



## Dear Birth Mom:

Hello. Our names are April & Rich. We are grateful that you are taking the time to read our letter. Your decision to make an adoption plan is likely the most important, difficult, and caring of your life. Thank you for considering us as adoptive parents. We are eager to love and nurture to your precious baby.

We were blessed when we adopted our daughter, Maya, just days after her birth on Valentine's Day, 2010. We received the phone call, at 11:00 a.m., informing us that we had been chosen to be her adoptive parents by Elizabeth, a wonderful woman. You cannot believe the excitement. We threw everything we could think of into the car and dashed to the hospital. When we finally arrived . . . the trip seemed to take FOREVER . . . and laid eyes on Maya for the first time, we were in love. We will never forget the day Maya came home! That truly incredible experience has made us more certain than ever that we were meant to create our family through the miracle of adoption.



Adoption has always had personal meaning for both of us -- April was adopted by her aunt and uncle, and Rich is very close with his niece and nephew, both of whom were adopted. Maya's adoption confirmed what we assumed would be true: it doesn't matter how children come into our lives. What is important is that we are able to share our love, and be loved, by our children.

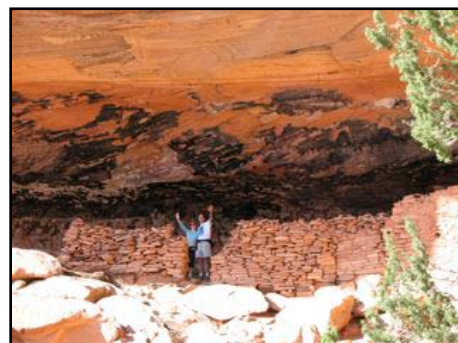
We have always looked forward to having two children who are fairly close in age, so they can grow up together. We have created a secure, loving, and fun home in which to raise our family. Central to that has been April's decision to put her career, as a school psychologist, on hold and stay home full-time. We have seen such amazing benefits from this decision. Rich is a physician. He chose a specialty which allows him to be a dedicated dad and an enthusiastic participant in our family. Raising a child has been, and will continue to be, the most fulfilling part of our lives!

### “Begin at the beginning”:

We were set up by friends and fell in love six years ago. It was our second date when....

It was the top of the sixth inning. Our team was winning. The two of us were lost in conversation. SUDDENLY, everyone was standing. Something fell between our feet.....there it was....a white blur. A foul ball had landed right between us. We grabbed it together and made our first TV appearance - truly, a lucky start!!

We were together for several years when we decided to get married. Our wedding was amazing! We designed everything ourselves, from vows to the music. We were happy when friends described our wedding as “down to earth’ and “real”.



### Rich's thoughts on April:

April is a warm and insightful person. She has taught me things about myself I never knew before. She motivates me to be the best husband and father I can be. The April I know is not just smart. She's also funny and loves to dance (and sing, when she thinks she's alone!). She cracks me up when I catch her lip-synching to the radio with her most dramatic face on. She'll do this in situations when I'm not supposed to laugh -- like during a movie -- which only makes it more hilarious!

April is amazing with Maya. April knows how to make Maya giggle with joy and even laugh hysterically when they play together. While I am at work, she texts me photos of Maya . . . with a new friend or playing at the park, which I love. She also does yoga and swim classes with Maya. April brings a lot of energy to motherhood! She has already started talking about activities for our new baby.



### **April's thoughts on Rich:**

Rich has an enormous sense of fun. Whether it's a new hiking trail or a town we've never visited, he is always up for discovering new places. Rich's love of life and his devotion to family have made him the most amazing Dad. He has been a loving father and partner in dealing with all the joys and challenges of child rearing. I love it when he plays the guitar and makes up songs for Maya and me. When Rich gets home from work, I often hear Maya laughing out loud as they play together. Your child will grow up with a father who is both creative and dedicated. Rich is a musician and realized his dream of becoming a doctor. He will provide your child support, guidance, and the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them.

## Maya:

The best way to describe Maya is a beaming, happy, smart, little girl who loves to connect with others. She has a curious, loving, and gentle soul. She will make a wonderful big sister to your child! We imagine the two of them spending time together, keeping each other company, and supporting each other over the years as they grow up.



## Our Interests:

We both love being outdoors -- especially hiking and biking. We would rather vacation in the mountains than a city. We believe that every person has a body, mind, and spirit. Appreciating nature is a wonderful way for us to connect with the spiritual side of life. We are also fortunate to have a second home on a lake. We look forward to spending many fun-filled, summer days on the lake with our children. We can already imagine Maya and her younger sister or brother exploring the outdoors together. Our family shares traditions of Fourth of July fireworks and New Years' Eve celebrations with other families in the lake community.



## Our Families:

**April....**Building our family through adoption has great meaning for me. My parents were divorced in their early twenties, when I was three months old. Their desire for me to be raised in a strong, loving, nuclear family led to the decision for me to grow up with my aunt and uncle. Ours was a close family. My cousins were like sisters, and we enjoyed huge, weekly family gatherings that were wonderful. I now have a total of twelve cousins, who have thirteen kids! Every year, we visit my mom's family on the Sunday before Christmas,

where we exchange one serious and one funny gift (usually something you would never want, like a rubber turkey). My cousins host an annual summer pool and softball party, where the kids take on their aunts, uncles, and parents.

**Rich.....** The way I grew up makes me very enthusiastic about building our family through adoption. I am the youngest of four kids. I am very close with my older sibs, who are all married. I've watched my seven nephews and nieces grow up. Two of these kids are adopted and are totally enmeshed in this loving family. My parents created a home that was wide open. We invited two students from Venezuela to live with us for a few weeks, which turned into two years. These two "adopted older brothers" inspired me to learn Spanish and play guitar. So, the family I grew up in is ecstatic and supportive about us building our own family through adoption!

### **On Raising Children:**

We believe in the golden rule, and plan to raise our children to believe in that value. A child feels loved not just by hearing "I love you", but by living that message every day. We plan on spending the time....making the children our number one priority. We'll be there for soccer practice and their school play..... every time -- that's what shows love and will build a child's confidence.



### **Where We Live:**

We live in a quiet, suburban town which is only fifteen minutes from a large city. Our town is known for having one of the best school systems in our state. We know other families who have adopted children here. There are plenty of special activities for kids - like historic events and outdoor concerts. We love our home. It's new, and there's plenty of room to start our family. Our backyard extends into hundreds of acres of national park. We have many turkeys and deer that visit.

### **OPENNESS:**

We plan to be wide open about our children's adoption from day one. They will never remember the day we had "the big talk". If we are positive, our children will feel positive and confident. It is important that your child feel good about you and your choice to make an adoption plan. So, you will be an important part of his or her life story. We are

happy to share letters and photos over the years, if you would like that. Your child will understand both the difficulty of your decision, and the love with which you made it.

**ONCE AGAIN, WE THANK YOU.**

We are grateful to you for taking the time to get to know us. We wish you well and want you to know - if you feel we are a match - we are committed to loving your

child with all our hearts. If you would like to know more about us, you can contact Steve or Joel Kirsh at 1-800-555-5555. We are also open to meeting you or speaking with you by phone.

