

Dear Birth Mother,

We are happy for this opportunity to introduce ourselves. George William and Deborah Lee are the names listed on our birth and marriage certificates. Friends and family generally call us George and Deb, while a niece and a nephew insist on "Porge" and "Bogie". Debbie and Georgie are other names that our respective families have used as we were growing up. These names say a lot about our personalities; sometimes formal and traditional, fun, quiet, and unique.

We were both born and raised in the Midwest so we have that down to earth sensibility that seems to flourish here. We are the type of people who love to travel but equally enjoy walks around the neighborhood, find energy in spending a quiet day at home, and value the familiar - people, places and routine.

Recently, we remodeled a large condominium in the historic section of our city - which is walking distance from several parks, schools, and many other family-friendly conveniences. The city's strong business, industry and large state university contribute to the many resources and events we enjoy - be it attending a concert, play, sporting event or shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables on Saturdays at the Farmer's Market.

We are known as generous and loving people. Inviting family and friends into our home is an activity we enjoy, and one way we have found to give special attention to those we love and respect. No special occasion is needed - good food nourishes the body and a table surrounded by friends nourishes the soul. Both of us have happy childhood memories of large family gatherings which left us satisfied from the visiting/play time, good smells, and foods.



George and Debbie

Deb is a never ending reader - she always has a newspaper, magazine or book within reach. She also enjoys knitting, cross stitching and staying in touch with her friends. When we are in the company of nieces and nephews or our friend's children, Deb generally has one or two kids on her lap playing various games, reading and/or talking.

George is a kid at heart - excellent at hide and seek, never hesitates to join the kids on a swing set, always has energy for adventures (trips to the park, children's museums, or walks in the woods) and conducting experiments in the kitchen. He is active - loves to run, swim and ride his bike and is a natural at caring for others.

We are spiritual people - strengthened through our relationship with God. We regularly attend Sunday morning services and a weekly small group meeting (friends joining for a bible study with food, prayer, and fellowship added in). Many valuable friendships and a secure support network have come to us through our church family. They have helped us grow, brought us joy, and demonstrated just how much God loves us.

We both grew up surrounded by large families so the realization of our infertility saddened us. Even still, it was a fairly easy step toward the choice of adoption. Opening our lives and investing our time into adopting a child made sense to us - as opposed to focusing on creating a child through various medical treatments. Our professional lives have also given us the chance to see that the choice to "hold and love" a child from another is an opportunity just as satisfying, wonderful, and magical as a child birth.

It feels important to include some history about each of us so you can know more about who we are. Deb will go first.

I was born to Howard and Becky and named Deborah Lee. My middle name is in honor of the doctor that brought me into this world and a paternal uncle. I have a younger sister, Sarah (8 years younger) and had an older brother, Steve (11 years older), who died in a car accident when I was 18 years old. I am responsible, hard working, and a leader, but I also have a fun, silly side that is carefree. As a result, I generally bring laughter to a gathering.

We were a middle class family. My parent's hard work and education provided well for the family. For example, dad worked full time and went to college full time to become an industrial engineer. Mom worked some part time jobs but mostly took care of the home, dad, and us. I remember growing up feeling very loved and having lots of family around.

I did very well in school and loved the challenge of learning. It was always easy for me and led to some academic honors. I was involved in sports, student council, and church activities from junior high through high school.

College meant going to the state university that was a short drive away and living at home. It was during my sophomore year that I met George at the Campus House. I was immediately attracted to this tall, auburn-haired, shy, sweet man and happily spent a lot of time getting to know him. Within a few months of our first meeting, we began dating and then planning to spend the rest of our lives together. George and I got married soon after I finished my Master's degree and starting my career as a school psychologist.

After learning we could not have children on our own and deciding that we wanted to parent, adoption was our first option. The way I see it, adoption is a win/win solution. For George and I, as people who would be awesome parents, and for a birth mother and her child - as your child would be raised in a loving and secure home that values things like family, friends, faith and lots of fun.

Now it is my turn (George). Advocating and caring for children has been a consistent focus in my life. My college education prepared me for my profession as a social worker. A majority of my work has focused on providing counseling services to children and their families, as well as consultation services to social service agencies working with children. The idea that I would not be a father just didn't fit into what I thought life was about and who I am as a person. In addition to my work - caring for children, I have always wanted the honor of filling the role of an active, present, and nurturing father.

I am the fifth out of six children born to my parents - George and Florence. Just as their parents managed their families; mom was in charge of the children and home, while dad was the provider. We lived in the country on a small

farm, and dad worked in the city at an auto parts factory. Growing up, I remember loving the open space and the adventures living in the country offered.

After moving away from home to attend college, I very much enjoyed the diversity and independence this chapter of my life provided. It was the first time that I met people from different cultures and races. I was able to make many new friends and get my first taste of travel by spending a summer in England and Scotland.

It was also during my college years that I met Debbie. We fast became friends and then decided to date one another exclusively. Her kindness, intelligence and strength of character were some of the characteristics I loved the most about her. She also had a confident and comfortable pace at taking things in - most always sure, never rushed, and always enjoying life. She is the same today - and I am all the better for it.

There you have it - our introduction letter. Not much in the way of sensational or unusual information - just two loving people choosing to parent through adoption.

We would like to wrap things up with a couple of important "odds and ends": firstly, it feels important to clarify that we are passionate about our professional work and the difference we make in people's lives. At the same time, you can be assured that we are prepared to shift both time and energy toward the responsibilities of parenting.

Lastly, we are happy to send you letters and photos, letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.

Thanks for giving us your time by reading this letter. If you would like to know more about us, talk with us by telephone, or even meet us in person, please let our attorneys, Steve and Joel Kirsh, know. You can reach them at 800-333-5736. We hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Debbie and George