

Dear Birth Mother,

Thank you for allowing us to introduce ourselves! We know you have a big decision to make and are hoping this letter may give you a glimpse of who we are. We hope to be the adoptive parents you are looking for your child to have.



Our names are Meg and Mark. We've known each other for what now seems like forever. We met on our first day of college—18 years ago! We became instant friends and our friendship grew stronger and stronger over the years. Eventually, our friends got tired of us talking about each other all the time, and finally convinced us to go out on a "date". And, yep, I guess you can say the rest is history! We feel very fortunate to have our relationship and marriage based on a friendship that already existed for so many years.

From the Beginning...



Meg

I grew up the youngest of three children in a quiet little Midwestern town. My dad owned (and still does) an independent insurance agency and my mom was a stay-at-home mom. We lived just outside of town where there was plenty of room for the horses we owned and boarded. I have wonderful memories of my childhood. I grew up feeling loved, safe, and happy. My family was based on love, respect, education, and self-confidence. My parents never seemed to miss anything—from swim meets and 4-H shows when I was younger, to volleyball games, basketball games, cheerleading, and track meets when I was in high school. They were always there for me and my siblings. They applauded our accomplishments and supported us when we struggled. They always encouraged us to try new things in hopes we would find our passions. And because of that, I have a wide variety of interests still today. I'm still very athletic, but I also like to read, play the piano, and work on my Spanish skills I gained while studying in Spain in college. My family celebrated our individuality and uniqueness. I have an "outgoing, spontaneous, try something new" side as well as an "I'd rather stay home and read a book" side. I'm comfortable in my own skin, and want my children to cherish being their own unique, individual selves, too.

And then I met Mark...

On that first day of college when I was wide-eyed and more than a little nervous, I'll always remember how I felt when I met Mark. I relaxed! There was just something that drew me to him. He had this casual, comfortable, easy-to-talk to, way about him. We found our backgrounds and childhoods had many similarities even though I was raised in a small town, and he came from the city. We connected instantly. We liked the "core" of each other from the start. Looking back, it's funny that we never dated earlier. When we look at old college pictures, we were always together.

If I had to sum Mark up with one word, I couldn't! He is so many things—caring, fun, witty, and positive. I rarely see him having a bad day. Mark has an uncanny way of being able to look at the bright side of situations. He doesn't lose track of the goals he's set for himself, even if things aren't going his way. As an investment advisor and financial planner, he's very driven to give the best possible advice to people that are relying on him. And this includes his family--he's very driven to help provide a financially safe and secure home for us. But as focused as he is, there's rarely a day that goes by that he doesn't make me laugh.

Mark



I grew up the second of four children in a large Midwestern city. My dad worked for the federal government, and my mom was a stay-at-home mom. When we were all school age, my mom went back to her career as a nurse. We lived in a suburban neighborhood that was a kid's dream. In the summertime, we rode our bikes to the neighborhood pool almost every day. When winter came, that meant sledding at "fun house hill" as we named it. I have lots of great memories of those days and look forward to providing the same type of environment for my children.

As Meg already mentioned, our families and childhoods were very similar. My parents, too, were always extremely supportive of everything we did and encouraged us to try new things. They focused on our effort rather than final results. They knew that we wouldn't always be the best at everything we tried, but they wanted us to put forth our best effort at all times. They made us believe that, with hard work, we could achieve anything. I still abide by that philosophy today. They gave us the confidence to be whoever we wanted to be. And I want to do the same for my children. They were truly great role models.

While I had many interests growing up, I probably gravitated most toward sports. Football, basketball, baseball, golf... you name it, I've played it. I love watching Pacers

and Colts' games, and one of my favorite memories is going to the Indianapolis 500 with my dad every year. And like many sports-minded boys, I assumed someday I would be in the NBA or NFL. Well, unfortunately, all the hard work in the world couldn't make that exactly work out! So I was glad I took the advice of my parents and worked hard in school, too. That hard work paid off, and I ended up at a great college.

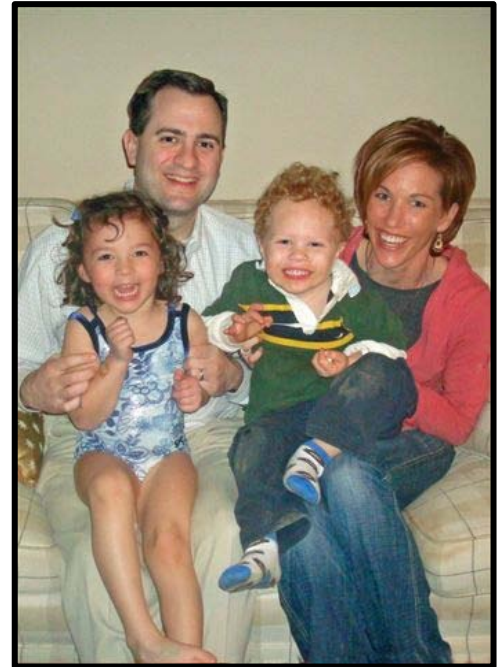
And then I met Meg...

Although Meg doesn't believe me, when we met on that first day of college, I said to myself, "That's the kind of girl I hope to marry someday." She's smart, fun, attractive, and an all-around, great person. I remember one time when we were on a 4-hour car ride with a group of friends going to an out-of-town wedding, Meg and I sat next to each other and talked the whole time. I was so disappointed when the trip was over. And since I don't like long drives, I knew that meant something! And after all these years, we still have plenty to talk about. Whether it's on a 4-hour car ride, a walk down the street, or just sitting on the couch, I love to spend time with her.

Meg always has a smile to give. She is the most compassionate and sensitive person I know. Meg always says that if she weren't an accountant, she would love to be a teacher. She works part time as the Tax and Accounting Manager for a family business. While she enjoys the job, she especially enjoys its flexibility. She can often work from home and is eventually looking forward to being a "stay-at-home" mom.

Together and Family...

Since our wedding day, we've been dreaming of a family. The strength of our marriage has been the rock that helped us deal with the many disappointments of infertility and the childless years that went along with it. We cannot thank you enough for giving your baby the gift of life so that maybe that life could be shared with us.



Our dream of a family finally started to come true when we adopted our first child in 2005. Her name is Katie, and our life has been a whirlwind since her arrival! She very much confirmed how much love we have to give. That first year of "firsts" were truly amazing—from her first smiles to her first steps. So as her first birthday approached, we knew we were ready to do it all again! We wanted another child and wanted Katie to have a sibling. We were blessed again to adopt Jack in 2007. We affectionately call him "the big guy" since he is a rough a tumble little boy and Katie is still a petite little girl. While they are only 4 (Katie) and 2 (Jack) years old, they are the best of buddies. Some of our proudest parenting moments are watching Katie being fiercely protective of her brother. Even though he's almost as big as she is, she takes great pride in being his "big sister".

Watching them play and grow together, make us realize how very lucky we are to have all been brought together as a family. We would like nothing more than to grow that family by one more! Not only do WE have more love to give, but so do Katie and Jack. And being the youngest of three children, Meg knows firsthand some of the perks that come along with being the “baby”. Not to mention her brother and sister still remind her of it!

Family to us has always meant having siblings. We have lots of great memories growing up with our brothers and sisters. Mark still talks about long summer evenings when he and his brother would play catch until their mom finally called them in when it was too dark to see. And his sisters still tease him about having to do his last minute Christmas shopping and wrap his presents for him. To this day, he still has them wrap Meg’s Christmas



gifts! Meg has a great relationship with her siblings, too. Being the youngest, Meg always looked up to her brother and sister and wanted to be just like them. Her sister still laughs (although it probably wasn’t as funny at the time) about her high school prom picture taken in their front yard. It’s a great picture except Meg is sandwiched right in between her sister and her date!



Most of our family still lives in the same area, and we spend lots of time together. Katie and Jack probably see their grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins, at least

once a week. Our parents tease that they only really want to see us so they can see Katie and Jack! We know it’s not true, but they certainly do dote on them.

Adoption is nothing new to our family. Meg’s sister’s family was blessed to have all three of their children come through adoption. We can’t put into words the excitement on all of their faces when we told them we were going to adopt...both times! It was truly a unique experience to share with them--one we hope to share again. Our children and their cousins will always have their own unique bond through adoption.





From Meg...

One of our favorite times of the year is the week of the 4th of July. My entire extended family travels to South Carolina where we spend many slow days relaxing at the beach or the pool. It's such a special week because everyone is together and just hanging out! I've taken this trip with my family since I was in kindergarten. It holds so many fond childhood memories for me—memories I hope our children will have too. The first time Mark came on the trip our nieces and nephews nicknamed him “the toy” because they had so much fun playing water games, and having raft races with him in the pool.



Mark is truly a natural with children and stepped into the role of being a “dad” without missing a beat. Katie and Jack adore him. When they hear the garage door open at the end of the day, they run to the door yelling “Yay! Dad’s home!” Mark is the kind of dad that gets down on the floor and plays, and has fun being a dad! And he’s also the dad that shares in the “work” of being a parent, too. He has a knack for hearing them if they wake up at night before I do, and has done his fair share of midnight feedings and diaper changes.

From Mark...

I love watching Meg with Katie and Jack. She’s 100% mom. She’s always finding fun new things to do. Almost every day

when I come home from work, they’re excited to tell me about their latest adventures—a new song, a craft, the library, or just a trip to the grocery store—there’s always something. I learn more about Meg everyday watching her interact with the Katie and Jack. She has compassion only a mother can have when nursing a skinned knee or cuddling when someone gets scared of a storm. And she’s as giddy as a kid herself playing hide and seek, or doing a silly dance around the kitchen.

We want to give our children as much opportunity to learn as possible. We feel strongly about education and want our children to enjoy learning in all its forms. From simply playing at home, to school, to traveling and exploring the rest of the world, we know that education is the key to so many things in life. We’ve both been lucky to have traveled many places and want



to expose our children to other cultures, too. We can only imagine the many memories we could make traveling together as a family.



We just recently moved to a neighborhood that is full of children. Our house sits at the back of a quiet cul-de-sac that will be great for learning to ride bikes and play baseball. And the big backyard is complete with a swing set and a hill that will be great for sledding in the winter. But if you ask Katie and Jack, the most exciting part about our new house is that it's in walking distance to the neighborhood pool!

We also love to grill out and eat dinner on our deck. Listening to the frogs in

the creek or watching the lightning bugs glow is a nice balance to the hectic schedule of everyday life. Since Meg grew up in the country, we love to soak in the outdoors whenever we can. The peacefulness that surrounds nature is something to cherish and we can't wait to share that part of life with our children, too.

Our Hopes for the Future...

The presence of both Katie and Jack's birth moms in our lives has truly been a blessing. Just knowing them for the brief time we did allowed us to appreciate love in its truest form. An experience we can probably never put into words. There can be no greater love than the love a birth mom has for her unborn child. To put that child's needs ahead of anything else is the most unselfish loving sacrifice a person can make. The strength you have for making an adoption plan is beyond measure. Please know that, if chosen, we would always be thankful and grateful for such a wondrous gift. You will be the reason he or she is with us. And, for that, you will always be a part of all of our lives.



Just as we do for Katie and Jack's birth moms, we will send letters and pictures, as long as you wish, showing how your baby is growing and developing. We will provide an open environment where your child can be free to ask questions about his or her biological roots. And we'll gladly take any information about you that you would like us

to share with him or her. Your child will also be in a wonderfully unique situation in that he or she will be able to share emotions and questions with Katie, Jack, and cousins, too, who share the adoption experience.

If you would like to know more about us, you can reach us at home at 866-695-4701 or you can call our attorneys, Steve and Joel Kirsh, at 800-333-5736. Please know that if you call the Kirshes, or us, none of us will pressure you. We will simply answer your questions, so that you can decide what is best for you and your baby.

Thank you so much for letting us introduces ourselves. We really hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

