



Dear Expectant Mother,

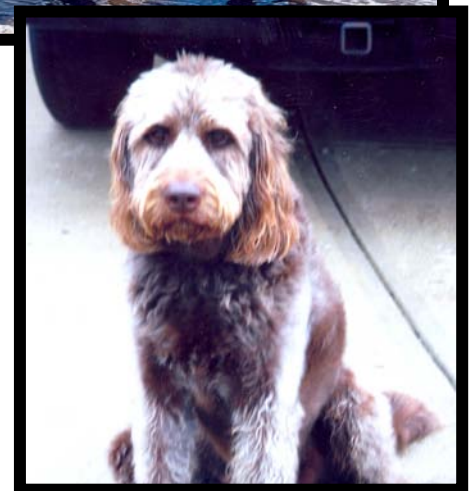
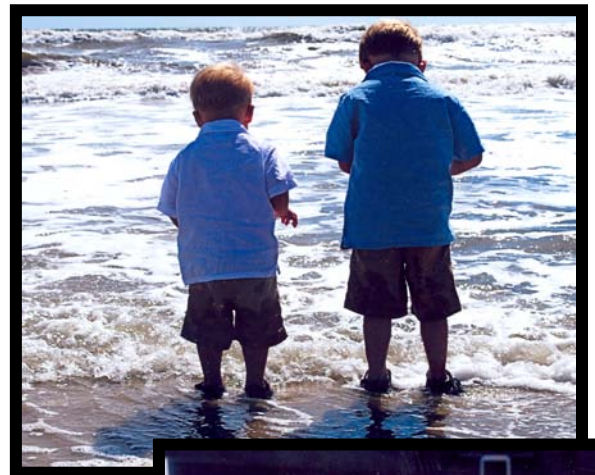
We are Ryan, Kristi, Griffin and Simon (and our two dogs, Samson and Kaiser). We are so thankful you are taking the time to read our

letter and allowing us to introduce ourselves. Since you are considering adoption, we want you to know how courageous and selfless we think you are. We understand that this is an emotional, difficult time for you as you decide how to provide the best possible life for your child. We truly respect and honor you. We hope that this letter allows you to learn about us and our family and what is in our hearts.

"The first duty of love is to listen."

The Memory Journal is such a gift from Ryan's Mom. As she grew more ill, we asked her to share her memories of milestones in her life. We listened carefully to every story and filled out the journal with the details she included. Ryan and I still read the Memory Journal and can "hear" his Mom telling the story of her life.

We had an instant attraction when we met while I took tennis lessons from Ryan. Although we originally used the very frequent lessons as our reason for seeing each other, the time quickly included going out for dinner or a movie. We became inseparable and aware of what a special relationship we shared. When Ryan's mother became ill and passed away, I traveled across the state to regularly sit and keep the family company at the hospital. Ryan told me that because of how impressed he was with the love and caring spirit I showed his family at such a difficult time that he knew he wanted to marry me. Ryan and I come from an extended support system of family and friends, and we cherish all that we have received and believe in giving back. We and our boys have such love to give to another child, but in addition, we have parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and close family friends all excitedly waiting to embrace and envelope your child into their lives, as well.



Please call Steve or Joel Kirsh with any questions about us. (800)333-5736

“Everyday life is fun!”

Conductor Griffin was driving the train across the kitchen floor when he noticed a fire off in the distance. Fire Dog Sampson was brought aboard to help go put out the fire. Whew, the fire was put out by Fire Helpers Mommy, Daddy, and Sampson the dog!



Whether it is an imaginative interactive activity like being the conductor on a train, baking brownies for a friend, jumping in a pile of leaves, or dancing with Mommy, we make everyday events always involve the kids. Holidays and birthdays are a chance for the entire family to gather and enjoy the traditions we have continued from our own childhoods and added for our sons. We host most of the extended family holiday events and relish in the meaning it brings to the boys as they build their own memories of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Santa (good friend, Grant) has even visited our house to sit with the children! Looking at the world through the eyes of a child brings innocence, amazement, and **fun** into every day.

“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.”

“Your gift this year, Griffin, is a birthday party! We are inviting over all of your friends for a party to celebrate the day you were born!” All of the families invited to Griffin's birthday were asked to donate to the Make a Wish Foundation in Griffin's name in lieu of gifts.



This unique way of celebrating Griffin's birthday is an example of our shared values and thankfulness for our blessings. A true partnership and shared belief system is needed to parent, especially when both parents have careers. We work collaboratively to ensure that the boys' needs are always put first, and yet we respect each other enough to also understand each other's passion and expectations with our jobs. My decision to become a Special Education educator stemmed from my observation of how a student, Jalen, was being treated in school. The teacher had

isolated Jalen because he had autism and had created a separate environment from his classmates. The fire in my belly was ignited because I knew that this teacher's methods were wrong. A sense of urgency to learn more about how to help students like Jalen led me to attend college for an extra 4 years to earn my Special Education Director license. Ryan is a very successful salesman due to his desire to provide the best service and product to his customers. This respect for others in our work as well as each other extends to the way we are raising our boys.

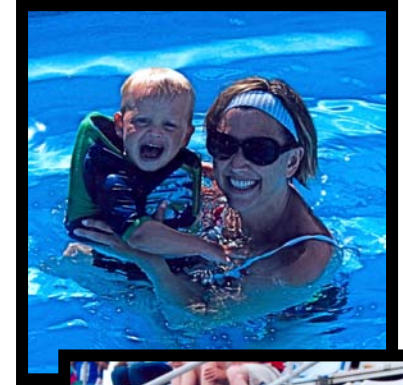
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Ryan, Kristi, Griffin, and Simon

We accept each of our son's individual personalities and understand the different developmental levels. We are raising confident boys by letting them be creators and explorers of their own

worlds. One look at the pumpkins painted by Griffin and Simon this last Halloween allows you to see that the boys truly created them, and they took great pride in their accomplishments. Griffin, age 4, is a very talkative and inquisitive child. He likes to be aware of everything going on around him and will ask a million questions to ensure he really understands. Griffin is the unofficial greeter at his preschool where he knows all of the adults and insists on saying, "Hello" and "Goodbye" each school day. Simon is a very happy 2 year old. He loves playing with his brother and his friends at school. Simon is developing his own interests and really likes to investigate things more than talk about them. The boys are being introduced to new activities and sports as they show interest and are ready. Griffin has found he loves "nastics" (gymnastics) and really likes it when his team scores a goal in soccer. Simon loves doing things with his Daddy like passing out candy to trick-or-treaters and "helping" him work in the yard on nice days.



Our Adoption Journey

We always knew that we wanted to have multiple children. We were blessed to get pregnant with Griffin and he was due in December. As we prepared for his birth, we ordered his stocking and wanted to make sure that his future siblings had stockings that would match the one we bought for him, so we purchased 4 that were just the same. When I had Simon, 2 years later, there was massive internal bleeding. After hours of surgery, my uterus was removed. Our dreams have never waivered of having a large family with kids who had lots of siblings to support one another. We are excited for the day when all of our stockings are filled!



Ryan about Kristi:

Kristi is an incredible mother to our two boys. Mommy time with the boys includes riding bikes, creating masterpieces (their first paintings as babies are hanging in her office at work), and lately reading the book On the Night You Were Born (book about adoption) for the fifteenth time in a week. Kristi always thinks through the needs of our boys, ensuring that they are always with loving adults who share her parenting beliefs.

Kristi has so much love to give and sees

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the addition of another child to our family as a blessing. She is so excited about the wonderful and unique personality traits our new baby will bring and how he or she will enrich our family's lives and how we will enrich his or her life by becoming part of our family.

Kristi about Ryan:

Ryan is the best father any child could hope to have. From changing diapers to playing games to providing guidance in life, Ryan is truly a hands-on Dad. He sees the joy in all aspects of parenting. When Griffin was not understanding the idea that the other soccer team could score a goal too, Ryan took him outside to practice and role play a soccer game. Griffin had a great time at his next soccer match!

Ryan loves children and is such a gentle and patient soul. He talks about the possibility of a new baby with such hope and wonder as he images a new little person in the house. Ryan always puts his children and family first so he will be a fabulous role model for all of his children!

Our Promise to You:

- Your child will be shown love everyday
- Your child will be confident and happy
- Your child will be read to everyday
- Your child will spend time with their extended family and friends every week
- Your child will respect each other and their parents
- Your child will be guided to find his or her talents in life
- Your child will have faith and believe in God

We also promise to send you letters and photographs, letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.

We want to thank you again for taking the time to learn about our family through words and pictures. You are an amazing and selfless woman. 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 anytime at 800-333-5736.



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