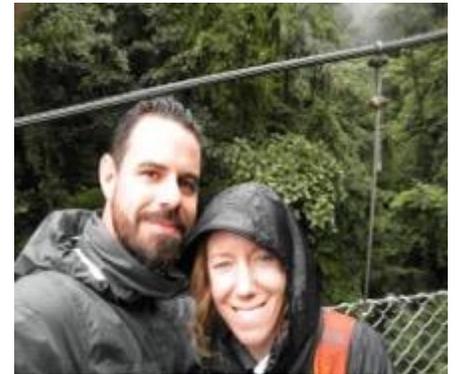


Chris and Nadege



Hugo and Bella



Thank You

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We believe you are so incredibly selfless and courageous to consider adoption for your child. We are grateful that you would consider us to be on this adventure with you. Please know that we will love your child and nurture them. We admire what we feel is your strength and resolve in what must be a challenging time. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share with you who we are. We hope to go on this adventure with you and we wish you strength and peace in the coming days.



About Us

Some of our most amazing times together have happened while being active on **OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**. Like the time we were paddle boarding in the open water and a fast-approaching storm had us scrambling to get to shore. As we paddled around the corner of a small island, we came across hundreds of white pelicans floating on the water. As they saw us, the entire flock flew into the sunset, leaving us mesmerized. When we finally made it to shore, luckily escaping the rain, we were rewarded by gnats that decided we would make a great dinner. We frantically packed up our gear and laughed about it once in the safety of our vehicle.



WE LOVE WILDLIFE, but Chris does not particularly like critters and Nadege does not like insects. Having two cats and living out in a wooded area leads to both being found in the house at times. Chris is well trained on catch and release insect removal but relies on Nadege to do all other catch and releases. One summer evening, a thunderstorm blew in. Chris went downstairs to check on laundry when he noticed the window to the basement had been left open. As he was putting laundry in the dryer, he noticed a bird flying around smacking against the windows. He yelled for Nadege who immediately grabbed a towel, subdued the bird, and placed it outside where it flew away unharmed.



WE LOVE LEARNING ABOUT OTHER CULTURES. We always try to experience the local way of life. One time we rented a car in Scotland specifically for the experience of driving on the 'wrong side' of the car and road. Chris was very nervous leading up to it. Once in the car he realized he could just imitate what the other cars were doing by following the local traffic. All was well until we got to the country roads and there was no one to follow. Luckily Nadege was there to help remind Chris what side of the road to stay on by calling out at each intersection "stay on the left". Your child will be encouraged to experience and learn about a variety of different cultures and ways of life.



Nadege

Nadege's love of plants and gardening is due to the summers spent playing in her grandmother's garden. Today, Nadege continues to be a devoted plant mom. A couple years ago, there was a frost warning, and worried that her 'babies' would get too cold, Nadege pulled out all the blankets, sheets, pillowcases, and towels to bundle everyone up. When she ran out of linens, she went in and started to grab socks placing these on the ends of the branches. **THE BACKYARD TURNED INTO A LAUNDRY ZONE**, minus the washer and dryer. Chris thought she was a bit crazy but when the weather warmed up and the laundry was removed, the plants showed no signs of frostbite! Your child will learn the value of understanding how other living things flourish and how we affect their well-being by caring for them in good times and bad.



Nadege is crafty. **SHE LOVES PAINTING, DRAWING, AND PHOTOGRAPHY.** She often makes crafts for our family and friends. Nadege gets very involved with her crafts and sometimes has trouble finishing them as she always feels the need to add additional features. This seems to pay off as friends and family often display her art in their homes. Like the time she made a bird house for her mom. The bird house started off as a standard birdhouse, the kind you place outside, but once Nadege started to put the walls together, she realized that really the walls shouldn't be nailed shut but be held together by magnets for easy access and cleaning. The outside walls should be painted with the images of the seasons and lights should frame it. The roof should have moss to better camouflage it and wouldn't it be cute to add little figurines? Finally, the design became so elaborate that it would no longer work as a home for birds and only as a home decoration. It is currently on display at her mother's house. Your child will be encouraged to be creative.

NADEGE LOVES TO READ FANTASY, SCI FI AND HISTORICAL FICTION, especially when incorporates adventure and love.

One series she read was the inspiration for our trip to Scotland. After reading Outlander, Nadege was so enthralled with the main characters and the description of Scotland that she watched the Outlander series where she fell in love with the main character Jamie and the scenes of Scotland. She downloaded a map of where the show was filmed, had us travel to each of the locations, making us hike to remote areas and going so far as to have us stay at the inn where the characters have their first encounter. In the process, we ended up exploring the small villages of Scotland, learning about its history, and meeting locals.



NADEGE IS COMPASSIONATE. This is seen in the way she treats animals, plants and in the work, she does with kids and adults with disabilities. She helps them overcome behavioral challenges, learn new skills, and strives for them to have the same opportunities as non-disabled people. A few years back, it was her client's 55th birthday and for the special occasion her client wanted to bake a cake. Together, they gathered the ingredients and set off to make a vanilla cake with frosting, cherries, and chocolate bits. With support, he measured, poured, mixed, baked and once the cake was cool, decorated. He was so proud, he turned to her and said that this was the 1st time he had ever baked a cake. Your child will be given the opportunity and support to reach their goals.

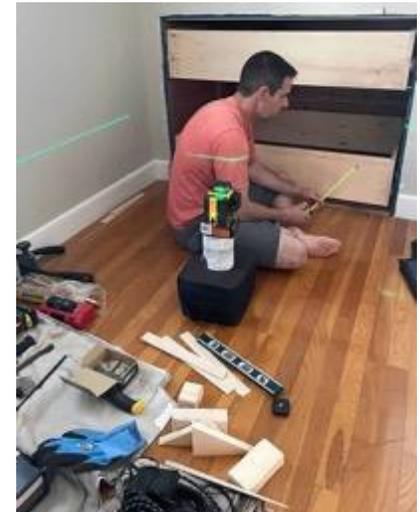


Chris



Chris loves challenging himself to learn new things. Inspired by his New Orleans roots and love of diverse music, **CHRIS TAUGHT HIMSELF TO PLAY THE DRUMS**. In the process, Chris realized the learning to-play phase was the most rewarding part of the experience and proceeded to teach himself the **GUITAR**. He has now started to learn the **PIANO**. He loves to share his knowledge of music and steps behind its creation. He often dissects songs playing on the radio and tries to figure out all the instruments we're hearing. Your child will be encouraged to go after their passions and try new things in a supportive environment.

CHRIS IS THE HOME IMPROVEMENT GUY. He is amazing at building and creating. There is no task too little or large. All of Chris' carpentry skills are self-taught and combined with his huge heart, **HE IS ALWAYS READY TO GIVE A HELPING HAND**. When our cat Hugo lost one of his legs, Chris wanted to make sure he could still enjoy the outdoors in a safe way. So, Chris built Hugo (and Bella gets to enjoy it too), a special outdoor place where he can bask in the sun, play in the snow, or sit in the mud while watching and waiting for critters.



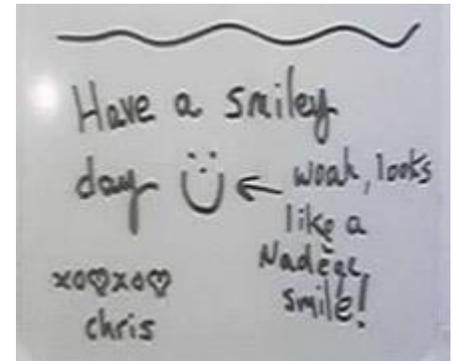
CHRIS IS CREATIVE AND AN ADVENTURIST- HE MAKES ALL BORING TASKS FUN AND REWARDING! Whether its pretending to do parkour during a trail run or creating snow forts when shoveling snow. Last year after a particularly bad snowstorm, Chris decided that the back deck needed to be cleared. He set off to shovel it and decided that it would be way more fun to create a giant snowman. He made a 6-foot tall, 10-foot-wide snowman, positioned so that it smiled at us through the kitchen window. It brought a smile to our face well into the spring when it finally melted. Your child will learn to make the most of any situation.



HE'S ALSO A PEOPLE PERSON; IT MUST BE HIS SOUTHERN ROOTS. You would never know but when Chris was young, he was timid around others (and sometimes still is). But growing up in the hustle and bustle of New Orleans with its year-round festivals and constant reasons for social gatherings, Chris came out of his shell. To this day, Chris is always ready to make others feel comfortable. Like the time he was asked to save a plane seat for a fellow passenger. Chris started chatting and soon realized that we all had a lot in common when the woman shared that her husband was from France. This one encounter led to a new friendship.

How we met

WE MET ONLINE. Nadege had just gotten out of a long relationship and pressured by her friends' repeated urgings joined Match.com. Chris had recently moved to Boston for work, not knowing anyone he also joined Match. One evening, Nadege winked at Chris. He responded to Nadege's wink, and over a few weeks, IMs went back and forth until Chris asked for Nadege's number. Nadege was hesitant to give out her number but was rewarded when she finally mustered up the courage as we had great phone conversations. A 1st date was set up. We met up in Boston on a spring afternoon without a plan in mind and started to walk around the city talking. Nadege spent most of the time smiling and nodding (**WHEN NADEGE IS NERVOUS, SHE TENDS TO SMILE A LOT**). Chris enjoyed Nadege's smile and found her easy to be with and fun while she enjoyed Chris' sense of adventure, jokes, and conversation. Nadege was smiling so much, that over the course of the 8 hour walk around Boston, people walking by commented on Nadege's smile. Chris enjoyed this very much, leading to more dates being set up.



Since we have met each other, **IT HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE.** We moved to Florida and spent several years in the Tampa area before moving back to Massachusetts so we could be closer to family in hopes of raising a family of our own. We continue our mini and larger scale adventures. One time we went to Cuba and made the crazy decision to ride in a "coconut" to the airport. It was a thrilling ride as we got soaked along the way due to a fast-approaching thunderstorm. We arrived slightly damp but laughing. For us it's always been about exploring, trying new things, and having fun.

When we wanted to start a family, Nadege found out that she was unable to conceive. **WE WERE DEVASTATED BUT NOT DEFEATED.** We turned to medicine with high hopes and perseverance, but every time we were let down. Wanting to create a family so we could share our passions, hopes, dreams, and experiences with a child led us to adoption. We would love the chance to be on this journey with you.



Our Furry Friends

WE GREW UP WITH PETS. So soon after getting our 1st house we chose to rescue Bella from a rescue-foster program. Because of how timid and scared she was, she had a hard time finding her forever home. Bella is sassy, but she is loyal, and always brings 'treats' to her caregivers. When Bella was two, we rescued Pepelepew. Pepe was our darling cat who passed away from an illness much too young but could always be found following Nadege around. A few months after Pepe passed, Hugo came into our lives. Hugo was found at one of Nadege's job sites, living outside, abandoned. When Nadege was visiting clients, Hugo would come running up to her, jump on her lap purring and kneading, so she took him home.



Hugo is very adventurous and loves the snow. After snowstorms he always wants to go out and play. This past winter Chris made Hugo a maze in the snow. Hugo would run through the maze and then over the walls **SHAKING OFF THE SNOW AND ZOOMING BACK AND FORTH.** He brings hours of entertainment.

BELLA AND HUGO ARE AMAZING WITH KIDS. Bella because of her loyalty and devotion, Hugo because of his goofiness and sweetness. When Nadege's best friend visits with her 4-year-old twins, Hugo immediately must run over so he can get pets. Last time they visited, during story time he kept interrupting the story, purring, and trying to play, Bella supervised.



Our Hobbies

We appreciate learning new things. When outdoor adventure is limited due to weather, we like to visit the many museums our city has to offer. One of our favorite museums to visit is the Harvard Museum of Natural History. On an exceptionally cold wintery day this past winter, we ventured out to Cambridge to wander through the exhibits. We came across the Moa Exhibit that taught about one of the world's largest flightless extinct birds. The skeleton, **WAS TALLER THAN CHRIS! Imagine** having these guys running around the neighborhood! Your child will have the opportunity to experience art, science, and history.



On the weekends **WE LIKE TO COOK THEMED DINNERS**. We also like to challenge ourselves to create authentic dishes from various regions and countries. Recently we made a Cuban dish; picadillo. We put on some Cuban music and mixed ground beef, olives, tomato paste and spices until it was done. It was delicious! We had fun and it brought back memories our trip to Havana.

We love relaxing by watching movies and tv series. A few nights a week we find the perfect movie or continue a series. Hugo and Bella often join us on the couch. Just last week, **WE WATCHED A HORRIBLE BUT FUNNY MOVIE**, "The Package", about a group of kids who go camping and the disasters that follow them. It was Chris' pick and boy, was it bad! It was an over-the-top slap stick comedy that we should have turned off but couldn't. We had a good laugh anyway though.





We love a good game night, whether it's board games with friends and family or video games with each other. We especially enjoy a good role-playing video game (RPVG) and often sit, coaching and cheering each other on. This spring, we started to play the video game "The Last of Us", It's about a post-apocalyptic world with zombies. **NADEGE IS SO BAD AT KILLING THE ZOMBIES THAT CHRIS GOT HOARSE FROM COACHING HER!**

Hiking for us does not only take place on a mountain or in a forest, we plan frequent city excursions where we walk around the city exploring new neighborhoods, **STUMBLING ACROSS HIDDEN GEMS** and enjoying what the city has to offer. Like the time we came across a small park with Zen like statues. We had been walking along the Charles River and wandered under one of Boston's many bridges when we came upon a little park hidden away. It's little geometric rock forms line the paths, with benches that overlook the river. It's quiet and you can watch the hustle bustle of the city from a little oasis. There is even a local swan that hangs out there. It's become one of our favorite places to visit.



We also love just spending time at home enjoying the wildlife that comes right to our door. This past spring, we were both working in the yard, Bella and Hugo were watching us, lounging in the grass enjoying the sunny day when a flock of turkeys jumped over the fence. First a large **ONE FLEW OVER, AND THEN 20 CHICKS STARTED TO JUMP OVER.** It was incredible to watch. Hugo and Bella were fascinated and weary at the same time. Those mama turkeys can be beasts! This flock paid us no mind, they jumped over, walked through the yard like they owned it, digging through the newly planted beds, making a mess on their search for insects. Your child will appreciate that adventures and wild things can happen in their own back yard.

Our Family

If you choose us, your child will grow up with 1 great grandmother, 4 grandparents, 5 aunts and uncles, and over **12 COUSINS**



OUR FAMILY HAS OPEN DOORS AND OPEN HEARTS. One Christmas, Nadege's mother went to the bank and met a teller who was also called Nadege. After getting to know her a bit, she invited her over for Christmas dinner so that she would have people to celebrate with. She came and this led to many humorous responses as neither Nadege knew when to respond.

Our family enjoys spending **A LOT OF TIME OUTDOORS** together. When Nadege's father had the goal of hiking Mount Washington (New England's tallest), we had to do it. For the hike, Nadege's dad showed up wearing hiking pants, a fleece, and a silk shirt. Throughout the hike, he kept boasting that "silk was the best type of fabric to wear on hikes because of its breathability". What we didn't realize was how sweaty we would get- the mountain was very steep and at one point we were jumping from boulder to boulder. It wasn't until we reached the summit that we understood why all the passing hikers were staring and snickering, Nadege's dad's 'great for hiking' silk shirt was now soaked through and completely see through.



Our family likes to **PLAY TOGETHER**. One Christmas, Uncle Chris had the best gift for his nephews- giant inflatable wearable balls. After spending half the day blowing them up, everyone went to the yard to watch the 'sumo match'. There was Uncle Chris chasing his nephews, who could barely move while wearing these giant balls. Chris pushed them over, waiting as they tried to get themselves back on their feet. His nephews determined to get even but ended up flopping around like fish out of water. The day ended with everyone exhausted and laughing.

Traditions



Every year, whether we can make it to New Orleans or not, **WE CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS**. We stuff ourselves full of King Cake and listen to Mardi Gras music. When in town, we love seeing the local high school and college marching bands and watching the floats. One year, we went to the local parade, and it started to rain. Everyone left but us, so we were able to enjoy a rare front row spot to the marching bands, floats and trinquets. We look forward to learning about your favorite traditions and incorporating them in our gatherings for your child.

When December comes around, we spend the month sight-seeing the town's best decorated houses, gift exchanging, decorating our home and eating Nadege's homemade cookies. Our favorite holiday activity is **CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON!** Where we watch 1 holiday movie a day. **THE CHEESIER THE BETTER**. This past year Nadege made her famous chocolate chip cookies, and we snuggled in to watch "The Princess Switch" holiday special numbers 1, 2 & 3. As the sequels progress their 'cheese factor' increases. The premise is a baking competition, where two look-alike girls become fast friends and decide to switch places so that the princess can experience life as a commoner. It leads to love and hidden identity conflicts. Of all the movies, these 3 were the cheesiest and we highly recommend!



Every Halloween we spend the month **COLLECTING THE MOST UNUSUAL PUMPKINS WE CAN FIND**. We drive to local farms, looking for unique pumpkins. One October, coming back from apple picking, we spotted a small farm stand with pumpkins. We ran to the stand and couldn't pick just one so ended up getting several. When we got home, we decorated the yard with our pumpkins and made our friendly Jack O' Lantern swamp creature. For dinner we made our traditional stuffed Jack O' Lantern peppers.

Our Home and Neighborhood

We live in a woody suburb of Boston, Massachusetts. **WE SPEND MOST OF OUR TIME IN OUR LODGE ROOM.** It's a cozy room with panoramic views of our backyard. Just this past week we had fallen asleep with the windows open. We woke up to the hoot of an owl. A couple minutes later we heard another hoot and for the next 30 minutes we got to listen to 2 owls hooting back and forth. It was amazing to be in our home yet feel like we were camping in the middle of the wilderness.



OUR NEIGHBORS ARE SO CARING! This past winter a huge snowstorm left us buried under 2 1/2 feet of wet heavy snow.

We were shoveling our long driveway when our neighbor showed up with his snowblower. In 10 minutes, he had helped clear us out and had moved on to another neighbor's house. Within an hour, everyone's house was unburied. We were so thankful and impressed at their kindness.

No matter the time of year, **OUR TOWN IS ALWAYS HOSTING AN EVENT.** But the best events are during the warm months with our weekly local farmers' market, Town Day Festival, 4th of July fireworks, and "Porch Fest"- where neighbors who are musically talented play for others. Last weekend was our first town festival since Covid. We started the day by catching the parade and then walking to the town center where we enjoyed some BBQ chicken from the food trucks. We enjoyed seeing all the local children playing in the bounce houses and the brave ones participating in the dunk tank. Seeing the children's enjoyment reminded us of our own recurring childhood events and the importance of living in a family-oriented community that values hosting these types of festivities.



Weekdays



Chris works as a construction manager, organizing and overseeing construction projects. Chris typically **WORKS FROM HOME** and has a **FLEXIBLE** schedule.

Nadege is a behavior analyst and works with kids and adults with disabilities. Her profession is about understanding people's behaviors and teaching them new skills. This has made her endlessly patient, supportive, and empathetic. Nadege's job allows her a lot of **FLEXIBILITY** and she often gets to **WORK FROM HOME**.



Weeknights, we take turns making home cooked meals. It's important to us that **WE EAT DINNER TOGETHER**. Every night, we sit in the kitchen and share about our day and pick a favorite show to watch. We really love the "British Bake Off". We make predictions about who will get kicked off and who will be the week's star baker. Often, the show's daily challenge inspires Nadege to put her skills to the test. One pastry challenge prompted her to bake a strawberry tart. Upon tasting a slice Chris deemed Nadege his "star baker"! Your child will have quality family time every day.



A Blessing of Gratitude

Thank you for considering us as adoptive parents, during what is likely a difficult journey. We believe your child is a gift, a gift of love and hope. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING UPDATES** of the adventures and experiences your child will have, as well as, what they learn, how they grow and the beautiful person that they become. We are eternally grateful to be considered.

Thank you,



Nadege's Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients:

wet:

1 3/4 cup softened butter (14 Tbs)
1/2 cup white sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar
2 eggs
2 tsp vanilla

Dry:

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt

"You pick amount"

semisweet chocolate chips*

*Recommend at least 1/2 the bag, can also pick other types of chocolate (white, dark, or mix different types)

Materials:

2 medium size bowls
1 mixer
measuring cup
measuring spoons
cookie sheet
soup spoon
mixing spoon

recommended:

nonstick tinfoil or parchment paper

Steps:

1. Set oven to 350 degrees F.

Get the cookie sheets, line with tinfoil or parchment paper.

Note: If you have neither, make sure to butter the pan so the cookies won't stick.

2. Measure and melt butter.

note: If you melt the butter in a small pot on the stove top until it turns light brown the butter will have a nutty taste.

3. Let butter cool slightly.

4. In medium bowl, mix all the wet ingredients (butter, sugars, eggs, vanilla) together until smooth and well incorporated.

5. In 2nd bowl, measure and mix all the dry ingredients (flour, baking soda, salt).

6. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, mix until smooth. Should be 1 color (light brown).

7. Add the amount of chocolate chips you want to the batter and stir.

8. Using a spoon, spoon out the amount of batter you want. We typically do a soup spoon size. Leaving about 1 inch space between each cookie.

9. Using the spoon, flatten each cookie slightly- this will help prevent spreading.

10. Place in oven for approximately 10-15 minutes.

Cookies should be light tan, gold color on top. Remove immediately.

11. Eat and enjoy. Chris likes his cookies with milk.

Troubleshoot:

If the cookies harden- too much sugar or too long in oven.

If undercooked- too little time in oven.



Notes: