and playful at the same time
- optimistic and faithful during good and difficult times







# Meet DJ

## CAREER:

Occupational Therapist &  
Director of Rehabilitation

## FAVORITES:

The ocean  
Games like chess & ping pong  
Live music  
Art & art museums  
Cooking shows

## HOBBIES:

Golf  
Surfing  
Cooking  
Hiking & going on walks  
Gardening

## HEY THERE!

I was born and raised in a small beach town in Southern California where I enjoyed all kinds of sports and outdoor activities, including baseball, soccer, surfing, golf, camping, hiking and traveling. I worked in music production after high school and had the opportunity to see countless musicians and bands perform. After a few years, I earned my bachelors degree and pursued a career in occupational therapy. During that time, I had 2 beautiful kids, who are now 20 and 22 years old and excited to have another sibling. Currently, I enjoy spending my time with my wife, my children, our families and friends. This includes cooking healthy meals and trying new recipes, walking our dogs, and living a simple life with some adventures and trips added in. With many years of hard work, we have the financial security to maintain our livelihood so that I may spend as much quality time as possible at home caring for any new addition to our family. I can't wait to hear the laughter of a baby and pitter patter of a toddler running around and know I'll continue to be the best dad I can be!





# MY HUSBAND DJ

DJ is the most amazing man with the biggest heart. He selflessly helps anyone in need and lends a listening ear without judgment, making it so easy to feel safe with him, to confide in him and depend on him.

He has a playful spirit that shines through when he's spending time with our nephews and nieces, whether he's playing games, swimming around, or just being silly with them. It's fun to watch them in their own world!

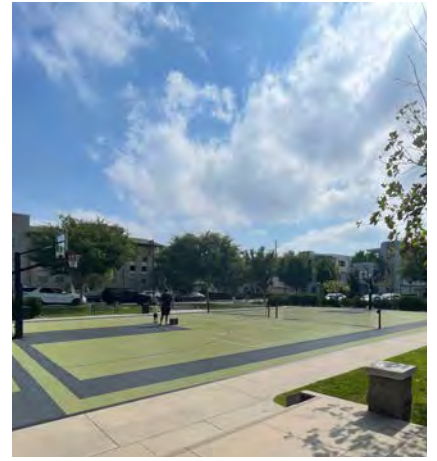
He's devoted in all of his relationships, especially as a husband and father. Even though his children are young "adults" and live more independently now, he continues to provide them guidance, supports their goals and dreams, and always takes the time to tell them he loves them and is proud of them. They're just as kind and gentle-hearted as DJ which I believe is a reflection of his parenting.

It's truly an honor to be his wife, and I thank God every day for him!

- devoted husband and father who loves unconditionally
- selfless with acts of service, words of affirmation and quality time
- easygoing and playful







# OUR HOME

## AND NEIGHBORHOOD

We live in a newer condo in a beautiful gated community near the beach. It's very safe, diverse, and family-friendly with a toddler playground, a large park, a meditation garden, dog parks, pools and a jacuzzi, a gym, recreation rooms, basketball courts and pickle ball courts. The community hosts fun holiday events throughout the year, including a Christmas party with Santa and train rides around the block, an Easter egg hunt, Halloween trick-or-treating, a 4th of July parade, a Summer Solstice party and Oktoberfest. Afternoons and weekends are bustling with kids running around, playing tag, riding bikes and scooters, skating on the courts and swimming at the pool. Pure joy!



# INSIDE OUR HOME

Living room where we snuggle up on the couch, read and watch TV and movies



Outdoor space surrounded by trees and birds, perfect for rest and relaxation





## OUR BEDROOM WITH A NURSERY CORNER

We have a spacious, cozy bedroom with a sweet bassinet ready for a baby when it's time.



## FUTURE NURSERY

Our guest room will be converted into a nursery when baby is ready to transition from the bassinet to a crib.





# MEET OUR PUPS

Both of our doggies are rescues. Bailey is a black 8 year-old Lab Beagle mix. Comet is a white 5 year-old Poodle Terrier mix. They're sweet pups and love snuggles, belly rubs, family walks around the neighborhood, hikes, visiting the seals in the marina and especially the dog beach. They join us whenever we go to Celena's aunt and uncle's house and get to hang out with all the babies and kids. They're ready for a new addition to our family at home!





# HOW WE SPEND OUR DAYS...

Relaxing at home



Swimming at the pool



Hiking & enjoying the outdoors



Cooking together





## OUR FAVORITE MEMORIES MADE TOGETHER

So many shared adventures! In Jamaica, we sailed a catamaran, went kayaking and danced the night away at a silent disco! In Boston, we rode bikes all over the city for hours, ending with a miles long stretch along an esplanade. In Seattle, we hiked to a beautiful waterfall and rode bikes across an island where we explored the lush landscape and shores and eventually found a secluded bench swing where we took in the peaceful scenery. In Hawaii, we paddleboarded, snorkeled and basked in the sun on an empty beach. No matter where we've gone, we've done something physically active and explored nature. We've also had a lot of fun going to baseball games, watching live theater and dining out trying new foods!











Celena has 2 younger siblings. Her sister Amanda is a senior at UCSB, passionate about the arts and history, and is thrilled to be an auntie! They're very close and talk all the time when she's away at school. Her younger brother Sal is a registered dietician and moved to the Phillippines with his wife Kim last year but they come back to visit every few months. Celena's family is full of more than 30 cousins, nieces and nephews with another baby due in a few months!

DJ came from a smaller but tight knit, adventurous family. He's very close with his brother Dave who lives in Hawaii. We talk to him and visit each other as often as possible. Even though he didn't grow up with the hustle and bustle of a huge family, DJ and his kids are just as lively and have only added to all the fun and excitement!

OUR FAMILY



# Get to Know Our Extended Family



## LETICIA & VADIM

Celena's aunt and uncle

Auntie Lety and Uncle V lovingly host our holiday gatherings, monthly Family Fun Nights, and weekend pool parties and BBQs. They love to play, laugh and have a house full of family!

## DAVE

DJ's brother

Dave is a middle school and high school teacher in Hawaii where he actually teaches some classes in the native Hawaiian language! He has 2 bright, spirited daughters Lily and Ireland and a grandson Wilder. We stay connected with them and visit each other in Hawaii, Oregon and California throughout the year!



## MONIQUE, JOSEPH & KIDS

Celena's cousin's family

Monique and Celena have a sister-like bond. She's a Latin American partner at a global financial firm. Her husband is a stay-at-home dad. They're both super fun and playful and throw the best parties for their kids Kruz and Zaida!



# OUR TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

We have continued the traditions from our childhoods and shared them with each other. We celebrate Christmas Eve with Celena's family at her aunt and uncle's house where everyone comes over for a big dinner. We exchange gifts, take pictures in front of the tree, and play games such as "Left Right Center." It gets pretty loud and crazy--and usually one of the little ones wins! As the night winds down, everyone enjoys a hot bowl of homemade pozole soup from a huge pot on the stove. On Christmas Day, we exchange gifts with the kids at our home in the morning, make a big breakfast and spend a lazy day at home in our pjs.

Thanksgiving Day is also spent at Celena's aunt and uncle's house with a big turkey dinner, toasts and expressions of gratitude around the table.

Most other holidays are spent with Celena's family except 4th of July which we get together with friends or stay in our neighborhood for fireworks and the parade!

We go to Mass for holy days and sacraments such as a loved one's First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

For our own birthdays, we either prepare a nice meal at home or dine out, and of course enjoy cake! Instead of gifts, we prefer to go on a trip or have an experience, such as going sailing on our friend's boat. For everyone else's birthdays, we enjoy big parties with bounce houses, games, cake and singing!

We have weekly family dinners where Celena bakes, DJ tries a new recipe for dinner and we catch up with the kids.















# Our Hopes and Dreams for the Future

We pray that we'll be able to share our hearts, home and family with a child, providing them with endless unconditional love as they grow and experience the wonders of the world. We envision a home full of laughter and song, snuggling on the couch reading books, walking hand in hand around the neighborhood and on all of our adventures, teaching them to swim, guiding them through schooling, cheering them on for all sports and games, protecting them while encouraging bravery and adventure, comforting them through any bumps and bruises, and praying together.

## **These are the things we promise you.**

We will respect you and your choice during this journey. If the decision is made that we will parent your baby, we will continue to hold you in high regard and honor all agreements made regarding the openness of the adoption. We will love your baby unconditionally from infancy through adulthood and celebrate their story and heritage, practicing age-appropriate honesty as they learn about their roots and grow into the wonderful person they're destined to be. We will instill values of family, faith, integrity and authenticity while doing our best to preserve values important to you.

We are truly so honored that you have taken the time to read our profile and learn about us. If there is a heartfelt connection or calling to us, we will gratefully and sincerely accept the opportunity to learn about you and offer our ongoing openness and support.

with love,

**CELENA & DJ**



THANK YOU

