



**Teresa & Nick**



## Dear Expectant Parents,

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn a little about us. As you flip through these pages, we hope you come away with a full picture of our family - the best, the imperfect and the silly parts of us.

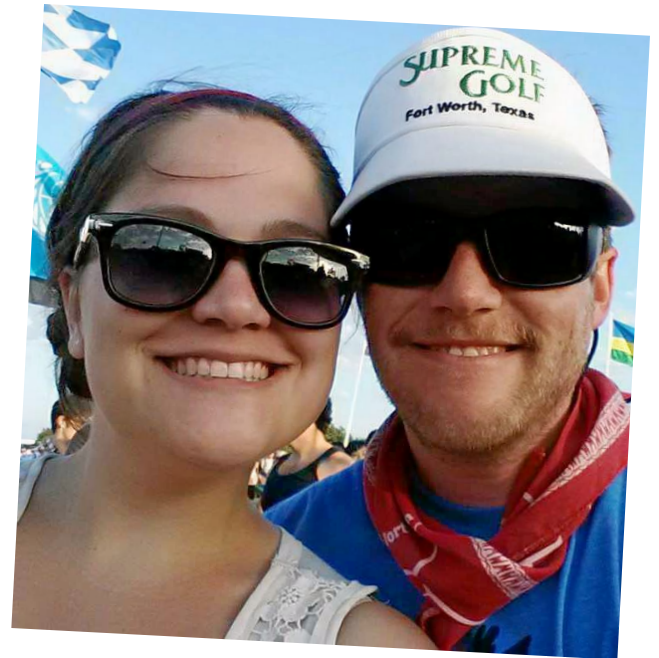
We know you are making this decision with a lot of weight on your shoulders and your heart. Whatever you choose for your child, we understand you are doing it with the utmost love.

In making your decision, we wish you clarity and comfort in whatever you decide. Please know that your child is and will be loved.

Teresa & Nick



# Our Love Story



## Girl meets Boy

We met 16 years ago at the University of Texas at Austin. Our first date was to see The Roots in concert, which may make us seem a little cooler than we are. We were attracted to each other's humor and kindness. In many ways, we are opposites. Nick is calm and collected, while Teresa is spontaneous and loud. Together, we make a good match.



# Just the two of us

For the next 5 years, we dated long distance while we focused on building our careers. Teresa spent weekends with Nick in Colorado Springs and Fort Worth. Nick visited Teresa in Beaumont and Dallas. We saw The Flaming Lips at Red Rocks, explored Toronto after the Pan American Games and visited family in Pennsylvania. **We made it work because we loved each other and knew we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together.**

In 2013, Nick asked Teresa to marry him on Magazine Street in New Orleans. We got married later that year in the same church as Teresa's parents. We had a bigger celebration with friends about 5 months later so everyone could be at our "big party."

Fun fact about us: We ran the burger race during a time out at the Houston Texans game. We didn't win :(







## Growing family

In the middle of the pandemic, we welcomed Adela -our biological child- into our family and and our lives. It was a challenging time, but we grew very tight as a family. Fast forward 4.5 years and Adela is growing into a wonderful little human. She is smart, funny, kind and LOUD. She loves to dance and put on amazing performances for the family. She goes to gymnastics, explores parks and creates in her craft center. She loves to laugh and brings a smile to everyones' faces. **She is so excited to have a sibling who she can create memories (and be a little mischievous) with.**

# Meet Adela

## Adela's Favorite Things

Favorite Food: Blueberries

Favorite Treat: Rainbow Popsicles

Favorite Color: Pink

Favorite Animal: Unicorn

Favorite Show: Bluey

Favorite Song: Into the Unknown

Favorite Book (at the moment):  
The Pout-Pout Fish

Hobbies: Dance, Gymnastics, Parks,  
Drawing, Making up Songs





# Meet Teresa

I grew up in and around Dallas in a very Italian-American family. I have degrees in Latin American Studies and Journalism and am fortunate to do work that involves both of those areas. I hold my family, friends and faith close to my heart. I value acceptance, diversity, openness, intellectual curiosity and helping other people.



*Our first trip to Mexico City.*



*Our "big party" in San Antonio.*

## What Nick says about her

"Teresa lights up a room with her energy and joy. She is the life of the party. She loves to go on adventures big and small. She's never met a festival, market, or parade she didn't like. Her favorite type of music is whatever's playing at H-E-B. At home, she enjoys breaking out into spontaneous dances and napping. She wears her heart on her sleeve and is very sensitive to the feelings of others."

# Hobbies and Interests

I love to dance. Growing up, I danced competitively (jazz was my favorite). As an adult, I was a member of the biggest samba school in the U.S. and now I take Folklorico lessons.

I like to:

- take walks in the park
- go to estate sales and flea markets
- craft and make costumes
- speak Spanish (always improving!)



Día de los Muertos celebrations  
in San Antonio





*The family with Mimi*

I was born and raised in San Antonio but have spent much of my adult life in Austin and Fort Worth. My family is 75% French and 25% Latino. My grandmother Rosa is from Mérida, Mexico, and she lived to be 98 years old. My parents are both from Louisiana, and Cajun food and Mardi Gras are big parts of their culture. I love being back home closer to family, Fiesta and the Spurs.

## *What Teresa says about him*

"Nick is smart, thoughtful and funny. What first attracted me to him were his kind green eyes and his sense of humor. He thinks he is the funniest person he knows, but I know it's me. He'll drop anything to play Supercats or Connect Four with Adela. He is an extremely loyal friend and partner. Nick is always willing to listen when his friends need advice or just someone to hear their worries. He celebrates the successes of people around him and is invested in making a positive difference in the world."



# Meet Nick



Vancouver Winter Olympics



## Hobbies and Interests

- I enjoy sports - watching the Spurs on TV and going to UT football home games.
- I have worked for 3 Olympic Games, 2 Youth Olympic Games, and the 2015 Pan American Games.
- My hobby is researching and listening to punk music and any music from Texas.
- My idea of a wild night is getting takeout Thai food and watching the latest Pixar movie with my family.





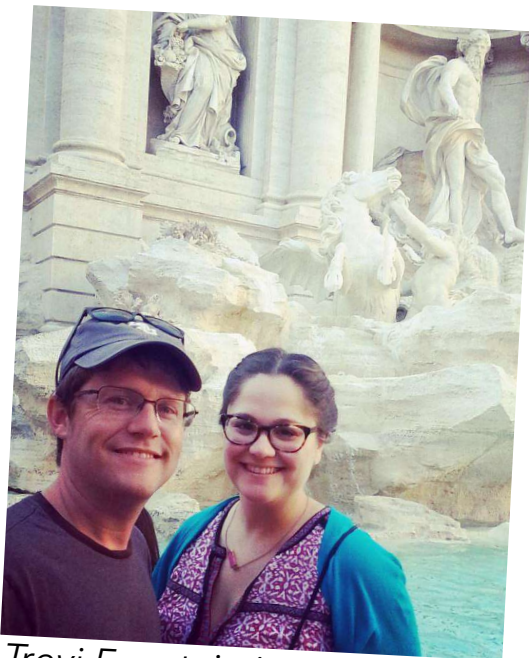
# Let's Adventure!



*Mardi Gras in New Orleans*



*Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas  
in Cartagena, Colombia*



*Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy*

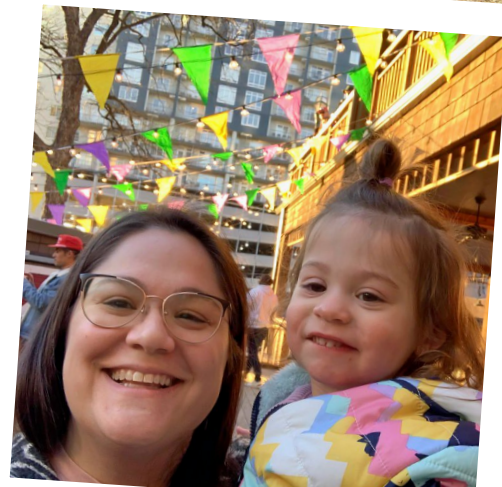
We love to go on adventures as a family – in the state, around the U.S. and out of the country. We're motivated by a desire to experience different ways of living and other cultures. There is so much beauty in the world and it can be easy to forget we're just one little piece. Nick and Teresa started traveling before they met, went to new places as a couple and have seen more of the world with Adela.

**We can't wait to go on even more adventures as a family of 4.**



# As a family, we love to...

- Go to parks, museums, the zoo, festivals, concerts and community events
- Watch sports and go to games
- Go to gymnastics class, swim, play soccer, ride bikes, learn tennis
- Eat new kinds of food
- Listen to music (especially Texas artists!)
- Spend time with family and our sweet cat Peaches!







Swimming in Nana's pool



Celebrating FIESTA! on the Riverwalk

## Good ol' San Antonio

When it came time to decide where we wanted to grow as a family, we knew San Antonio was the place to be. [Here, we are closer to family and friends, which grows our support system.](#) We love how culture and family is centered in this city. We can go to festivals (FIESTA!) and restaurants downtown, find a new park or playground, or explore new neighborhoods. And when it gets too hot in the Summer, we like to steal away for a dip in Nana's pool!

# Our Home

## Home Sweet Home

We bought our first home in 2023. It's in a cozy, residential neighborhood that's full of deer and very close to a library, big park, and the elementary school. The street is quiet and very safe for kids to play and ride bikes and scooters.

Our neighbors are mostly senior citizens and they love Adela - she gets chocolate weekly and toys for Christmas.

Adela helps Nick cook dinner and decorates the house for Halloween with Teresa. Weekends are for adventures and naps on the couch. Our home has 3 bedrooms, so our next child will have a room of their own.



*Planting new roots*



# Our Family

We are part of an even bigger family of cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents who are our primary support systems. Nick and Teresa both have two older sisters. Our next child will have 11 cousins in San Antonio, Arizona, Pennsylvania and New Jersey! **Everyone is so excited to welcome the youngest member who will complete our family.**





# Our Friends

Our friends are an extension of our family and those closest to us have been in our lives for 20+ years. They have been with us in good times and bad, sharing in the most important moments of our lives. **They are excellent role models and another support system for our children.** A few of them have young kids who are now Adela's friends.







## Crafting and Costumes

Teresa and Adela love to craft and that includes Halloween costumes. When Halloween rolls around, either Teresa or Mimi will make the family's costumes by hand.

Another tradition of costuming was born when Adela came into this world. Since the pandemic limited how much we could be outside in the world, we sent Adela on virtual "trips." Every month for one year, Teresa would make her a costume for a new place. The best: Carnaval in Rio de Janeiro. [We can't wait to continue the tradition with our next child.](#)



## Christmas

Christmas is a big holiday in both of our families. Teresa's family celebrates the Italian-American tradition of eating seven different types of fish on Christmas Eve. Nick's family eats Tex-Mex on Christmas Eve and crawfish étouffée on Christmas Day.

## Church on Sundays

Every Sunday, we go to Catholic Mass with Nick's family and then everyone eats lunch together. It's not always easy getting 11 people around a table!



# Our Traditions



## Eat up

Food is central to the cultures of both our families. Nick has Cajun and Mexican roots, while Teresa's grandparents came from Italy. When our families came to the U.S., they brought delicious food with them. Adela loves to make pepperoni rolls with her Mimi, just like Teresa did with her Grammy. Nick makes xnipek from the recipe his Mimi brought from the Yucatán in Mexico. And of course, we all love a good crawfish boil. **We hope to incorporate our future child's cultures and foods into our traditions.**





# Our Hopes for an

We want to thank you for reading our book and considering us as a family for your child. We know this is a difficult decision and **we wish you courage and peace in this process.**

After experiencing fertility issues, we started to explore what adoption – and open adoption in particular – would mean for us, our family, our future child and their birth parents. **For us, adoption is a way to fully open our hearts and lives to a child and complete our family of four.** We get the opportunity to guide a child through life, learn to see the world again through their eyes and encourage them to develop emotionally, physically and intellectually.

If you choose us for your child, we want you to know:

- This child will be accepted and loved by everyone in their lives.
- This child will be told where they came from and encouraged to explore all parts of their identity.
- This child will be taught to be proud of who they are.

# Open Adoption

- This child will have a support system of family and friends who want the best for them.
- This child will be taught to celebrate all people and their differences.
- This child will be given opportunities for education and will be taught to think critically and inquisitively about the world around them.

Our future child will have an older sibling who will look out for them, and experienced parents who will love them unconditionally and help them navigate bumps in the road.

We promise to be open with you throughout this process and to always put our child first. This adoption will be a journey and we are just at the beginning. We cannot wait for the rest.

*Teresa and Nick*





