



## Dear Birthparent,

We're Jaime and Stan. We're in our early 30s, and we live in a downtown Chicago condominium right on the Chicago River. We're thrilled to have a chance to tell you a little about us. We can hardly imagine this quest you are on to find adoptive parents you feel would be perfect for your baby. We realize this must be a challenging and emotional time for you, and we

respect you tremendously for making the decision to consider adoption. We understand your desire to find a home that will provide love, opportunity, strong values and, of course, a fun-filled and exciting life and family for your baby. We'd like to share with you a little about us and our journey, which has landed us here communicating with you.

## Finding Each Other

When we met in medical school in Michigan 10 years ago, we were simply two students working hard to reach our dreams of becoming doctors. Over long study sessions, intense classes and even a few smelly lab courses, we realized that not only were we learning how to be doctors, we were falling in love. We dated for four years and got married six years ago in a traditional wedding (except for our wedding cake made of Krispy Kreme donuts!), surrounded by our dearest friends, family, and lots of red roses (Jaime's favorite). Throughout our relationship, we have worked together through medical-school challenges, the rigors of residency training programs, and now we take great pride in knowing that we worked hard side-by-side to become the professionals we are today. We are proud of each other and our accomplishments. And we think our open and honest relationship continues to push each of us to reach for new dreams. We faced all of the challenges that come with achieving a professional dream, but when we decided to start a family, we realized that our diligence and commitment wouldn't get us there, at least not on our own. It didn't surprise anyone that two doctors figured another doctor might be able to do the trick. But to our dismay, several attempts at IVF



failed, and not even modern medicine could get help us get the baby we wanted so badly.

When our doctor suggested we consider adoption, we dove into the idea enthusiastically as we have friends and family that are personally involved with adoption. We have seen first-hand what a remarkable process this can be, and we're proud to be part of those extended families. For the first time in our quest to have a child, we viewed our infertility as much less of an obstacle and more of an opportunity. It's our chance to open our home and our hearts and create a nurturing home for a child.



### How We Keep Busy

When we got married, we felt very strongly that although we were choosing very demanding fields professionally, we were committed to enjoy our life together. We want to create memories for us, our friends and family. And we like to have fun! We like to host holidays and always invite anyone looking for somewhere to celebrate. Stan is in charge when we have so many people we have to move the

furniture out of our spacious living room, and

Jaime is always hard at work making delicious food from scratch. We have barbecues (our place has an amazing balcony that opens to the living room, making barbecues great in the summer or even winter when we're brave and bundled). When our friends bring their children, we are always ready with some kid-friendly grilled corn and hot dogs – sometimes even Chicago's best bratwurst! (a favorite of kids and adults). And sometimes we have elaborate dinners with homemade, chicken-noodle soup, salad and our favorite slow-cooked pot roast, because once Jaime gets started in the kitchen, there's no stopping her! We regularly bring groups of our friends and family together in our home, and we love it.

We always want to take advantage of the cultural opportunities we have while we're living in a great city with an awesome downtown. For one, we're avid sports fans and win or lose, we proudly wear our school colors. From college football at Northwestern or the University of Michigan to braving the winter wind at Chicago's Soldier Field to cheer on the hard-to-love Bears and the even-harder-to-love Cubs at Wrigley Field, we have an affinity for teams that are either really great or really bad. It might not be a bad idea for us to find a team that is a little more consistent, but we do love our teams. And

we dream of the day when we can have a little sports fan – Cubs fans don't think anyone's too young to be at Wrigley, and we can't wait to share the excitement of the ball park with our child on a beautiful summer day.



When the winter finally ends, you can find us on the lakefront path enjoying Lake Michigan and the bike path, or popping into the Lincoln Park Zoo or a music festival in any one of Chicago's amazing neighborhoods. The Lincoln Park Zoo is right in the middle of the city, is open year-round and is free. The exhibits are very kid-friendly, and we can't wait to check out the petting zoo. This summer we're going to see a Billy Joel/Elton John concert at Wrigley Field, which should be really cool. Jaime learned their songs as a kid at summer camp, and her parents are so glad that some of their taste in music wore off on her. We

love exploring our city, and we're lucky to live right downtown with access to architecture and art, sports, shopping and many family-focused events like parades and festivals, which we check out with our friends on many weekends and holidays.

Both of us also get a thrill from adventure and physical challenges, and we have spent much of our free time traveling – sometimes just the two of us, but often with our parents and siblings. Over the years, our family trips have grown in number, and we look forward to expanding the brood with our child in the kiddie pool or on the playground with our nephews, niece and cousins. (More on all of them later!) We have been lucky enough to snorkel in Costa Rica, cruise the Caribbean, ski the Rocky Mountains and recently visit Paris, France. We would love to include your child on our adventures.

When we settle back in at home after travel or just a day at work or out and about, it's not just our amazing, squishy couch and the sunset in our windows that warms our home. It's Gertie and Millie, our two adorable pugs!

Beyond the basics – feeding, playing and of course picking up "presents" they make for us – our dogs have taught us so much and brought such intense love into our home. For one, though they look similar, they have completely different



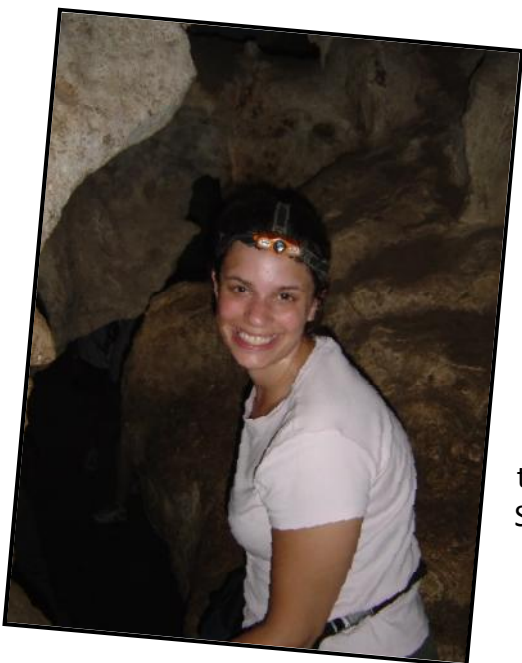
personalities, and we love each one for what she brings to our family. Our first dog – Gertie – came to us four years ago and is a wonderful companion and super cuddler. Our newest addition – Millie – however, might have the sweetest face, but she has a sense of adventure to match. She is the reason our house is completely child-proofed, and we don't even have a child yet. She loves to make trouble, but is a great playmate with a ton of energy – your child would love her! And Gertie and Millie have friends and neighbors in our building, just like us. They have play dates with their pug friend across the hall, and it's just hilarious to watch the three of them scamper between our condos.

#### Where Our Individual Stories Began

Of course we want to tell you more specifically about us before we met – give you a glimpse into our families and a little more about what makes us who we are today.

#### So let's start with Jaime.

I'm the oldest of three children – two girls and a boy. I grew up in suburban Detroit, Michigan, with many of the opportunities that I dream of giving my children one day. My parents did whatever they could to expose us to culture, sports, literature and life outside our suburban "bubble." We traveled, went to summer camp and spent a lot of time exploring the state of Michigan, and also Ohio where my mom's family lives. I have tons of cousins there, still, and we all get together regularly and always share family celebrations. My grandfather is 97 years young, and we all love to hang out with him. We're actually road-tripping with him this summer for a family wedding. The only problem we have now is finding him a suit that is younger than me!



My sister and her husband live a short drive from us in Indianapolis and just had triplets earlier this year. Yep, I have two nephews and a niece that I adore, even when I'm on midnight feeding or diaper-changing duty! My sister and I are best friends and have approached life with the same ambition, strong values and hopes for our families.

My brother and his wife live in sunny Florida near her family, as well as my mom and her husband. It's not quite the quick drive like to my sister's place, but it's a trip well worth it for some family, fun, beaches and sun! Stan and I love to go to my mom's house – we can totally

chill out and she barbecues great burgers and hot dogs. My dad still lives in Michigan with his wife, and we see them regularly because we often head over to Michigan. I know I am very lucky to have grown up with such supportive parents, and they still play a significant role in my life with emotional support and love for me and Stan. They believe very much in the power of a great education and provided for me so that I could complete all of my medical training. I am forever grateful and dream of doing the same for our child.

Stan's family is still "down on the farm" in Michigan, too. Literally, Stan's family lives on a farm in rural Michigan!

### About Stan

I'm the oldest of two boys. My brother lives on the West Coast now, but we find ourselves connecting regularly over a game on XBOX – sibling rivalry across the country! We're totally gadget guys that love technology, and we can't help but laugh about how we've become city dwellers. When we were growing up we got to be cowboys. Really, we rode horses.

I grew up on a horse farm, and my parents still live there daydreaming of the day they can buy their grandchild a pony. Your child will love riding on the same trails I rode as a kid. In the meantime, our pugs, Gertie and Millie, get very excited when they join us as we get out of the city once in while, jump in the car, and head out to spend holidays and lazy days on the farm.



When I'm looking for leisure in the city, you might find me at Home Depot or Best Buy. While to the onlooker I might look aimless, I always have a plan. If there is something in our house that can be fixed (whether it's broken or not), I'm on it. If I can take it apart, even better! In my career as a plastic surgeon, I take apart (or rather put back together) the intricacies of the human body, and I like to do the same to our house and electronics. Jaime puts up with it because she feels the same way about

scrapbooking. Creating scrapbooks is her creative outlet because she loves to put the entire project together as a way to remember our fun adventures.

### **What the Next Chapter Holds**

Having established ourselves in our careers, we are blessed with the freedom to create a great balance between our professional and personal lives. As doctors, we want to be sure that our friends and family – and of course you – know that what you see on TV doesn't quite tell the story. Though ER and Grey's Anatomy portray emergency room doctors and surgeons, which we are, we're far from the people those crazy characters portray. And it has taken us years to convince our friends of that!



Unlike TV doctors, we are blessed with time and energy to spend together and with our families and friends. We've chosen career paths that allow us to be home a lot of the time. As an emergency room doctor, Jaime picks her own schedule and can be home nearly every day to care for a family, and she doesn't even have to be the doctor on call. Jaime's decision to be an ER doctor was in large part made because of the flexibility it offers. She plans to take care of our child and dreams of music classes, play dates and city-living with a baby. Stan, too, can set his hours and has plans to work with a well-established surgical practice of honored and respected surgeons that have families of their own. Just this summer, we attended one of the doctor's daughter's wedding, and we were thrilled to celebrate with him and his family.



While we cherish our relationship and our extended families, the next chapter of our quest is to fulfill our dream of building our family. Though certainly a scary and intense adventure, we both look forward to parenthood and are thankful that we've had great role models in our own parents that treated us with respect and pushed us to have dreams and to reach them. In our hearts, we're sure we were meant to be parents. We are thankful that adoption offers us that possibility. We are excited about an open adoption – one that respects your

wishes and provides as much or as little communication as needed to make us all comfortable and at peace.

We hope we have given you a feel for who we are and how we would like to be part of yours and your child's life by offering everything and more than we were lucky enough to have growing up. We hope to offer your child a view of the world and the education and support that will create ambition in them. We are sure we can provide a wonderful, loving and nurturing home to your child, and we dream of the day when we will.



If you would like to know more about us, talk to us by telephone or even meet us as this chapter in your life unfolds, please let Steve or Joel Kirsh know. You can reach them any time at 800-333-5736.

We sincerely thank you for taking the time to read about us and consider becoming part of our story.

*Jaime & Stan*