

Hello! We are

DREW & FLAVIO

from San Francisco, California



Dear Birthmother,

Thank you for reading our story and taking the time to learn more about us. We appreciate your courage and strength in choosing open adoption for your child, and we hope this letter gives you a sense of our life experience and our values as parents.

We met four years ago, and since the beginning had a very strong connection. Our relationship grew quickly, and after three years together, we got married last year.

We co-parent Elias, Drew's 12 year-old son from a former relationship. We are so proud of how he has grown into an intelligent, talented, and loving child. We share great joy in everything we do together, including playing ball, hiking, skiing in the winter, and just helping him with homework.

We speak to each other in different languages, since Flavio's native language is Portuguese. Drew has learned Portuguese, and speaks Spanish too. We mix up the languages in our household, and speak Spanish in our community.

Since we first met, we have known that we would want to grow our family together, and after heartfelt consideration, came to the decision that open adoption is the best fit for us. There are many different kinds of families, and we want our child to know how he or she came to be part of our family.

CONTACT US

Via Adoption Connection: 1-800-972-9225 Direct Line (toll free): 1-877-778-5177 Email: dads@drewandflavio.com
Website: <http://www.drewandflavio.com> En español: <http://espanol.drewandflavio.com>

about DREW



Drew and Elias celebrating Chanukah

by Flavio

I am continually touched by the strong relationship Drew has with his son, Elias. Drew is loving, caring, encouraging and patient, yet firm when he needs to be.

Drew is a great dancer! When we started dating we went dancing a lot. Although we had just met, it was as if we had been regular dance partners for years. We've taken classes together since then, and have learned a number of new styles and moves--but the best part is the fun we have out on the dance floor.

Professionally, Drew works in management at a leading software company. In his job he manages engineers located in offices around the world to build and strengthen customer relationships. Outside of work, he puts these leadership and business skills to good use. He has served on the board of our synagogue a number of times, and is an active volunteer at Elias's school.

Drew has been a supportive, solid, and fun friend and partner. I can always count on him to listen, communicate honestly, and to be there for me when I need him. I couldn't have asked for a better life partner and a child couldn't ask for a better dad.



Out on the dance floor

about FLAVIO



Flavio on a recent visit to Brazil, enjoying a traditional meal with his father, Arnaldo

by Drew

Flavio is very intelligent, positive, thoughtful, and optimistic. When we're at a party, the kids will often follow him around and include him in their games. He has learned a great deal from his experience emigrating to the U.S. from Brazil. He is very loving and passionate; he brings the warmth of his Brazilian culture to our relationship and his way in the world.

In his work as a psychologist, Flavio helps critically ill patients at a most vulnerable time in their lives. He supports patients through heart transplant, a life-threatening situation. He also helps the patients' families, the doctors, and hospital staff to cope with the difficult life-and-death issues they face every day.

Over the past four years Flavio has become a key role model for Elias. Through Flavio, Elias has developed an interest in Brazilian sports and culture, and has picked up some Portuguese. It is great watching them play together, even just kicking around a soccer ball—laughing and smiling and having a great time. I can see that Flavio will be a great parent to our new child.



Exchanging vows

about ELIAS



At a Tae Kwon Do tournament

We co-parent Elias, our 12-year-old son from Drew's previous relationship, with Elias's mother, Carol, and Drew's former partner, Mike. Elias is very excited about the prospect of having a younger sibling. He loves art and painting, plays the trumpet, and has earned a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He recently volunteered as a leader in his Tae Kwon Do school, helping to coach younger students twice a week after school.

Elias spends time in three households, so he stays with us about one week per month.

While it may sound complicated, growing up in a non-traditional family has enriched his life in many ways. He always has people around him who love him, and he gets to see the world from many perspectives.

Most of all, Elias loves people. His friends, family, and teachers are all very important to him. This summer, he went to YMCA camp with a small allowance to spend at the camp store. Rather than spending on himself, he saved most of it to buy thank you gifts for his camp counselors on the last day. This is just one example of how he goes out of his way to include and express appreciation for the people he cares about. His caring nature will make him a great role model as an older brother.



Drew and Flavio with Elias at family camp near Yosemite

our FAMILIES



Drew with his sisters Barbara and Marla

Drew is the youngest of three children. He was born in Michigan, where his mother and one sister live with their families. His other sister lives in Pennsylvania. We have two nephews and a niece from Drew's family. In spite of the geographical distances, we remain in close contact.

Every summer, Drew's family meets for a week for a small family reunion called "Camp Grandma," named for Drew's mom. Elias looks forward to this time with the family, and especially his cousins. Last summer they competed for many hours playing "Rock Band" on the Playstation, trading the different instruments and mastering new songs.



On a visit to Florida with Flavio's parents

Flavio was born in São Paulo, Brazil, the middle son of three brothers. He has lived in the U.S. for much of his adult life, but his parents, brothers and their families all live in Brazil. We have three nieces and a nephew from Flavio's family. We maintain regular contact with them through phone and internet video calls, and try to visit Brazil at least once a year.

Flavio's family sometimes travels to San Francisco, or meets us somewhere for a vacation together. Recently, we met Flavio's parents for a vacation in Florida, which is about half way between San Francisco and São Paulo. Elias met the Brazilian relatives for the first time in person when we joined Flavio's brother Mauro and family on a Disneyland vacation.

our COMMUNITY



*Flavio on the front steps of our house
in San Francisco*

San Francisco is a diverse and vibrant city, where people from many cultures live, work, and interact. We find it to be a welcoming place, and have connected with our community in a number of ways.

We live in a neighborhood called Noe Valley, where many families with children live. We can walk to the local produce stand to buy our fruits and vegetables. Nearby, 24th Street has great restaurants and cafes that we enjoy on the weekends.

The recreation center one block from our house has a park and playground. Elias played in the sandbox there almost every day when he was small; now we play basketball and tennis on the courts there with him.



Celebrating Chanukah with Elias and friends

We are blessed to belong to a welcoming, progressive synagogue where we find community. We have become close with many families there, and celebrate Chanukah and other Jewish holidays together. The congregation welcomes all kinds of families, and is actively involved in social justice—striving to make the world a better place for all.

our VALUES



Helping at a nature conservation project

Our home is a safe and loving place where a child can grow to be healthy and happy, to learn their way in the world, and become the best person he or she can be. We have learned so much from our own families, from each other, and from our son.

Children flourish when they have the right opportunities to explore and grow, to have fun and learn, to be part of a larger community, and to appreciate differences in people, language and culture. We think they need love, kindness and trust, but also guidance in getting through the difficult times that we all face.

We are very excited about the prospect of expanding our family. We are grateful to have the time, energy, and ability to provide a loving home and promising future for a child.

We know this is a very difficult decision for you to make. We want you to know that we will make sure your child is loved and taken care of, and has every opportunity to pursue his or her dreams.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you, so please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Drew + Flavio



At a New Year's party with Elias