

Dear Birthmother,

We are Stephen, Christina, and Brendon. We are humbled that you have chosen adoption for your child and are considering us as an adoptive family. Brendon came into our lives in 2015, and now we love more completely, laugh more easily, and smile more frequently. We are so ready to welcome another child into our family, yet we are trying our best to pace our excitement and wait with patient anticipation!

Stephen is a college professor. He is passionate about his career, but family comes first for him. His hobbies include playing guitar, cycling, running, and making model airplanes. Christina taught kindergarten for 12 years and now loves being devoted to motherhood. She is also active in neighborhood, civic, and church activities such as volunteering for the League of Women Voters, organizing a moms group, and participating in social justice ministries at church. Her hobbies include playing flute and piano, scrapbooking, exercising, and genealogy. As a family we enjoy cooking, hiking, traveling, reading, entertaining, and visiting local attractions like the zoo.

We began dating as teenagers our senior year of high school through church and social activities. We shared similar family backgrounds, growing up in close-knit families who valued working hard and enjoying life. We most recently celebrated our 16th anniversary. Strengths of our marriage include our loyalty to each other and keeping humor a part of every day. It sounds corny, but we truly are each other's best friends. We both just turned 40 and feel like we are in the prime of our lives! We are both super energetic people, and we are fortunate to be in great health. After years of building our careers, we felt the time was right to start a family. It was then we learned that we could not have biological children and decided to pursue adoption. Brendon has absolutely changed our lives for the better! He has taught us to have more patience, experience more love, tolerate bigger messes, plan for the unexpected, and have more appreciation for the small moments of delight (like seeing a garbage truck!) in every day. He is an active, bright, and talkative almost 3-year-old who loves books, the playground, and trucks of all kinds. He is gentle and kind with other children, and we know he will be a sweet big brother. We all can't wait to discover the joys another child will bestow upon us!

We are close to our families even though they live far away. Christina's parents live in Massachusetts, and her sister lives in Virginia. We visit each other at least four times per year and Skype frequently. So far, Brendon is the only grandchild/nephew, and they are very excited to welcome a new child into their lives! We especially love to visit at the holidays to celebrate Christmas Eve with Christina's large extended Italian family. Stephen's parents live in Texas, and his brother and sister and their families live in Virginia. We also visit each other several times per year and Skype. We usually spend Thanksgiving with Steve's parents, and Brendon loves helping to make (and taste test) the pies with Nana. They are experienced grandparents, but all the other kids are teenagers so it's fun for the family to have little ones again! We live in a vibrant, beautiful neighborhood within the city of St Louis with many amenities, including a park and playground, nearby. We live in a townhome with three bedrooms, spacious living areas, and a courtyard where we enjoy gardening, barbequing, and entertaining. With family far away, we are very grateful to have developed wonderful local friendships, including relationships with other multiracial families and families formed through adoption.

We know you want the best for your baby and recognize what a difficult choice you are making. Your child would always know how their story began—with this choice, born of your extraordinary love for them. We would honor you as your child's first parent. We also promise that we would adore and cherish your child—not only when they are a precious newborn, but also when they are an active toddler, an independence-seeking teenager, and all the stages in between and beyond. We promise that your child would feel secure in the love and support of our family, and we would nurture him or her with the same values of kindness, generosity, hard work, and determination that have already begun to bloom in our son. We would treasure your selection of us as your child's parents as one of our lives' greatest privileges. You are in our thoughts at present and always will be as we pray for you to have the strength and wisdom you need to journey through this process.

Affectionately,

Stephen, Christina, and Brendon