

Hello,

My name is Heidi, and I am excited at the opportunity to share my life and myself with you through this letter. There is no way I can possibly understand how difficult taking this path is for you. I can only hope that my letter might provide some encouragement and hope. I admire your decision to choose adoption, and I hope that I can help fulfill your desire to find a loving family for your child.

I am a healthy and energetic, single mother of a teenage son, José. The most joyful experience in my life has been in raising José. The life experiences that have come along by being a mother, loving a child and being responsible for another human have been wonderful and positive. I am committed to offering your child a life of unconditional love and constant nurturing. I believe that he/she should always know and feel your love, and I will do everything I can to make sure of that.

I believe that adoption is simply the right thing to do: there are so many people in the world, and I believe we are all responsible for one another, including raising one another's children when asked to, when we can. I am wide open to parenting a child whose biological and racial background is different from mine. My son, José, is biracial, and we continue to immerse him in his diverse cultures so that he can experience and enjoy traditions related to his ethnicity. I will do the same for your child.



Please call Steve or Joel with any questions or to get in contact with me (800)333-5736



WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER?

As a parent of your child, I bring my experience in raising a child and intense dedication to his or her well-being and success, especially in their education and spiritual health. I will provide your child the same love, opportunities, nurturing, and bright future, I have provided, and am providing, to José. Additionally, your child will have love and affection of a protective and fun-loving big brother. José is as excited about the arrival of our new baby as I am.

I have experience in basic infant sign language that I learned together with my infant foster daughter last year from the video "Baby Signing Time". I will begin talking and signing to your baby from the moment that we meet. Research has shown that babies can learn to form signs at an earlier age than they can physically form words and can, therefore, communicate some of their needs, wants and feeling to their mothers earlier. I also speak fluent Spanish, and I expose my children from an early age to the rich diversity of human communication. If you choose me to become your baby's mother, you will always know that I am committed to being here for your child, no matter what.

My son and I have traveled extensively, and we have a fascination with learning and experiencing personal growth.

Our home is in a diverse area near the University campus where I am employed as a Facilities

Manager. I obtained my Bachelors Degree from the same University . Being near a major University offers wonderful opportunities to experience other cultures and diverse activities. Three years ago, we became friends with two Chinese students working on their Ph.D's. We have had so much fun learning about their lives in China and teaching them about American culture. My son convinced me to cook them Chinese food (ala American style) for dinner one night. They were both very surprised to see how I was preparing the meal and jumped right in to help



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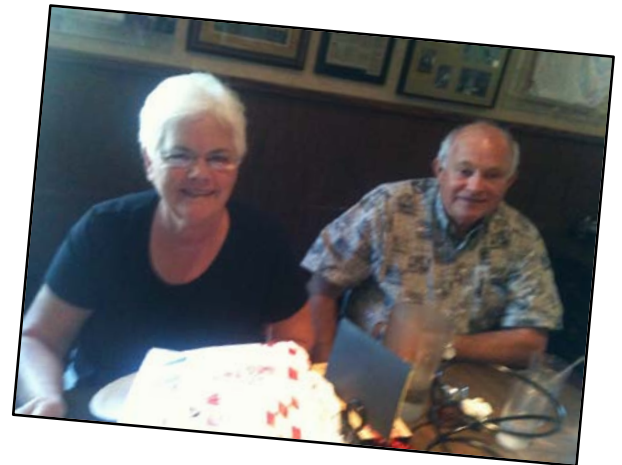


me in the kitchen! Next time, they said, we are going over to their house if we want to eat Chinese food.

Our neighborhood is safe, and our two-story, three bedroom home is situated on two acres with a huge fenced, backyard to run and play. Great recreational spots are a few miles away and include a zero depth wading pool and City Park for warm weather fun. There is a convenient train by our home, and we enjoy trips to Chicago and St. Louis to enjoy the beaches, museums and zoos. Every

summer, I take José and some of his friends for a weekend at Six Flags. The boys have a great time on the roller coasters and at the water park. We also travel to Florida to visit my parents in their winter home during school holidays. Long walks on the beach or playing in the sand and surf are a fabulous way to relax in the sun, especially when it is snowy and cold up north. They cannot wait until our new baby accompanies us on our visits.

My parents are both retired teachers. My father actually taught 5th grade at the same school for 35 years! They are both big proponents of a good education and are a great help at times when I do not understand my son's challenging math homework. They are very excited about having a new grandchild to hug, love and hold. As I mentioned, last year I was a foster parent to a lovely, one year old girl. My foster daughter became so attached to my mother that she followed my mom everywhere -- even to the bathroom! Grandma just loves to spoil the grandkids rotten. Grandma and Grandpa recently celebrated their 47 year anniversary party.



José is very excited about the opportunity to be a big brother. He has always wanted a sibling, and he is very good with younger children. His 8 year old cousin, Jake, adores him and refers to José as "his hero" because José taught him how to ride his new bike a few years ago. José also volunteered to read to the Kindergarten class when he was in 7th and 8th grade. He enjoyed teaching them how to pronounce new words.

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I am very fortunate that my employer offers a tuition discount to staff so that college is very affordable to my children if they choose to attend here or another higher educational school of their

choice. I will afford my children every opportunity for success. We attend a Church that near to our home. The Church has a wonderful child care center, elementary and middle school where José attended for nine years. It is a great opportunity for children to have a private school education with smaller class sizes and personal attention to enable them to be as successful as they can be. Being in spirit with our Lord is very important to me, and I will instill in your child a healthy relationship with Christ by providing a Christian education and regular church attendance.



LIFESTYLE

My work hours are very flexible, and the University provides us with excellent, affordable family health insurance, vacation, life insurance and sick pay. I have been blessed to

never lack work and have been in my current, managerial position for over 13 years. The University has two excellent day care centers, both within two blocks of my office. My mother is retired, so she is also available to help when needed. Additionally, I have a number of friends who are eager to babysit from time to time. One of my close friends recently had a baby, and we are looking forward to long walks in the park with our children in strollers enjoying the sunshine and fresh air.

I enjoy traveling, reading, gardening and cooking (just don't request Chinese food). My son studied about the Grand Canyon in school last semester and really wanted to see it in person. I surprised him with a trip to Arizona for his school spring break. When we got to the Grand Canyon, he was so excited running around, taking tons of pictures, then 15 minutes later he told me that he was ready to go. I was surprised and asked why. He told me, "Mom, it's really just a big hole in the ground."

My son is very active in our church youth group, reading, traveling with me and his father and playing basketball. He also earned an XBOX 360 last year by getting good grades for the semester so he has his friends over to our home often to play action games. He is trying to teach me how to operate the controls for the XBOX; unfortunately, I can't ever remember



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which player in the game is mine.

We also love our two dogs and enjoy walking them in the park or playing Frisbee in the yard. On weekends, we often volunteer at the local no kill dog shelter walking and playing with the dogs. Our pets are very loving and friendly, and we enjoy having them to enrich our lives with their unconditional love.

FUTURE RELATIONSHIP

I have chosen open adoption to ensure that everyone involved agrees on the best future of the child. One of the most important aspects of openness is having you know that your baby has a good home and that he or she grows up knowing that your decision was carefully made in their interest with love. I believe that families created by adoption are special and should be honored. Your child will always know their adoption story and the wonderful way we became a family. I will look forward to staying in touch with you and sharing pictures and any information about you or your family that you would like.

If you would like to know more about me, talk with me by telephone, or meet in person, please let Steve or Joel Kirsh know. You can reach them at 800-333-5736.



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