



Shawna & Mario



Hello!

We are Mario and Shawna and we want to thank you for taking the time to learn more about us, our family, and our many adventures! We are so excited to be adopting and bringing a child into our family. We have so much love to give and we hope our story and learning about us will help you in making your choice. Please know that no matter what you choose, we wish you and your child all the best.



about us

OUR STORY

Mario and Shawna first met through a mutual friend at a concert. There was an instant connection the moment we started a conversation. Our first date was at a sushi restaurant, and our second date was a hike at a regional park. That is the start of our adventurous life together as we continued to find new, fun places to eat and find exciting locations to hike, bike, and kayak.

Mario opened my eyes to the world of travel as he took me to Cabo after 8 months of being together. I got a taste of culture and wanted to learn and explore more. Travel is a big part of our lives and we try to take 1-2 trips a year.

A year after being married, we wanted to expand our family and started trying to have a baby. We bought a house, we got our first dog together, and she has been such an amazing addition to our family. We found out it wasn't in the cards for us to have a child of our own so that's how we decided we wanted to adopt.

It was been such an exciting journey so far and we cannot wait to see what is in store for us in the future!



Our first photo together



Our first dance at our wedding

a little about
SHAWNA

When writing a description of my wife, it should come off as a love letter. Shawna is a thoughtful, reserved, beautiful woman. She is very kind and patient. She is filled with love, laughter, and not only finds joy, but seeks it out. Her love of me, our dogs, family, and house is very evident in how she carries herself among others. I am very lucky to have found her and not purely as a relationship standpoint, but more as a life partner.

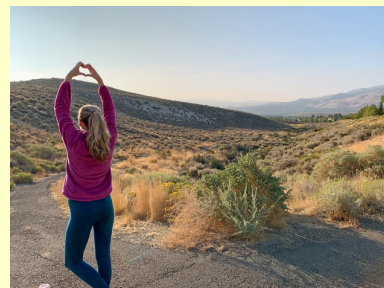
Some people who know Shawna would describe her as a spifire, wild mustang, or a sweet butterfly. Not me though...I would describe her as a vacation. According to Merriam Webster dictionary, a vacation is a noun, which states an extended period of leisure and recreation spent away from ones home. There are two types of vacations, ones for leisure, the other is for adventure. I feel that Shawna is both. As leisure, she realizes that family is the most important, and building a large family would make her heart full. And for adventure, Shawna is fun, exciting, interesting, and very adaptable. In this adoption process, she has been so excited and would love nothing more to be a mother to your child. I am blessed.

-Mario



Fun Facts:

- Favorite Job: When I worked at a dog kennel
- Favorite food: Artichokes, and cupcakes
- Favorite TV show: Grey's Anatomy
- Favorite movie: A League of Their Own
- Bucket list travel destination: Switzerland
- Biggest accomplishment: Receiving a full-ride softball scholarship at CSU Bakersfield





a little about
MARIO

My husband Mario is my favorite person to be around. I love how happy and outgoing he is. He's the type of guy who is very adventurous and is always looking for fun things to do with the family to create new memories. He's a very social person which is a great balance for us as a couple, as I tend to be more shy. He is such a humble, honest, kind, and caring person. He has loved traveling since he was a young boy which he has learned from his Grandma, who has traveled the world and would share her stories and pictures.

He is always looking for ways to better himself, such as going back to school, getting new degrees and licenses, looking to do small upgrades to our home, watching cooking shows so he can make new recipes for dinner, and so much more! He is always trying to do things to make the people around him happy. He always worries about other people and puts them first.

I love how we have kitchen dance parties when we cook dinner together, hike with our dogs exploring national parks, and finding new restaurants to try different types of cuisine. He makes me so happy, he is my best friend and I could not have picked a better man to be my person.

-Shawna



Fun Facts:

-Favorite movies: **Fast & Furious**, **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation**

-Favorite food: **PB&J**, **garlic bread & rack of lamb**

-Favorite TV show to binge watch: **The Office**, **& Narcos**

-Bucket list travel destination: **Hike the Great Wall of China**

-First concert: **Foo Fighters**

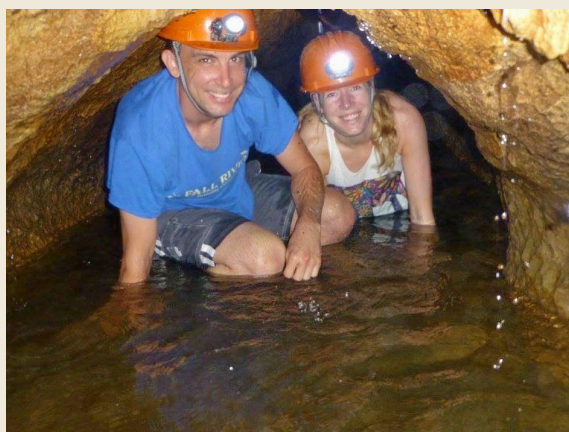
Adventures



Together we love to see and experience new places, people, and foods! We appreciate the beauty of the world around us, and try to soak in as much as we can each year, whether it's near our home or a far off destination. Some of our favorite destinations so far have been Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, Kauai, and New Orleans.



White water rafting



Cave exploring in Costa Rica

EXPLORE

DREAM

discover

TRAVEL

ADVENTURE



Parasailing in Mexico



Hiking Napali Coast



Spanish Cathedral



Waterfall rappelling



Axe throwing



Chasing waterfalls



Sagrada Familia in Barcelona



Grinding sugar cane stock



Rock climbing



Guggenheim Museum

Shawna's Hobbies



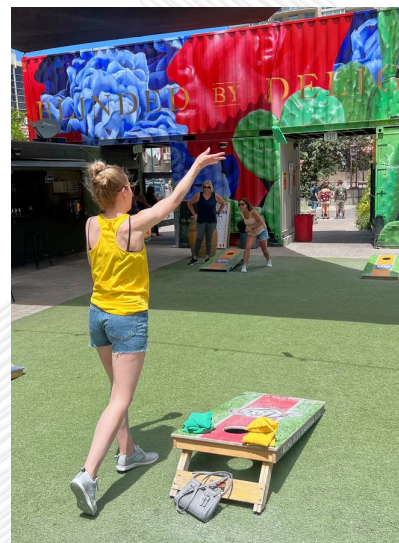
*horseback riding



* water sports



* gardening



* backyard games

Mario's Hobbies



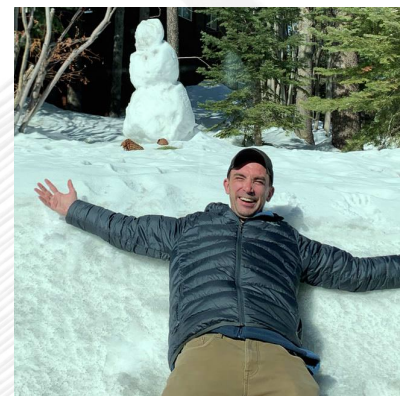
*exploring new towns



*going to the lake



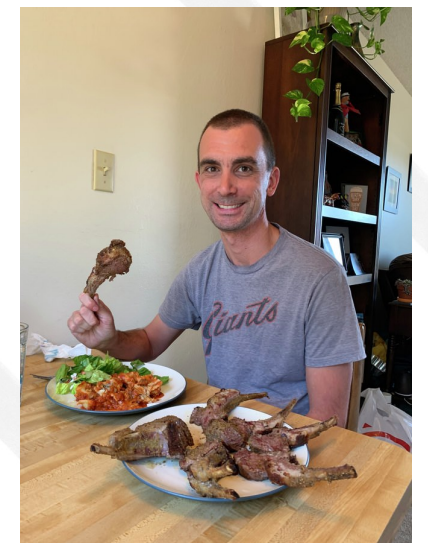
* hiking



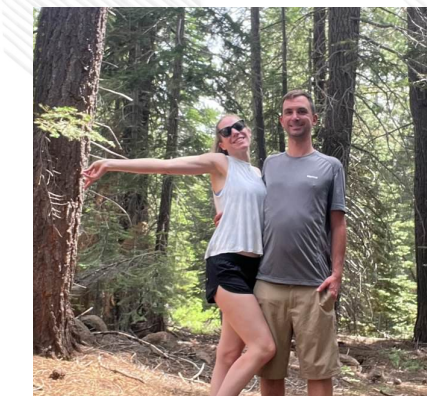
* playing in snow



*spending time with family



* cooking amazing meals



* hiking



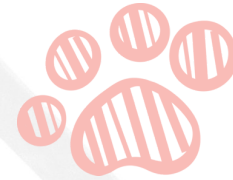
* coaching my nieces softball team

OUR *home* AND NEIGHBORHOOD

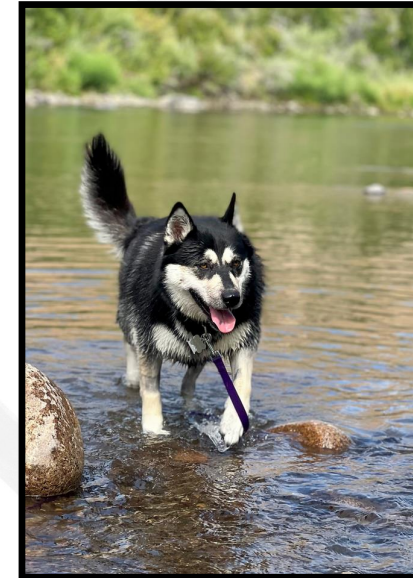


Our house is located in a cul-de-sac in a quiet neighborhood that sits right at the bottom of the mountain ranges. There are walking/hiking trails, parks, community library, sports complex, and an ice cream shack nearby within walking distance. Our favorite place in our home is our large backyard deck because we love lounging or eating dinners out there while watching our dogs play!

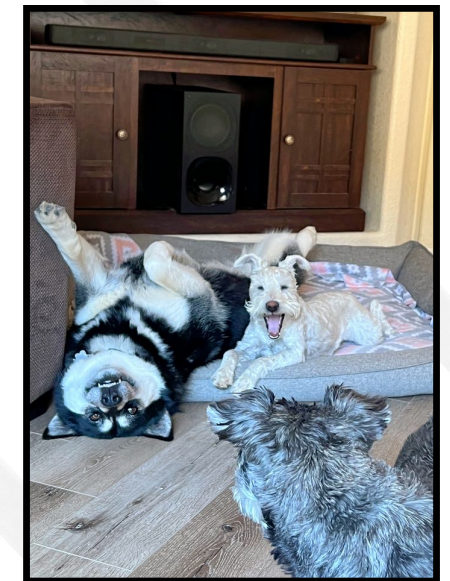
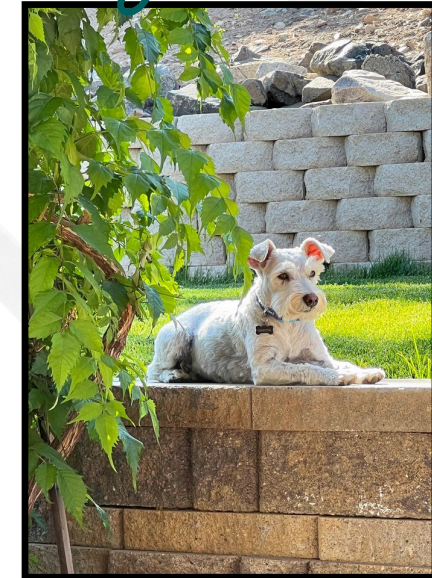
Meet our Dogs!



Kahlua



Dakota



Say hello to Kahlua (4), and Dakota (1). They are our sweet, snuggly and lovable fur babies. They love going on hikes, and going to grandma and grandpa's house for bones and treats. They cannot wait to have a tiny human to play with.

Our Family



Our family is loving, supportive, fun, caring and outgoing. We love getting together and celebrating holidays, birthdays, and just spending time together. We also enjoy going to festivals, and renting a house for the weekend at the lake. As our family grows, we find new things to do together to create new memories. Shawna's side is more outdoorsy and enjoys hikes, kayaking, boating and attending sporting events. Mario's side is more traditional and likes large family BBQ's, going to the zoo/attending fairs, and loves arts and crafts including the yearly holiday cookie baking parties.



Our promise to you...

It has been a long - time dream of ours to become parents. We hope you have gotten a glimpse of who we are as a family and that our children will always be loved, supported, and taught that what makes them unique can be their greatest strength.

We promise we will love and care for this child throughout every chapter of their life. Our home is full of love, adventures, dogs and laughter. We are so excited to be at a point in our lives where we can acknowledge the work of being parents with excitement in our hearts as we expand our family.

Please always know we will unconditionally love and cherish your child and we will make sure that they will be proud to be adopted. Thank you for considering us and we know this isn't an easy choice for you. We wish you and your child all the best no matter what you decide.



Shanna & Mario



With Love

