

Dear Birthparent,

We have been happily married for 15 years and are the proud parents of two little boys, 5-year old Oliver who we adopted when he was a baby and 2-year old Noah. We would love nothing more than to welcome another child into our home and to share all of our love, laughter, and happiness. We are eager to share our favorite pastimes, traditions, and current activities with another child, along with also making new memories. James is looking forward to sharing one of his favorite pastimes – fishing, while Beth cannot wait to share her love of books and movies. Oliver and Noah cannot wait to be big brothers! They have so much to share and teach a new baby brother or sister.

We live in a family-friendly St. Louis County neighborhood, in a 2-story house with 4 bedrooms and a large fenced-in backyard. We are within walking distance of a county park where we frequently visit to hike, ride our bikes, and walk our dog, Rosie. We also have 2 cats, Sushi and Nemo. There are 2 elementary schools close by, one of which is associated with the Catholic Church we attend. We both work in the field of Information Technology. Once we adopt a baby, both Beth and James plan to take 12 weeks of leave from work. After our leaves are over, our jobs are flexible enough that we are able to work from home. Beth's parents also live close by and will help care for the baby when we both have to work. Family and friends are important to us, and they are a major part of our lives. We currently have one nephew, two nieces, three godchildren, and several close friends with young children. There are lots of children around to grow up with, along with a very loving, close-knit family. Beth's parents, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and cousins' children live in the St. Louis area. We enjoy spending time with them throughout the year, especially at our large family holiday gatherings. We also eat dinner at Beth's parents' house every Sunday. They cannot wait to welcome another grandbaby and add one more seat to the table! Beth also has a brother who currently lives in Atlanta, but he comes home to visit 3-4 times a year. Both Beth's brother and James's two sisters and their families are very excited about welcoming another nephew or niece to the family! James's sisters live in Chicago, along with James's dad, step-mom, and the majority of his extended family. It is only a 4.5 hour drive, so we visit with them several times a year, both here and there.

Besides spending time with family and friends, we enjoy the outdoors, watching and playing sports, volunteering, playing board games, cooking/baking, and especially traveling. Just as both of us did growing up, we take at least one long vacation every year. Whether it is to a nearby place such as the Lake of the Ozarks, farther away like the Grand Canyon, or overseas such as New Zealand, we hope to share our love of travel with our children. We have had many adventures together and look forward to many more to come with our newest family member. One of the best days of our lives by far was when we adopted our oldest son and brought him home. We have an open relationship with his birthmother, but we will respect whatever your wishes are in terms of openness – open, semi-open, or closed. We know what a difficult decision you have and admire your strength in choosing adoption. This shows you have true courageousness and unconditional love for your child by doing what you believe is best for him or her. Thank you for considering us as parents. We will also have unconditional love for our child, and we will make sure our child knows how special he or she is. We will support them in all of their endeavors, and we hope to make all of their dreams a reality. Thank you so much for making our dreams of growing our family come true.