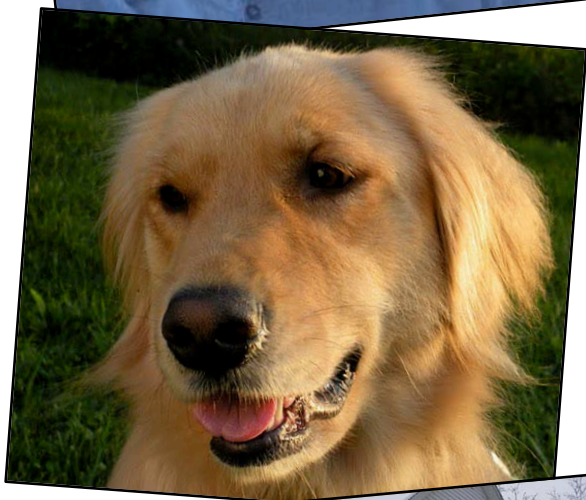




Hi! We're Mary & Roy. We really appreciate your willingness to learn a little bit about us, our relationship, our home, and our dream to have a child. There is so much we'd like to convey to you, and we hope we can put the words together to describe what's in our heart.



We've known each other since high school, have been blessed with a great friendship and marriage, and have had the time together to travel, have fun and experience the highs and lows of life. However, all the while, we have been anchored by the dream to have a family. Like many couples, we have been challenged with infertility; however, the silver lining to our heartbreak is that we can still love and nurture a child through adoption. We can never express how much we admire your desire to secure your child's future. We want you to know we would dedicate our lives to the health and happiness of your child.



We live in a mid-size, college town with great schools and wonderful cultural diversity. Our two-story home is in a quiet, wooded subdivision full of kids riding their bikes and families walking their dogs. Our house is a favorite among the neighborhood kids, as they know we're always good for some Boy Scout popcorn, school sponsorships or a fun Halloween treat!



Roy is a successful, electrical engineer for a long-standing, family-oriented company. And while Mary has enjoyed her work in the business field, she is looking forward to being a stay-at-home mom, to nurture and love the child we adopt.

### My wife Mary...

Mary grew up in one of Indiana's great small towns. She is the youngest of seven daughters, and when people find that out, they always say, "Oh, your poor dad!" But I happen to know both her mom and her dad are very

proud and feel very lucky to be surrounded by all their girls. Mary's grandparents started a family business, which her dad managed for many years and where Mary and all her sisters started working at a young age. Between her dad's hard work and dedication to serving others and her mom's hard work and dedication to caring for the family at home, Mary grew up with terrific role models. Their home was full of activity (can you imagine seven girls sharing one bathroom?), and it's hilarious to hear the stories they tell of sharing hand-me-downs, chasing bats out of their old house, and the competitive Easter egg hunts!



Our home is within an hour of all of Mary's family, and we have 16 nieces and nephews to whom we are very close. This has given us lots of training, and we've prided ourselves in being the "fun aunt and uncle".

I have always considered myself lucky that Mary said yes to my marriage proposal. She is simply an amazing person, and I know that I am a better person for being with her.

Not a day goes by that Mary isn't being thoughtful of those around her. I would describe her as the "heart" of the family -- always in tune with what's happening with her parents, sisters and nieces and nephews as well as my mom and family. She's the type of person who remembers birthdays, who goes to the hospital when someone is ill, and who recognizes when a friend needs a hug.



Mary's thoughtfulness, of course, often extends to me. I'll never forget what she did when I started graduate school. She surprised me with an "office" in our garage. She knew I would need a quiet place to study, and without spending much money, she put together a small desk with a chair and lamp and all the supplies I'd need. It was perfect and just one small example of the way Mary cares for others.



I know what kind of mom Mary will be because I've seen her in action. She's like a 2<sup>nd</sup> mom to all of her sisters' kids. It has been neat for me to see the positive influence she has had on them. This past year, we took into our home one of our nieces who was struggling in college and, in general, having a hard time in life. She couldn't ask for a better role model than Mary, and I know that has made the difference in her life. This niece is doing well, and we were extra proud to attend her graduation just a few weeks ago.



Questions? Kirsh & Kirsh (800) 333-5736



I hope we have an opportunity to meet you so you can see Mary's natural and genuine way. She is my best friend, and I am excited about our adoption journey together.

## My husband Roy...



Roy grew up in the country. He has an identical, twin brother and had an older sister who was killed in a car accident at only age 30. Growing up, he and his brother spent most of their time outside exploring in the woods, along the river, and around the local covered bridges. Roy also played a lot of sports and spent summer breaks from school helping out on his grandparents' small family farm. Roy's parents raised English Setter dogs for many years, and that's likely where his passion for animals began. In fact, in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Roy rescued a baby raccoon (which he named "Maggie"), and I always heard the legendary stories of how Roy trained the raccoon to ride on his shoulder when he rode around on his bicycle. I have to admit, I never quite believed the stories until his mom recently found a photo of Roy and Maggie on the bike!



Roy and I met in high school and both ended up attending college at the same university. I liked Roy from the first time I met him. He was quiet and smart and kind. We shared many of the same interests, and our relationship started out as great friends. From the time I was a teenager until today, no one makes me laugh harder than Roy. He has a terrific sense of humor, and he strikes with a witty comment at just the right moments. One of my favorite things is when we're just walking along a street or in a store, and Roy will hear some music and break out a few dance moves just to make me smile.



After we were only married a short time, Roy tragically lost his sister. Then only three years later, his dad was also killed in a car accident. It was very painful to see Roy and his family dealing with such grief. But through that period of time, I learned so much about the type of man Roy is. He was there for his mom in such a loving and patient way, and I was never so proud of him.

Roy is very romantic, and while he usually surprises me out of the blue by doing something sweet on an average day, he does like to spoil me on Valentine's Day. Several years ago, after Roy came into my office bearing chocolates and two dozen beautiful

roses, one of my single co-workers said to me, "Wow. How will I ever find a guy like that?" I explained to her that marriage isn't always roses. It's great when it is, but on other days, it's hard work. You have to always be open to compromise and quick to forgive. That's not always easy to do, but Roy and I both are committed to a life together.

I know Roy is going to be an incredible Dad, and my heart will be filled with such joy when that day comes. He is the type of person kids just are naturally drawn to. So many times, he has been there to help mentor or support our nieces and nephews, and I can only imagine what he would be like with a family of our own. One of the things I appreciate most about Roy is his work ethic. His parents struggled financially, so Roy worked in order to pay his own way through high school, college and graduate school. He always knew that if he were going to achieve anything in life, it was up to him to make it happen. I admire his self-reliance and drive. He is well regarded at his company and has been recognized for his leadership. Our security is important to him, and he works hard to provide for our future. He has built a strong foundation on which we can build a family.

## Our life together...

We love the time we get to spend with our families – at the many gatherings for birthdays, holidays and special occasions, but the best times are often when we're just hanging out together. Our home is very relaxing. We usually start our mornings visiting over a pot of fresh coffee and snuggling with Hali – our Golden Retriever. She is the most lovable dog and is currently lying on my feet under the table as we write this letter. We like to take walks at the local state park, love to watch a good movie and, occasionally, test our skills with some new recipes in the kitchen. Music is a big part of our lives, and we love to sing and to dance (although you won't see us on *Dancing with the Stars* anytime soon!) When we were first starting out as newlyweds with limited money, we read books to each other, and that is something we still like to do today. We both enjoy annual vacations to northern Michigan. In fact, Roy just completed a 400-mile bike ride from Lansing to Mackinac City, after which we spent time at a family cabin enjoying the beach and the beautiful area. Our love of the outdoors has led us to an interest in camping, and we've had lots of fun laughing and sharing stories with friends and family by the campfire. We look forward to sharing these types of adventures and many more with your child.

## Our hopes for a family...

We know that life isn't perfect, but we look forward to putting all that we are into being good parents. We have a strong spiritual



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foundation and are surrounded by wonderful family members and friends who give love and encouragement. They will all be over the moon when we are able to adopt (as we will be, too!), and we will be so happy that Roy's mom will have her first grandchild.

Education has played an important role in our lives, and we want your child to have a lifetime of learning. As you read our letter, we can only imagine all that you're considering in finding the right parents. Please be assured that not only will

we provide your child with a great education, we will also provide a happy, loving, and playful childhood. We have so much love to give, and even though we are unable to conceive a child, we realize that *how* a family comes to be is not as important as how that family loves and nurtures each other.

We will always be open and honest about your child coming to us through your gift of life and the miracle of adoption. We will explain how your courageous decision gave us an opportunity for a family we otherwise would not have had. We would be more than happy to share with you stories and photos, if you wish, so that you could see your child's development and quality of life. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter, and we wish you only the best as you make this important decision.

\*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 at 800-333-5736.

