

Stefania, Tommaso, Jacopo and Paolo



## Introduction

Dear birth parents,

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to tell you about ourselves, our lives, our hopes and dreams. But let's start with you and your amazing and courageous choice. You have decided to give birth to your child, to give your child a chance and to secure a future for your child. We can only imagine how difficult this must be for you, but you should be very proud of yourself. You and your child will be part of our lives forever. The child we hope to welcome into our family has been in our thoughts and in our hearts for many years. We have been dreaming of this moment for 8 years, since the doctors strongly recommended us to avoid any new pregnancy as my third pregnancy would involve new risks for me and the baby. We feel adoption is the way to make our dream true.



Summer holiday in Italy-2016



**Summer holiday in Italy-2013**



**Christmas lunch in Dubai-2014**



**Desert safari in Dubai-2010**

## Who are we?

We are a warm and happy family, with many dreams, plans and ambitions. Our names are Stefania and Paolo and we have been together since 1992. We wrote this letter to give you insight about our family and our life. We have two children born to us: Tommaso, thirteen years old and Jacopo, nine years old. We are from Italy but we moved to Dubai in 2010. We enjoy the life in Dubai. Dubai has given us the opportunity to experience the diversity around us and we love living there.

We believe in many values: respect towards others, honesty, kindness and tolerance and we strive to teach these values to our kids. We are Catholic and our religion inspires us in our day-to-day life. We have open dialogue with the kids and they feel comfortable discussing anything with us. We advise and guide them accordingly and they are very excited to welcome a new baby to the family.

## Stefania

I grew up in a very small town in the South of Italy where people enjoy and appreciate even the small things. We grew up with the dream to study abroad and leave the village looking for better opportunities. My father was a bank clerk and my mother was a housewife. I spent my childhood playing with Barbies and hide and seek. I practiced volleyball, tennis, and swimming and I spent a lot of time with my family. They taught my sister and me to be independent, honest, polite, kind, and tolerant. When I was 18 years old, I moved to Milan, Italy, to study and find job opportunities. I studied engineering and it was very tough but I tried to accelerate as much as I could because my dream was to get married and have a big family. I started working in 1999, when I was 27 years old, before completing my study because I wanted to be economically independent from my parents. I became an IT consultant and I saved some money that allowed us to buy our first house in Milan, in 2001. In my mind this was the first step in order to be able to secure a place for us and our children. Growing I enjoyed volleyball, swimming and dance and I loved reading and helping my mom cook. I have a huge family in Italy, 6 uncles, 4 aunts and 40 cousins. I still remember on Christmas days we used to meet all together at my grandmother's house to celebrate.



Stefania 4 years old



Stefania's family



**Stefania's 3rd birthday**



**Stefania 1-year-old**



**Stefania 18 years old**



**Stefania 16 years old**

## Paolo

I met Stefania at the University in Milan where I grew up. I lived with my family until I got married. I shared with my dad the passion for sailing, and with my brother, the passion for swimming, tennis and skiing. These are sports I can now enjoy with my children. During my childhood I spent a lot of time with my grandmother (Nonna Pina). I learned a lot of values from her, such as humility, generosity and respect. During that time, I established strong friendships with friends that are today still fundamental part of my life. Two of them were best men at our wedding. During my military service, I spent 12 months away from my family and friends, learning professional values like team work and achieving a goal. After my graduation as an Economical Engineer, I started my career in a multinational company. During the initial period of my career, I attended an MBA program in Finance, and later on an MBA program in Philadelphia, PA. I built my career quickly, putting a lot of determination into achieving results. I am now CEO of a multinational Company. Despite being very busy, I invest great quality time with my family. I love skiing, sailing, running and swimming and all the sports that let me stay fit, physically and mentally and have healthy life.



**Paolo, his mom, his brother and his dad**



**Paolo sailing in Italy**



**Paolo and his brother Stefano**



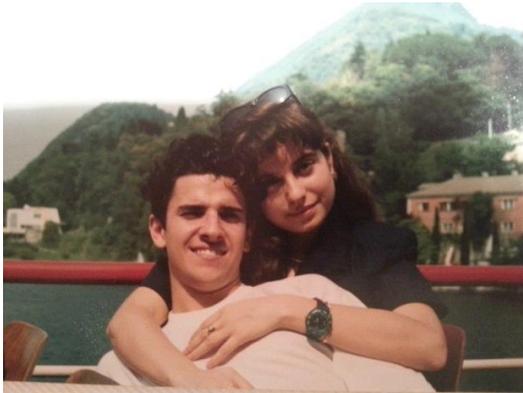
**Paolo and Nonna Pina**



**Paolo – military service**

## How we met

Paolo and I met at University in Italy in 1992 when we were 19 years-old. We studied together and started planning our future together as family. We spent time with each other's families and we established many friendships. We are still friends with many and we share unforgettable moments, birthday parties and travels. I liked Paolo's creativity and the easy way he approached life, whereas I was already very committed and strict about responsibility. Paolo says he liked my sense of family. We had interests in common, swimming and skiing. He taught me how to ski. We married in 2002 and we celebrated the wedding in the south of Italy, in a beautiful place overlooking the sea. We gathered our parents and friends (200 people), from the South of Italy and from Milan. That day was perfect, with warm summer weather, blue sky, crystalline sea, nice music, excellent Italian food and a lot of love all around us.



**Stefania and Paolo in Lake of Garda, Italy**



**Stefania and Paolo in Sardinia, Italy**



**Stefania and Paolo in Rapallo, Italy**



**Stefania and Paolo in Elba Island, Italy**

## **Our wedding: a beautiful day with friends and family**



**Paolo and Stefania**



**Paolo and Stefania**



**Paolo's and Stefania's parents**

## Tommaso

Tommaso joined us nine months after the wedding.



**Tommaso and Paolo**



**Tommaso**

The joy was immense, despite my high risk pregnancy. Tommaso received a lot of attention from us, from grandparents and from uncles and aunts. He was the first baby in our extended family. When he was 6 months he started his first swimming training with me. He has never stopped swimming and actually he has the capabilities to join international competitions. Despite success in swimming, football is his passion and he dreams to be a football player in the future. He also started skiing when he was 4 years old. Though sports are an important part of his life, he is also very good at school. We support him as much as we can in his academic life and in his social life. He is a very considerate boy who loves spending time with friends. He is attending grade 8 in school.



**Paolo, Stefania and Tommaso, in Elba island, Italy**



**Tommaso and Mom, Milan**

When Jacopo was born, in 2007, Tommaso became very jealous but soon he loved his little brother.

# Jacopo

Jacopo's pregnancy was a very big challenge for us. Doctors did not recommend another high risk pregnancy but we decided to accept this new challenge. He was a real blessing!



**Jacopo**



**Jacopo and Tommaso**



**Jacopo and Mom**



**Jacopo and Tommaso - Christmas**

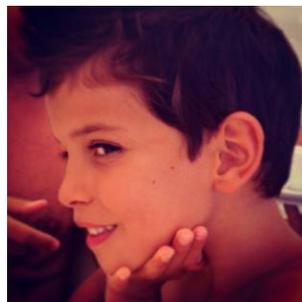


**Jacopo and Tommaso – Italy**

Jacopo is very sweet and adorable with everyone. He likes putting things in their perfect order and he is still our little one, though he is now 9 years old. When I go and pick him up from school, he still says "I love you mom" ... I hope he will keep doing so for long.... He is attending grade 4.



**Jacopo at school**



**Jacopo**



**Jacopo, sailing in Italy**

He likes playing with Legos, he loves cars and football cards and play dates with his friends. He plays tennis and he practices swimming and football. Both Tommaso and Jacopo love sailing, go kart and safari trips in the desert.

## Our family

Our children love other kids, especially Tommaso who is very mature and very kind and sensitive with kids. They have asked for another sibling many times.



Tommaso's and Jacopo's birthday party



New Year Eve in France



Mediterranean Sea cruise



Skiing in France



Desert safari- Oman



Christmas in Dubai



Jacopo and Tommaso



Jacopo-9<sup>th</sup> birthday



Jacopo and Tommaso flying to Italy



Desert Island – Abu Dhabi



Desert Island - Abu Dhabi



Paolo and Jacopo at school



Desert safari – Abu Dhabi



Christmas - Dubai

## School and Activities

The boys both attend American school (DAA) and we think America will be in their future. We hope to be able to move to USA very soon. Your child would attend an American school as well and we will encourage your child to practice any sports or other activities and hobbies they could be interested in.

**Jacopo in Pre-k at Dubai American Academy**



**Tommaso and Jacopo at DAA**



**Tommaso's 5th grade graduation ceremony**

We both work and then we have after school activities every day. Tommaso is training 6-7 times a week at swimming. He just got invitation from his swimming coach to join the Olympic Junior Squad. On weekends we usually have some swimming competitions or some football tournaments. We support the boys in anything they have an interest in and will of course do the same for your baby.



Jacopo is training twice a week tennis and twice swimming. He just started his first swimming competitions.

We often enjoy quality family time. We love having dinner together, the four of us, in beautiful restaurants (very common in Dubai) or watching funny movies.

We also love having friends for dinner and cooking special Italian dishes for them. Kids are always welcome in our house. Tommaso and Jacopo have a lot of friends from different nationalities (Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Canada, Japan, Malaysia) and there are neither barriers nor prejudices among them. We appreciate the strong sense of respect for the diversity they are developing. For that reason, we are sure that they are open to accept any race.



Tommaso and Jacopo - swimming competitions



**Tommaso's classmates invited for dinner**



**Tommaso playing football**



**Jacopo and our little friend Fatima**



**Jacopo playing tennis**

## Travel

At least twice a year we have a long break and we plan special trips. In the last five years, since we moved to Dubai, we have been in Maldives, Seychelles, India, Singapore, Thailand and Bali. Only the four of us go, so we get to spend quality time together, which we love. During our trips we like doing different things: relaxing on the beach, snorkeling, kayaking and zip lining are favorite activities we enjoy on vacation. Tommy's first trip was in USA, New York, Florida and Mexico, when he was 18 months old. He doesn't have any memories, that's why we are planning our next trip in USA. USA is the place where Tommaso sees his dreams come true, because he is aware of the many opportunities they offer to students who want to study, and at the same time also be successful in sports. That's why USA is in our hearts and we

hope to be able to move there soon. That impacts also our choice to adopt from USA. We think the baby could grow up in a more familiar environment.



**Thailand**



**Maldives**



**Maldives**



**Seychelles**



**Seychelles**



**India**



**Phi Phi Island**



**Phi Phi Island**



**Phi Phi island**



**Singapore – Universal Studios**



**Bali**



**Singapore**

## Other family members



**Ritchel and Jacopo**

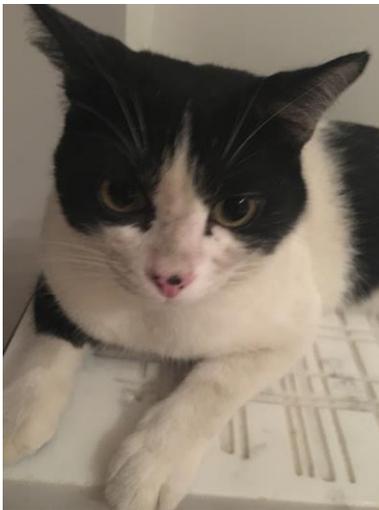


**Eva**



**Brinkley**

We have four other family members: Brinkley, our dog, Eva, Jerry and Hamilton, our lovely cats. All pets have been rescued and are wonderful with children.



**Jerry**



**Hamilton**

Last but not least, we have a wonderful nanny. Her name is Ritchel, she is from the Philippines and she has been with us since 2010. She is very important person in our family and wonderful with our children. I taught her once how to make homemade pasta and now she makes it often for us. Our plan is to take some time off from our jobs to stay with your child until all is settled and then Ritchel will help us with the care of the baby until old enough to do part time nursery. We also support an association that takes

care of orphans in India. We support a poor little girl, named Kondalamma, by helping with her school expenses.



**Kondalamma**

## Our extended families

Our parents and siblings are also an active part of our family. Both of our parents live in Italy and enjoy spending time with the boys. Our house is always full of friends. Milan is only 2-hour drive from Liguria, so we often spend weekends in our summer house. We also love the mountains so, once a year, we plan 1 or 2 weeks there where Tommaso practices skiing.

Our parents look forward to the school vacations to spend time with us and with the kids. They are very supportive of our family and they will be very happy to welcome a new grandchild.



**Stefania's sister (Valeria)**



**Valeria and Tommaso**



**Valeria and Jacopo**



**Tommaso and Jacopo with Paolo's parents in Venice**



**Gaia and Alice**



**Stefano, Laura and Alice**

Paolo has an older brother, Stefano, married to Laura. They have two wonderful girls, Alice (7 years old) and Gaia (4 years old). We love spending time together, especially during Christmas, Easter, and in summer. Paolo's Dad is 80 years old now but he is still very active and young. In summer he loves driving 1000km from North to South to spend time with us. His passion was sailing so in the past they spent their holidays sailing the Mediterranean Sea. My mom is an excellent chef and we usually gain weight every time we go visit them.



**Paolo's parents – Hatta pools – UAE**



**Paolo's parents 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary**



**Lake of Como – Italy – Paolo's parents**



**Stefania's dad 70<sup>th</sup> birthday**



**Paolo's parents and Tommaso and Jacopo**



**Stefania's parents**

## **Our Home country**

In 2010 we moved to Dubai for business but our country remains Italy.

We love both Italy and Dubai and we enjoy time with family and with friends in both countries. We go back to Italy once a year, in summer, where we can enjoy the nice weather, the sun, the beaches and some cultural cities like Rome, Venice and Florence.



**Stefania and Paolo – Stefano's wedding**



**Paolo and Stefania – friends' wedding**



**Kids in Rapallo, Italy**



**Duomo - Milano**

Food is excellent, people are very warm and hospitality is wonderful.

We enjoy spending time in the South with both the families and sometimes in the North with friends.



South of Italy – Salento



North of Italy – Our villa in Rapallo, Liguria

## Our house

Our current home is in Dubai. We recently moved into a villa, which is more comfortable for the kids and the pets. It's located in a beautiful complex on the beach, very quiet and not far from everything that we need. We also have swimming pool, which is very useful especially in summer. We have 5 bedrooms and one of them is reserved and will be ready and decorated to welcome your child.

We also kept our houses in Milan and in Liguria that we use during our vacation.



Living room



Dining room



**Garden**



**Garden**



**Garden**



**Master Bedroom**



**Guest room/gym**



**Kitchen**



**Jacopo's room**



**Tommaso's room**



**Future Baby's room**



**Our private beach**

Dubai is a beautiful place to raise children. It's safe and it offers many opportunities to everyone, especially to kids. They grow up in a multiethnic environment. Our kids have learned quickly what "diversity" means and they have at the same time learned how to accept and respect it.



**Dubai Marina**



**Dubai Mall – Dancing Fountains**



**Skyline - Dubai**



**Burj Khalifa - Dubai**

Life in Dubai is stunning, it's like wonderland. It's important to always keep in mind your values and stick to your principles and beliefs.



**Skyline - Dubai**



**Burj Khalifa - Dubai**



**Burj Al Arab - Dubai**



**Atlantis - Dubai**

## Our message to you

Dear birth parents, writing this letter to you is, so far, the most emotional step in this adventure.

While we are not sure if you will decide to get in touch with us, we wish you the best during this difficult time.

If you should choose us as the adoptive family for your child, we will do all we can to assist your child in reaching their goals and dreams.

We hope you believe this will be good choice for you and your child as well. Your child will receive all the comforts needed and all the love that will allow your child to develop their full potential.

If you want to know more about us, please feel free to contact our adoption agency Forever Families Through Adoption at (914) 939-1180 or toll free number at 866 922-3678. You can also contact our adoption attorney, Michael Goldstein, toll free number at 1-800-582-3678.

We are also very excited to meet you and to share our emotions with you in this common journey of life and love. If you agree we are open to share with you pictures, updates and memories of your little one as they grow and they will always know about you and speak of you with love and respect.

Returning back a gift to our Lord, for having blessed us, is the most important goal in our life but now our thoughts go to you and your difficult situation and we are close to you in this important decision.

Best wishes

Stefania, Paolo, Tommaso, Jacopo

