

Hanna & Steffen



Thank You For This Honor

It is such an honor for us to introduce ourselves to you.

We hope this book will give you an idea of who we are, what we are about, and the future we wish to offer another baby, so first, thank you so much for looking through our profile! The fact you are considering adoption says so much about your courage and spirit, and we really want to honor that.

We met in graduate school in 2003. Having both lived much of our lives as foreigners in various countries, with a thirst to know the world, we connected immediately. Within two years, we were married and living in Washington, D.C. Our marriage ceremony was a quick, low-key event in Virginia, but boy have we spent the years since growing and learning together! Every adventure we have shared has brought us even closer: we have a deep, loving connection.



After our careers relocated us to several more countries (Italy and the former Yugoslavia), we settled in Connecticut, where we were blessed with our first child, Xenia, in 2018. We are looking forward to growing our family in this safe, rural setting, surrounded by farms and forests.

We hope that you find a connection and develop a sense of trust with us throughout these pages. Thank you for being here!

Bless you,

Hanna and Steffen



About Hanna by Steffen

Hanna is the most talented, insightful, determined, and goal-oriented person I know. In everything Hanna does, she is driven only by love: her love for others, for herself, for learning and understanding, and above all, her love for children. She understands more than anyone that parenting is not about making a child into what you want them to be, but about helping that child become the best they are.



Hanna knows there is nothing more important for a child than to feel loved unconditionally, without hesitation. She is a wonderful mother!

Meet Steffen by Hanna



Steffen has never lost touch with his inner child. He understands children because he sees himself in them and lets his inner goofiness free with them. He is a great teacher, able to convey ideas, ethics, or stories in an engaging, fun manner. At the same time, he is no pushover: he sets rules clearly, and his dedication shows as a devoted and loving dad to our daughter.

Steffen puts family first and I can't imagine my life without him. He loves being a dad and he is ready and excited to raise another child!



Giving kids a tour of the local mill museum



Big Sister. Xenia



Born in 2016 and loving elementary school, Xenia loves drawing, music, and playing outdoors with her friends.

She and her best friend spend hours drawing and making comic books: stories about momma unicorns and their babies, baby princesses and mermaids. We love her creativity and zany sense of humor. She has had an unusual childhood so far, filled with adventure: she attended kindergarten in both Italy and Connecticut and speaks three languages at home (English, Italian, and Russian). She loves playing with other kids and is especially nurturing to the smallest kids in her group. She will be a fantastic big sister.



Pizza at our favorite place in Florence



On a haystack in the neighbor's field!



With grandma in Maine last winter

Our Home



Kids movie night in our living room

Our historic home has a lot of character, and has many stories from its two centuries. There is plenty of space for a second child, with three full bathrooms, three living rooms, and two offices, in addition to the two main bedrooms. Our beautiful, elderly cat, Beba, is the gentlest, kindest soul imaginable. He has never raised a paw to anyone, and he is gentle with children, even though Xenia likes to pick him up and walk around with him like he's a toy. The gardens in the back are perfect for kids to play in, and we keep a small flock of chickens.



Tree house out back!



Springtime in the garden

It is located in a historic village, surrounded by forest and fields. Our neighborhood is a great place for raising children: lots of safe playing outdoors and open doors with our neighbors, whom we can rely on whenever we need help. There is a green in the middle of the village where we hold regular social events, especially in the summer, where kids and parents of all backgrounds get together and enjoy each other's company. Starting in the summer of 2024, the residents hold movie nights on the village green! We just can't wait to bring another child into our home, and our neighbors and friends are rooting for us.



Our Family, Friends & Community

Both of us come from international backgrounds.

Steffen's dad, who died in 1988, was a professor from Italy, and his mother is a retired professor from Germany. At 88, she is still going strong and lives in Maine. Steffen's older brother lives in France, and he has many cousins, nephews and nieces in Italy and the USA, whom he sees as much as possible.

Hanna was born to a Nigerian father, a retired professor of mechanical engineering, and a Belarussian mother. She spent her youth in the former USSR, before meeting Steffen in England. Her father lives in Lagos and her mother is based in Minsk, Belarus.

Our lives wouldn't be as rich or interesting without our friends. Some live close and others are spread around the world. Our friends feel more like family and they all support us enthusiastically in our quest to adopt!

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Alessandro is like a brother to Steffen, with his family in Italy

Our greater rural community is a mix of traditional and modern, with families from all over the world. We have an extensive network of families with whom we coordinate social events, both for children and for adults: there are library Saturdays with storytelling, group rides on bike paths, hikes through the woods to the horse barns and dairy creamery, and days spent at museums. There is a hodgepodge of local farms from which we try to source most of our fresh food. The local elementary school has children from all sorts of backgrounds: in Xenia's class, there are children who speak Spanish, Mandarin, German, and French at home.



Our next-door neighbor and close friend, John



Vitaly and Zhenia in Boston



Alessandro's daughters with our Xenia

Things We Like To Do Places We Like To Go



Our favorite city, Florence

We like to live healthily, close to the land: source most of our food locally, bake our own bread and cure our own meats from local farmers. In the winter, we tap maple trees, inviting neighborhood kids to participate in the syrup boil. We often have friends over for dinner.

We also love to travel! Italy is our go-to destination, where we are dual US/Italian citizens and where many members of our extended family live. It is the most beautiful country, with a society that values life, love, and tradition. We want our children to identify with that country as much as America. The baby will learn the culture, language, and traditions of both countries. We have also spent many vacations in Mexico: a fascinating place.

In addition to vacation travel, we have both worked internationally in over 30 countries, including Haiti, China, Senegal, India, and Eastern Europe.



Hiking in Tuscany!



Xenia's baptism in Italy



Our Promise to You!

In words and actions, we will show the child how love is the single most important thing in life, that love is what brought them into our family and what keeps us together.

We promise to open a world of love and opportunities to your child. In words and actions, we will show your child how love is the single most important thing in life, that love is what brought them into our family and what keeps us together.

We know that your decision to consider an adoption plan is not an easy one. We thank you for considering our family, and *we promise* to honor the care, dignity, and courage demonstrated, for the rest of our lives.



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