



Dear Birthmother,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about us and the loving home that we can provide your child. We know that this is a challenging time for you. We admire your courageous, unselfish decision to consider adoption.

Our names are Michelle and Colin. Michelle is a pharmacist, and Colin works in metallurgy for an international steel company. We live in a small town in the Midwest, just thirty minutes from a major metropolitan area. We think we have the best of all worlds: the warmth

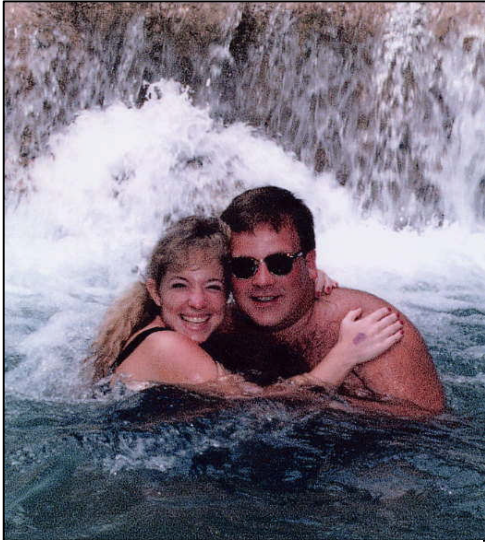
and security of knowing all of our neighbors, and access to the cultural, sporting, and educational opportunities of a big city. Both sets of grandparents live in our community, as does Michelle's sister. Colin's sisters both live less than an hour away.

We were high school sweethearts. We began dating during our freshman year and have been best friends ever since. Our eleven-year marriage is filled with love and laughter. We respect and trust each other. We both love children and have always planned on having a family together. After five years of unsuccessful fertility treatments, our longing for a child was stronger than ever. And through adoption we were able to become parents. In 2006, we adopted our son, Cole, and our lives have forever changed. We imagined that parenting would be wonderful; but we never allowed ourselves to dream that we could be this happy as a family. Our family is a miracle, and all because of adoption. We are hoping for another miracle, a second child, to love and cherish. We believe that families created by adoption are the most special families, and we want to share our happiness and our love.



Michelle: I can't imagine my life without my close and loving family. My parents, my sister, Candy, and I spent a lot of time with our grandparents and our great grandmothers. I feel so fortunate to have had their love and guidance in my life. I learned to garden from my mom's maternal grandmother. I even have some of her plants in Colin's and my garden. My mom's paternal grandmother was full of life. She re-married at age 87, after years of widowhood. I'm still very close to my grandparents who live in our town and are an important part of our lives.

I had a wonderful childhood. My dad worked as a finance manager, and my mom, a nurse, stayed at home until my sister and I were in school. We spent a lot of time together as a family. Friday nights were popcorn and movie nights. We spent lots of



On our honeymoon in Jamaica.

evenings playing family board games. In the winter, Candy and I would roller skate and play ping-pong in our basement or go sledding. Our summer days were spent at the beach or playing outside with our friends. Holidays were a great excuse for a bicycle parade through the neighborhood. We made elaborate craft projects, participated in 4H club, and went on family camping trips. I was always secure in the knowledge that I was loved and supported. I want to create a safe, loving home for my child, one in which he or she is surrounded by family that supports and encourages his/her interests.

My sister, Candy, and I are still best friends. We talk every day and see each other often.. I see my parents frequently—they live just three blocks away. My mom, my sister, my grandmother, and I love to go on shopping trips together. One of our Christmas traditions is to go shopping in the city, look at all the Christmas display windows, and then have lunch at Marshall Fields, under the Christmas tree. I imagine taking our children on this annual outing and seeing the wonders of Christmas through their eyes.

Having a sibling is one of the greatest gifts parents can give a child. A sister or brother is a lifelong friend — someone who knows you from the inside out. My life is so much richer because Candy is in it, and I want to give that gift to Cole. I long to watch my children playing together, sharing secrets, even getting into squabbles.

I am surrounded by loving people — none more special than Colin. He is a big guy with a great big heart, and he is always happiest when he is making someone else smile. Colin is a great cook, a skill he learned from his mother and grandmother. You should taste his homemade spaghetti sauce: no one makes it better. Colin is very talented at fixing or making things. His job allows him to use these skills every day. He loves to fish, go bird watching with his sister, and rebuild classic cars with his dad. He's a master at gardening and landscaping.



With Cole in the pumpkin patch,

Most importantly, Colin is a wonderful husband, and a wonderful father. He is very intuitive. When we were going through fertility treatments, he knew when I was feeling sad and just how to make me feel better. I remember one day after a long talk about our

disappointment in not being able to conceive, Colin left the room and the next thing I knew, the house was filled with the sound of Joe Cocker singing, “You Are So Beautiful to Me.” It’s hard to be sad when someone cares so much.

Colin waited a long time to have a child to share his life with, someone to take fishing, to go to the beach with, and to rock to sleep at night. I love watching him with Cole, seeing his eyes sparkle as he watches his son learn something new in the world around him. Colin loves to play with him at the beach, pointing out the geese, ducks, and deer as we’re walking, rolling the ball to him in the house or the yard, and singing silly songs just to hear Cole laugh. He built a swingset for our backyard, one that was designed to be expanded. Colin can’t wait to add on to it for another child. Colin’s heart doesn’t need expanding—it’s already more than big enough to embrace and adore a new baby.

Colin: My first impression of Michelle was that she had great integrity. I love her playfulness and wonderful sense of humor. Her bubbly personality and big smile puts everyone at ease. She’s very creative. She loves to design and decorate our home. She shares a passion for gardening with her mother and grandmother. She enjoys photography and creates elaborate scrapbooks with our family photos and mementos.



Michelle with our wonder dog, Mowgli.

Michelle is a wonderful mother; who always puts the needs of her family above her own. I love watching her watch Cole sleep. The gratitude and love in her eyes is beyond measure. I know she loves his belly laughs as much as I do. And I don’t think there’s anything to match the pleasure of rubbing lotion on his little piggies after his bath, or holding him while reading a book. Our children will always know the comfort and love of Michelle; they will never doubt that she will be there for them through all the joys and trials of childhood.

Michelle and I have a long history together. We dated for ten years before we married. We were apart during some of those years, as we went off to colleges after high school. We have some differences—Michelle is a night owl, and I’m a morning person. But, we respect those differences and accommodate them. Most importantly, we share the same values.

Like Michelle, I grew up in a loving family with two sisters. I have fond memories of family picnics and camp-outs. I loved going to the drive-in movie theater in my pajamas and falling asleep in the back of the station wagon before we made it back home.

One of my favorite childhood memories was a family vacation to Florida. We stopped in Gatlinburg and Chattanooga, Tenn. We explored Mammoth Cave. We stopped at every roadside attraction, and probably drove our parents crazy begging for souvenirs. When we got to Florida, we played in the ocean for days. It was heaven. (Except for the one afternoon that my sister, Connie, got me out on a raft in the ocean and then announced that Jaws was coming....)

It's impossible for me to think of my childhood without thinking of my sisters. I can't imagine how much emptier our home would have been without their added laughter and chatter. I'm not sure how I would have grown up without them as my role models. Having built-in playmates, built-in friends is an irreplaceable benefit of having sisters or brothers. I want that for Cole and for our next child.

My dad and I still share many interests. We love to work on cars and build models of cars and rockets. We like to shop for tools and parts, and we both enjoy flower gardening and taking care of our lawns. We love to eat ice cream. We are both easygoing, and we are both protective of those we love.

I want to teach my children to work with their hands. I want to teach them to love the outdoors and enjoy gardening. I want to play in the sand on the beach with them, and share a Rocky Road ice cream cone.



Both of us: We live in a two-story house with four bedrooms. We have a

We live in a neighborhood with lots of children and great schools.

backyard deck and a swimming pool. Our large lot has lots of room for the swing set and a jungle gym—and plenty of room for playing Frisbee. We have lots of trees and lots of leaves to play in each fall. We have two dogs, Licorice and Mowgli, both cocker spaniels. They are both sweet, love Cole, and will be great playmates for our new child, too. Our neighborhood is filled with children of all ages. We are two blocks from a park, with our community's excellent schools nearby.

We love spending time with each other. Whether we are working in the yard, walking on beach watching the sun set, or just talking over dinner, we enjoy each other's company. Since adopting Cole, we see fewer movies, but spend a lot more time at the zoo and the park. When we go to the beach, we leave our books at home, and instead bring sand toys and a ball. Our family room is filled with toys and we are both on the floor playing with him, rather than sitting on the couch or in a chair. It's life as we'd hope it would be, filled with the joys of parenting. We want to share this happiness and love with another child.

We go to the Smoky Mountains each fall, just to kick back and relax. Michelle has fun stopping at all the goofy tourist traps, and Colin indulges her. He's always taking pictures and looking for the perfect souvenir. We love to travel and can't wait to include our children on family vacations.

We will provide a child with every opportunity to flourish. We will celebrate all of his/her successes, and support him/her through life's challenges. We look forward to play groups, trips to the park, swimming lessons, and even wiping runny noses. We love seeing the pride on Cole's face when he accomplishes something new. And our hearts soar when he looks at us, knowing that we'll be cheering him on. We look forward to all the many joys and challenges that raising children bring. We look forward to bringing another child into our lives.



Thank you for learning more about us. If you choose us to be the family for your child, we want you to know that he or she will be loved beyond any measure. We have a special place in our hearts for Cole's birthmother. We love sending pictures of Cole to her, letting her know that he is safe, healthy, and happy. Likewise, we would be happy to send you letters and photographs letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.

You are in our thoughts and prayers as you face the challenges ahead. We hope you have the support of family and friends.

Thank you so much for reading our letter. If you have any questions about us, would like to talk with us by telephone, or meet us in person, call us at 866-311-2333. You can also contact our attorneys, Steve and Joel Kirsh, at 800-333-5736.

Warm regards,