



Liem & Shawna



Chào* (Hello)!

We are honored you are taking the time to look at our photos and read our story. Even though we are strangers, we honor and respect the journey you are on and the decisions you are making. We are nervous and anxious—just like you.

Ever since we got married, we have talked about growing our family through adoption. Your child would be the first grandchild on Shawna's side and the second on Liem's, so they would already have a little cousin to play with! We are a multicultural couple and plan to fold your cultural traditions into our family.

The reality is we are just a couple of big-hearted weirdos who fell in love and want to start a family. We aren't perfect people, no one is, but will raise your child as perfectly as we can. Our home will be filled with so much love, laughter and adventure.

If you choose us as part of your adoption plan, your child will ALWAYS know your decision was made out of love. They will know you were brave.

The words "thank you" seem too small for the situation we are in, but they are the only words we have. We are filled with gratitude to be able to share our story with you.

- Shawna & Liem

*We've added some Vietnamese words throughout our book in honor of Liem's culture.



Ten things about us

1. We got married twice in one day. In the morning we had a Vietnamese wedding ceremony with our families. In the evening we had a bigger American ceremony and reception with all our friends and family members. It was a loooong, but fun day!
2. During the pandemic when we were working from home, we played a game together every day at lunch. Our favorites are Sequence, Splendor and Quixx.
3. We started out as friends before falling in love. This gave us a strong foundation to tackle everything life throws our way. Before we began dating, we got together at least once a week for dinner and to watch an episode of a TV show.
4. Our favorite places to travel to are San Diego and Hawaii. We love being in the sun and near the beach.
5. We played on a coed softball team for five years before the pandemic. Liem played in the outfield and Shawna managed the team.
6. One of our life goals is to travel to every major league baseball stadium and watch a game. So far, we have been to four: San Diego Padres, Los Angeles Dodgers, Oakland A's and Seattle Mariners.
7. Our dogs are more than pets, they are members of our family. We couldn't imagine our lives without them. Both were adopted from animal rescue organizations. They bring us so much joy and entertainment.
8. The first time we met, Liem called Shawna by the wrong name...Lauren. Needless to say, he made quite the first impression and she didn't forget him!
9. We love going to concerts together. Recently we saw The Head and The Heart. Other favorites have been Joan Jett, Citizen Cope, Sublime, and Earth, Wind and Fire.
10. Every night we fall asleep watching the TV show Friends. It is our FAVORITE show.



Learn about Liem

1. I was born in Vietnam and moved to the U.S. when I was 9 years old. It was difficult and sad to move away from my friends and family. The first couple years were tough: I couldn't speak English and didn't have a lot of friends. Eventually my English got better, I acclimated to life in America, and I started to make friends.

2. I love everything related to Christmas: movies, decorations, the lights and more. I would leave our Christmas tree up year-round if Shawna would let me.

3. I grew up with a really big extended family (I have 26 cousins)! Nothing makes me happier than being around my family. We love playing games and sharing good food.

4. Speaking of food, I am a foodie. I am a sucker for good barbecue! It is hard to find food I don't like, except maybe cottage cheese.

5. I always wanted to own a pet, but my parents would never let me. When I went away to college, I got my first pet: a fish named Kosmo.



Liem with Zelda (niece) and Leo (nephew).



Birthplace: Phan Rang, Vietnam

Job: Quality Engineer

Hobbies: playing golf, watching sports, cooking, collecting baseball cards

I've always wanted: to travel the world

Dream job: baseball commentator

Superpower I want: Flying

Pet peeve: slow golfers



LIEM'S FAVORITES

Movie: Inception & Catch Me If You Can

TV Show: Friends, Top Chef, Fresh Prince of Bel Air & Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations

Sports Team: Seattle Mariners

Genre of Music: 60's & 70's rock, almost everything but *no* country

Car: 1998 Toyota Supra & old school muscle cars (Stingray, Chevelle, etc.)



Liem and niece Zelda in Hawaii.



Getting to know Shawna

1. Growing up I loved being active. I played soccer for 12 years, softball for five years, and took tap, ballet and jazz for six years. I went to sports camps and took tennis lessons. I was busy!

2. My favorite food is pancakes. I like to think of myself as a pancake aficionado. The best pancakes I ever had were in Hawaii, and they had a macadamia nut sauce on top. YUM.

3. I love going to museums, especially art museums. I am inspired by others' creativity. My favorite artists are Frida Kahlo because she wasn't afraid to be herself and Morag Myerscough because she thinks outside the box.

4. When I was little I wanted to be the first female quarterback in the NFL. My goal was to prove that a girl could do it! Obviously, this didn't happen but I held onto that dream for a long time.

5. I hate wearing dresses and pretty much only wear them to weddings. Jeans, T-shirts and sweatshirts are much more my style. Even as a kid, I refused to wear dresses on most occasions.



Shawna and her niece, Zelda.



Birthplace: Bellevue, Washington

Job: Graphic Designer

Hobbies: reading, jigsaw puzzles, playing with my dogs, photography

I've always wanted: to get in a food fight

Dream job: art museum curator

Superpower of choice: Teleportation

Pet peeve: littering & loud chewers



Taking pictures of Zelda.

SHAWNA'S FAVORITES

Movie: A League of Their Own, The Grand Budapest Hotel, & Meet Me In St. Louis

TV Show: Schitt's Creek, The Office, & Friends

Dessert: Huckleberry ice cream & peach pie

Musician: The Head and the Heart & Stevie Nicks

Book: The Hate U Give & the Harry Potter series

Childhood toy: Roller blades & Uno





What Shawna loves about Liem

Liem is one of the most amazing people I know. He is generous with his time, money and talents. He is loyal and devoted to his friends and family. He will drop everything and help them when they are in need. Liem and I have been married for almost eight years. I am lucky to have found a partner who hugs me when I am sad, makes me laugh by being silly, believes in me and my dreams, and values open communication. Liem is truly the happiest person I know.

Being a parent is always something Liem has dreamed about. He loves to get down on the floor and play with all his younger cousins. He has a natural ability to parent and his dad jokes are on point. He will be an amazing *Ba (Dad)*!



What Liam loves about Shawna

Shawna has the biggest heart! She always goes out of her way to make others feel welcome, accepted and loved. Shawna is goofy and giggles at little things. It doesn't take a lot of make her laugh. She has a warm smile and is so easy to talk to. Her compassion for those around her is one of her best qualities. She is always thinking of ways to make someone's day better. She continually inspires me to be a better person.

When our friends started having kids, Shawna started to collect toys and books for them to play with when they came to our house. She is so patient with her niece, even when she cries and throws tantrums. Shawna is going to be a great, loving *Mẹ (Mom)*!

Meet Nala

We adopted Nala when she was 4 months old from the animal shelter. She is part Golden Retriever/Border Collie/Shepherd/Crazy dog. She LOVES to go on walks. Her favorite foods are apples and bananas and she will drool waiting to eat them. Her biggest dislikes are fireworks and getting her nails trimmed. She may have just turned 8, but she still runs around and acts like a puppy. Both of our dogs are great with kids. They have been spending time around our niece Zelda since she was an infant.



Nala as a puppy.



Meet Pickles

Pickles is the baby of our family; she was just 3 months old when we adopted her. Pickles is quite the character—she makes noises like a gremlin when she is excited! She is 1.5 years old and a Pomeranian/Dachshund/Pug mix. Pickles loves playing fetch and adores her sister Nala. She is a true lap dog and prefers to fall asleep with someone holding her. Pickles hates getting wet—she cries during baths and doesn't want to out in the rain or snow! She loves our niece Zelda and follows her around the house.



Pickles at 3 months old.



Our nhà (home)





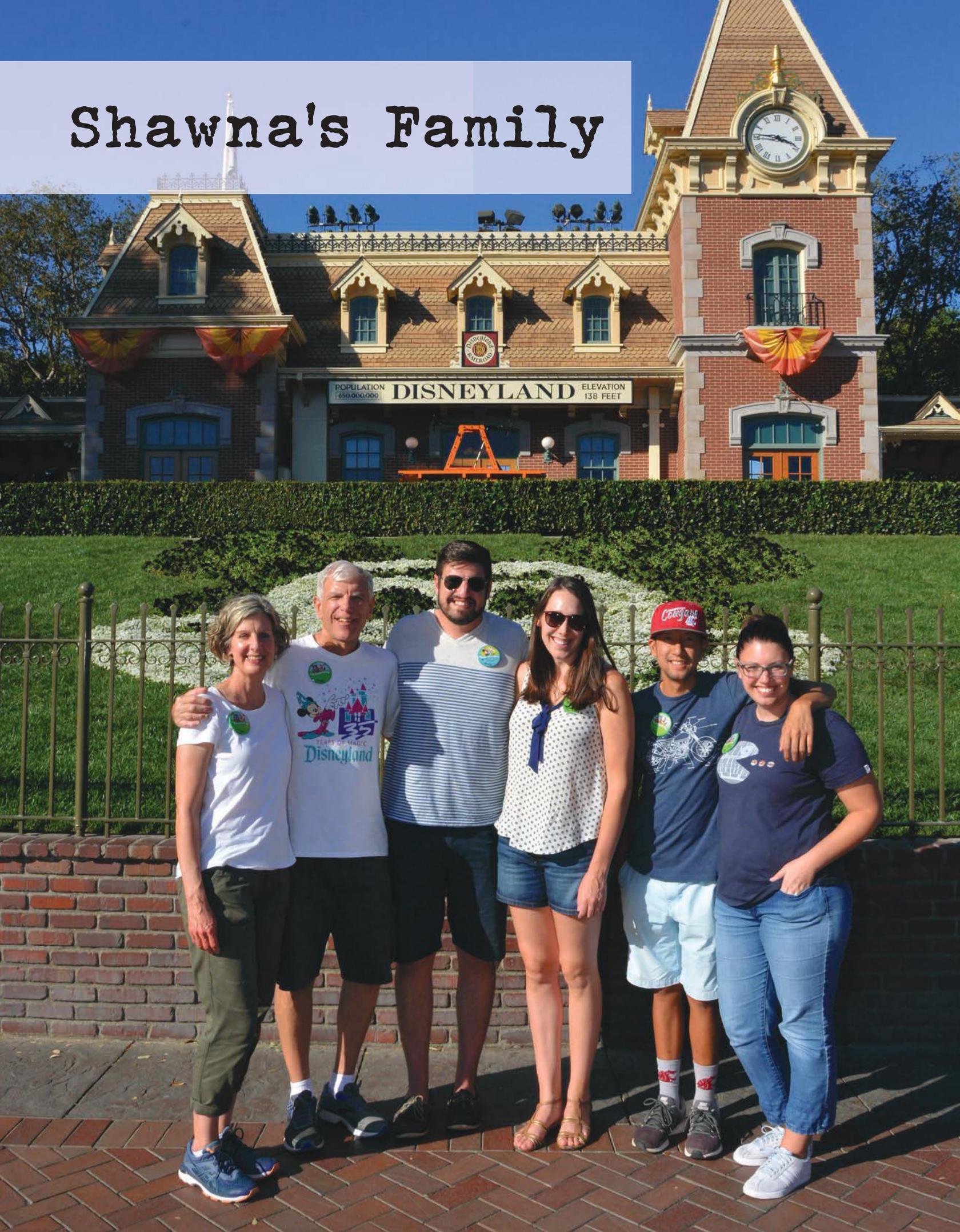
Shawna's parents playing badminton.

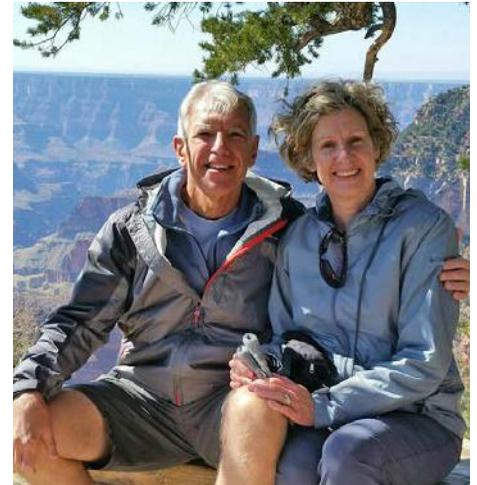


Our home is on the eastside of Washington state. Our region experiences all four seasons—from snow to 100 degree heat. We live near three rivers and enjoy walking along the rivershore trails. Our house is in a suburban neighborhood in one of the best school districts in the region. Less than a half mile away from our home there are dirt roads and farm animals for us to walk by. Our house has three bedrooms and three bathrooms, with a great room that is perfect for us to host our family and friends. We have a large, grassy backyard to run around and play in and a covered patio to enjoy the sunset from. The front of our house has a large, flat driveway, perfect for sidewalk drawings, bike riding, and jump rope.



Shawna's Family

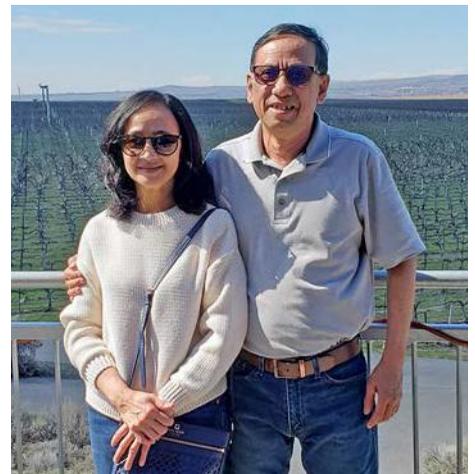




Shawna has the warmest, most loving family. Her brother, Brent, is three years younger than her (but almost a foot taller). As kids (and now as adults) they got along great and rarely fought. Brent is married to Michelle and they live in Seattle with their dog, Henley. Shawna's parents, Nancy and Keith, are her biggest support system (besides Liem). They are compassionate, kind, hilarious and caring. They recently moved from Seattle to be closer to us and their future grandchild. We see each other several times a week. Nancy and Keith are very active: they love hiking, going for walks, traveling and trying new foods. Shawna has one living Grandma (Margy) who is 98 and quite the firecracker! Everyone is over the moon about welcoming a new member to the family.

Liem's Family





Liem's family moved to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1994. His parents have worked hard to provide a good life for their sons. It was hard for all of them in the beginning, but they couldn't imagine not living here now. Liem's mom is an amazing cook—her phở is the best! Liem's brother is five years younger and is also named Liem (we know it's weird but his grandma insisted). Around family they are called by their nicknames: Cuom and Ngau, while their friends often refer to them as "Big Liem" and "Little Liem." Little Liem married Amanda in 2019, which was pretty amazing because she was already one of our best friends. Amanda was a bridesmaid in our wedding before she and Little Liem dated. Our niece, Zelda, was born in 2020 and our nephew, Leo, was born in July 2022. We adore them and love them so much! Liem's family all live within 15 minutes of each other and we see each other at least once a week for dinner.



One big gia đình (family)

We are beyond lucky that our two families get along and love each other. We started celebrating holidays together the year we got married. Since then, it has become a tradition. Our dads even share the same birthday, so we always celebrate their birthdays together. Some years they even get matching gifts! Our families truly enjoy each other's company: we share lots of dinners, travel together, play games, go on picnics and more.





Our Ban Bè (Friends)



Tracy, Jim, Amelia & Sam



Bryce & Molly



Grace, Charlie & August



Zach, Laura & Hadley



Tara, Jake, Mia & Taylor



Gui



Alton



Tai, Justin & Kallen



Stef, Nico, Maxine & Mae



We love our friends and consider them an extension of our family. Most of them we've known for over 10 years. We enjoy traveling together, having game nights, hosting barbecues, playing coed softball and more! Our friend group is close and we know we can count of them to help us out with anything. We have shared laughter and tears, celebrated births and mourned deaths together. Our friends stick together through thick and thin and will play a big role in your child's life.





Our Promises to You

If you choose us to be part of your adoption plan, here is what we promise:

We promise to take your child on vacations, play games with them, teach them new things, read them books and expose them to different cultures and experiences.

We promise to make laughter an everyday sound in our home. We will tell jokes, watch funny movies, do silly things and laugh until our cheeks hurt.

We promise to help them be confident and stay true to themselves and to feel empowered to be strong, resilient individuals.

We promise to share their adoption story with them from the beginning. And to only speak of you and their story with love and respect.

We promise to honor your wishes –whether you want updates, letters, pictures or more. Your child will always know you love them.

We promise to love your child unconditionally, every single day.

Cảm ơn (thank you),

Shawna & Liem

