

To A Very Special Person

Thank you very much for taking the time to read our letter. We want to welcome you into our hearts and home.

Dan, Jackie and Angelina



and our dog Brittany too



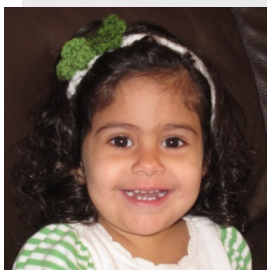
We are Dan and Jackie. We have been married for 12 years but have been best friends for 16 years. We grew up in the same neighborhood. Ironically, Dan went to the public grade school that Jackie lived across the street from, and Jackie went to the private grade school that Dan lived across the street from. We met the summer before Dan was leaving for college. He would drive home every weekend so we could be together. The next semester he transferred to a local university. We knew we would be together forever when we couldn't spend more than 5 days apart. We became engaged on our 4 year



anniversary of dating and wed on May 1, 1999. After our wedding, we moved into a condo in the city, close to our family and friends. When we were ready to start a family, we purchased our home, located in a north-west suburb of Chicago. We chose an area that is still close to our family and friends and is located in an excellent school district. Our town was ranked "The Best Place in America to Raise Kids" by a popular magazine. Our Cocker Spaniel, Brittany, joined our family in 2004. She was our first "baby".

Remembering the day that changed our lives, from Jackie

February 24, 2009 wasn't different from any other day except that I had a haircut appointment after work. I was driving to get my haircut when I received the phone call that changed our lives forever. The lady on the other end, Steve Kirsh's assistant, said: "A birth family chose you...She was born yesterday...how soon can you get to Indiana?" I began shaking and crying and had to pull over and ask her to repeat it so I knew what I heard was real. I immediately called Dan. He was so overjoyed I could almost hear him smiling through the phone. After canceling my hair appointment, we rushed over to my sister's house to borrow all the baby necessities we would need for our brief stay in Indiana – Pack-N-Play, sleepers, blankets, bottles, everything she could think we would need. Our 3 plus hour drive to Indiana in the middle of the night was filled with so many emotions. We talked about baby names and what it was going to be like to meet her for the first time – still in shock that this was real – after trying for 4 years, we were finally going to be parents. After a very anxious sleepless night, we met our beautiful daughter. She was so tiny with tons of dark hair, and she was ours to love and care for, for the rest of our lives. The moment was surreal.



We named her Angelina Rose, "Angelina" because she is our Angel and "Rose" was after Dan's mom who had passed away. As fate would have it, we later found out that Angelina's birthmothers' middle name was Rose. The emotional connection that we have with Angelina's birthparents is indescribable, and the love we have for Angelina is like nothing we could have ever imagined. We can't help but smile when we see her – She lights up our lives!! We can't wait to experience the same excitement when we welcome another precious baby into our hearts and home. We assure you, we will be no less excited!

Our daughter, Angelina

Angelina is a very happy, loveable, energetic two year old. She is always giving kisses, and not just one kiss. If you ask her for a kiss, she will kiss your cheek, then the other cheek, then plant one right on your lips. If you are lucky, you get a hug, too. She loves to "cook" us food in her little kitchen and care for her baby doll – feeding her, reading her books and putting her "ni night". Angelina really enjoys the company of other children. We take her to park district classes, to library classes, and she is always asking to see her cousins. Watching Angelina with other children, we know she will make an amazing big sister. We know the joy of having siblings, and we hope that your child and Angelina can experience that joy together.



ALL ABOUT US...

My full name is Jacquelyn Ann

But everyone calls me “Jackie”. I pride myself on being an honest and loyal person. I have been described as quiet, yet assertive. I am a very calm and patient mother. I am fortunate enough to be a stay-at-home mom, and there is no job I could love more. I love being home to watch Angelina grow and learn each day, and I look forward to doing the same with our next child. Things I enjoy doing include getting together with my family and friends or just relaxing and watching TV or a movie with Dan, but most of all I love spending time with children. All children amaze me, the joy they have for life and their imaginations. I enjoy getting down on the floor and playing with them or just sitting back and watching them explore and learn new things. Those are also some of the many reasons I hope to add another child into our family.



My full name is Daniel David

What can I say, I’m a nut! Ok, here is me in a nutshell: I wake up, smile, laugh, eat, and sleep. Oh yeah, I work too. I’m nuts about my daughter and my wife and nuts about my life. I am the nuts and bolts of a construction company I own in the Chicago land area. I’m a CPA (certified public accountant) which means I used to count beans and that made me nuts. Now, I’m nuts about concrete saw cuts, my primary business. For fun I enjoy

hanging out with Jackie, Angelina and our family and friends, and I never pass up a good movie, any kind, but I love comedies. I am also a music nut. Music helps keep me focused; it makes me happy and helps me deal with the day to day stresses. I love children - teaching them, making them laugh, and getting them to come out of their shells. With Angelina in our family, my life has transformed. I am such a proud dad, and I love her so much. She makes me smile and laugh all day, even when I’m just thinking about her. I look forward to sharing that love and enthusiasm with another child. I have so much more to tell you, but I will stop before I drive you nuts!



A few words about Jackie, From Dan

I will start with funny, smart, beautiful, loving, devoted, and full of life; but there are so many more things, all this in a small package. My wife amazes me everyday as to what a special person she is. Jackie can multitask more than anyone I know. Jackie is an awesome mom, so loving and just so good at it. I have had multiple people say to me they have never seen a first time mother so naturally confident and relaxed with a child. I am so proud of the great mom Jackie is to Angelina, and I know she has so much more to give to another child. I didn’t know exactly how much being a parent would change her life, well now I know; I love what I see, and that is how I know we are meant to welcome another child into our hearts. I love that Jackie is a stay at home mom; it makes me happy to come home from work to hear all of her glowing stories. I am lucky to be in her life and to learn from her, making me a better person. Your child will be proud to call her “Mom”.



A few words about Dan, From Jackie

I think the best way to describe Dan is funny and outgoing yet laidback. He is the kind of man that shows up as an elf to our Christmas parties and draws a crowd to the dance floor with his crazy dance moves. He has the ability to bring light and laughter to the saddest of situations. He is kind hearted and thoughtful, and, most of all, he is an amazing father. Dan was always very nervous to hold babies before we brought home Angelina, but the first thing he did when we got home was pick her up and snuggle her in his arms. He’s a natural at being a father, and I know he can’t wait to share his love with another child.

OUR FAMILIES are by far the most important part of our life. From Sunday dinners to daily phone calls, nothing is left unsaid. We realize the importance of spending time with each other, and we take nothing for granted.



I, Jackie, have 2 sisters, one older and one younger; yep, making me the middle child. My parents have been married for 40 years. My mom stayed home with us while we were growing up, and my dad worked as a Chicago Police Officer. They were very involved in both our academic and personal lives. My mom was the president of the Parent Teachers Association, and my dad coached our softball teams for many years. We ate dinner together every night as a family and took yearly family vacations. We have a very close extended family, and we spent a great deal of time with them. We have 9 nieces and nephews so our family get-togethers are lots of fun.

I, Dan, have 1 younger brother, Matt. My parents were married for 24 years before my mother sadly passed away 11 years ago. My mother was a stay-at-home mom for most of our childhood years and my father had a chiropractic office on the first floor of our house. They were both available to help with homework and to referee the in house wrestling matches.



I also have an older half brother, Russell, whom my mom placed for adoption at birth, before she and dad met. He found our family 17 years ago, and it was a great experience getting to know him. He currently lives in California. He is thankful for the opportunities that his adoption provided him and loves and respects our mother for her courageous decision.

We, Dan and Jackie, were both raised with set rules that had to be followed. We had chores we were responsible for and curfews we were expected to follow. Looking back, we feel that our parents' form of discipline taught us responsibility and the importance of being respectful to others in and outside the family. In addition, as much as we disliked being disciplined or following some of the household rules, we always knew that our parents cared. This is how we raise Angelina and will raise your child.



Both of our families were excited when we started our adoption journey. They view adoption as such a beautiful act of compassion and life. Adopting Angelina has been such a gift, not only to us but to our entire family. They adore her more than we ever could have imagined. They often refer to her as our family's "little miracle" because of the amazing way she was brought into our lives. We can only imagine the joy and support we will receive from our family when we welcome another baby into our home.



How we parent

First and most importantly, we will always be open and honest with your child. We will document and make available “their” story of how they became a part of our life. He or she will know that the decision you made came from the heart. Likewise, we will be happy to send you letters and photographs, letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.

We both understand the importance of a good education. We will encourage your child to enjoy school but take their work seriously. We will be available for help and will stress the importance of trying one’s best. At the same time, we will be careful not to place too much importance on getting all A’s or cause your child to feel stress or pressure to be a perfect student.



We would like to continue with our parents’ traditions by spoiling your child when appropriate, with hugs, kisses, family outings, attention and maybe a few too many gifts on their birthdays and holidays! At the same time, we know that deep down our children will enjoy being watched, sometimes questioned, and expected to follow the household rules that we set.

We believe that the enjoyment we feel being parents, the love we have for Angelina and all children, and the philosophies we have about rules, discipline, and education are some of the characteristics that make us caring and confident parents. We are and always will be there for Angelina and your child when they need guidance and support - wake up with a runny nose or fever, the long nights of homework, and the worries that come with being parents. We will love them when they do good things and when they make mistakes. We hope to help them learn from both, so that if you have a chance to meet your child in the future you will be as proud of them as we will be.



In Closing

We cannot begin to understand the decision that you have ahead of you. We can only hope that fate brought you to read this letter and that you feel an emotional connection to us. We would be deeply honored to be chosen as parents for your child. Our hope is that through this letter we have conveyed the unconditional love and attention that we will give to him or her. If you would like to know more about us, talk with us by telephone, or meet us in person, please let Steve or Joel Kirsh know. You can reach them at anytime at 800-333-5736. We wish you well with whatever you decide. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you.

**From our Hearts
Dan & Jackie**