

# Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Never in a million years did we believe we would be writing a letter like this. As children, we grow up believing that people just grow up, get pregnant, and have babies when they want in their lives. That isn't the case with us. We have struggled with infertility for 9 years, and we hope that you will be able to help make our dreams of a family a reality. Please allow us to introduce ourselves and tell you a little about our lives and our hopes and dreams. We are Michelle and Joe.



**(Joe through Michelle's words)** Joe is my husband and the most wonderful, loving, and funniest man I've ever met. As soon as we met, I knew he was the person that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. He has the ability to make everything in life possible no matter how big the challenge. He has a wonderfully, calming effect on everyone and enjoys life to the fullest.

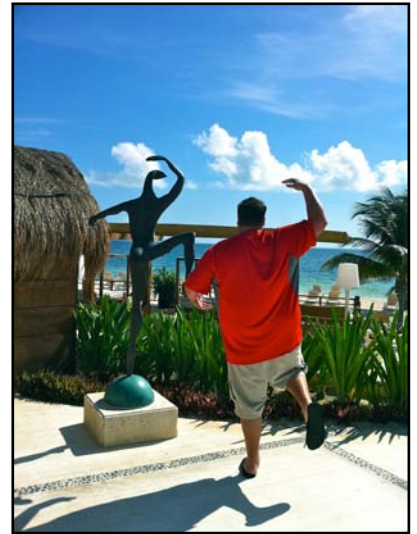
**Joe had a great childhood.** When he talks about all of his adventures with his parents, you can see a twinkle in his eye, and you know that he is ready to make our own family adventures with our child. Joe's family traveled a lot when he was a child. They didn't have a lot of money so they saw most of the United States and parts of Canada in tents and campers. They have traveled to western ghost towns high in the Rocky Mountains, fished for sharks in Florida, and spent time on lakes in Canada where their supplies had to be flown in. He has mentioned many times to me how much he would love for our child to grow up the same way. He learned so much about life that can't be taught in books during his adventures across America. There are only 12 states he hasn't visited, and he wants to take our child to all 50. The adventures didn't end with traveling, his parents also passed on a love for reading, especially, science fiction and fantasy.



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**Joe's father was a music major in college, and, as it turns out, Joe loves music just like me.** We both think music is very important and hope to pass this on to our child. We both believe that music really is the soundtrack to our lives. Sometimes, as a joke, one of us will start singing a song until the other one gets it stuck in their head and then we say, "You're welcome." Joe plays guitar for fun and has even tried to teach me a few things here and there. He has the patience of an angel, as I am the worst guitar student in the world.

**Joe is very close to his parents.** We love spending time with them in Michigan. Joe's parents are so excited and happy about the prospect of a grandchild. They have been married for 40 years and are still making memorable adventures for Joe and me every time we visit. Joe's parents are always finding places off the beaten path to eat or visit, and we always end up laughing until our stomachs hurt, by the end of the night. His parents love to have big family style dinners, and we all pitch in with our specialties. Every single time we eat with them, I find recipes that I must have. I always bring them home and share them with my side of the family. His family certainly knows how to cook.



**Joe works as an Information Technology System Administrator at a university.** He loves his job and loves helping people solve problems. He has stated many times over the years that his mission in life is to help people and has, finally, found the right job for him to achieve his mission. Working at a university is challenging and inspiring for him, and he loves every minute he spends there. I am lucky that he works at the university that I graduated college from so sometimes we get to meet up for lunch and revisit my college years.

**Joe is a kind, big-hearted man.** I'm so glad to have him as my husband. Children flock to Joe, climbing on him like a big teddy bear. I know he will make the most amazing father.

**(Michelle through Joe's words) Michelle is my wife and soul mate.** She has the kindest heart of any person I have ever known. Together we are unstoppable. She is the perfect mix of beauty, both inside and out. She is my pillar of strength and voice of reason. I couldn't have picked a better person to spend the rest of my life with.

**Michelle had a wonderful childhood and comes from a great family.** Her Mom, Dad, Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents raised her, quite literally. She was never without family around her as a child. I want our child to grow up the same way. The love they show everyone is amazing. I have seen her Aunt & Uncle give so selflessly of



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themselves to others that they are exhausted, yet still find time and energy to play games with their child and make them feel special in every way. From the time I met Michelle's family, I knew they were special. I met them quite by accident. Early on when Michelle and I were dating, I thought she was blowing me off and didn't really want to see me. She told me she was busy, and that unless I absolutely needed to see her, she would get in touch with me the following week. Something in my mind was not quite right about that. I pressed her for details of why she was "so busy", and she let me know that she was having a cookout for some of her family. She was afraid that they would overwhelm me as they had scared off other

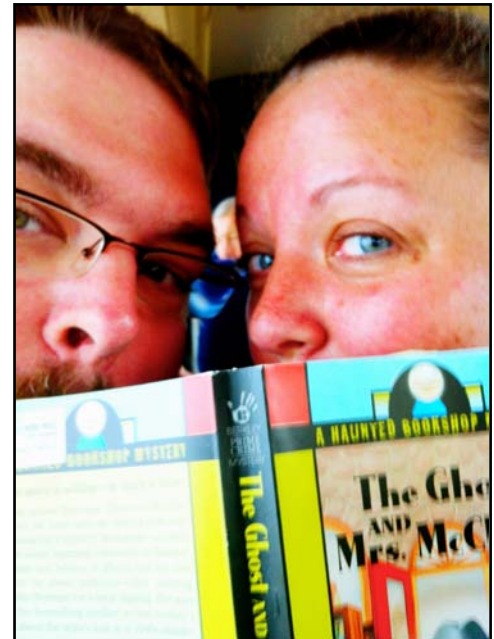
boyfriends in the past. I was not deterred because, at that point, I was already smitten with her and thought a few members of her family would be no big deal. Much to my astonishment there is no such thing as a small gathering in her family! Every member of her family was crammed into the small house she owned at the time. It turns out I was not overwhelmed like she had feared but thought they were fantastic. It made me love her all the more.

**Michelle's family are a wonderful collection of characters: they are funny, smart, loud, quiet, and fun.**

The women are the heart of her family and the heart of her family loves children. They make the focus of every family gathering the children. They plan activities and games for them; they make every one of them feel so special.

Michelle's mother is incredible with children. She takes her niece to museums, plays, shops, restaurants, libraries, gardens, anywhere that might be interesting and fun.

When they can't go out on an adventure, sometimes, they make up stories of where they would go if they could. I promise you that your child will be showered with love, kisses, fun, and adventure from the time their little feet find the floor (and before!). I had never witnessed the pure joy a child can bring to a whole family until I met Michelle's family. Just recently, her family wanted to take her little cousin to see High School Musical 2 On Ice, and they ended up taking 9 people. When you see the pictures, you wonder whom they were really taking to the concert. It looks as though Michelle and her Dad had the best time out of everyone with their big snow cones in light up cups and light up spinners. You never know what you are going to be pulled into with the family. I count myself lucky to be a part of this wonderful family.



**Michelle worked as a Safety Manager for several years and has recently decided to begin working with her Mother in the family business.** She loves the new opportunity and being able to be such an important part of the business. It is something that she always dreamed that someday she would be able to do, and that dream is now a reality.

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**Michelle and I are best friends and love to make each other laugh.** We share a love of music, reading, and travel. We have so many dreams and hopes for our future together. She will make an unbelievable mother, and I promise that I will be an unbelievable father. We will fill your little one's life with joy, music, laughter, and, most importantly, unconditional love.

**We have been together for eleven years and our only "children" right now are our two dogs and a cat.** We love our animals, but we both have so much love to give and cannot wait to share our love with a

child and begin a whole new chapter of our lives as a family. We are financially and emotionally responsible and promise to love your child as our child unconditionally for the rest of our lives. We make that promise to you and would never break that sacred trust. We will make sure that he or she has the love and support that we both had growing up. We will allow them to be the individual that they want to be and will make sure they have a great education

so they will have the opportunity to be anything that they wish to be. We would be happy to send you letters and photographs, letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.



*Thank you again for taking the time to read this letter. 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.*

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