

Dear Birth Mother,

Our names are Nathan and Sarah. We are very grateful that you are reading our letter. Thank you for considering us to love and raise your child as part of our family. We deeply respect that you are making a very important decision for your baby and hope this letter helps you make the best choice possible.

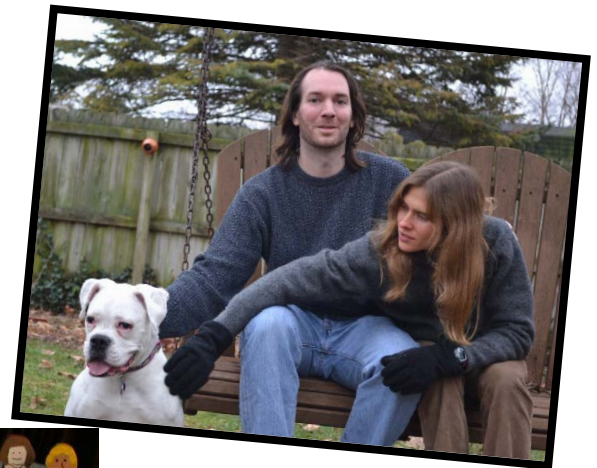


Our marriage is a very happy and loving one. We enjoy spending time talking and laughing together. We have several favorite hiking spots and always find sitting out on the back porch relaxing. We often send each other e-mails during the day just because we're thinking of each other, and we have fun leaving each other messages on our mirror with a dry erase marker. We also like to surprise one another by making each other's favorite meals and snacks.

We both enjoy our jobs and are thankful that our employers provide a relaxed

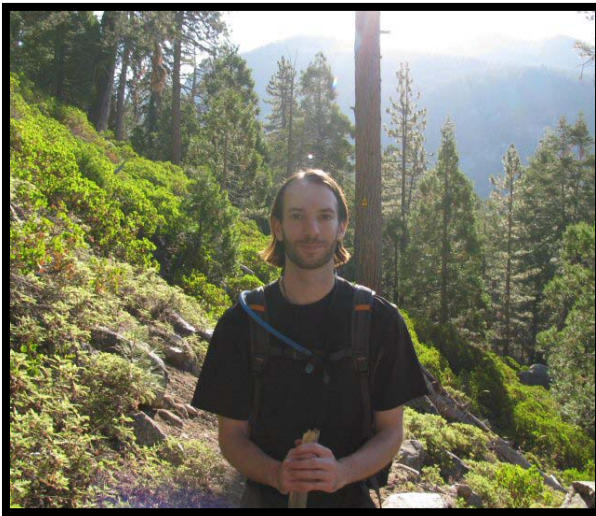
and flexible work environment. We love each other and feel like we have been blessed with caring friends and family. We are so excited about the day when we will become parents and begin sharing our lives with a little one.

I know Nathan will be an amazing dad. He is one of the kindest people I have ever met. He is sensitive, caring, compassionate, fun, intelligent, creative, patient, and thoughtful. He is an excellent listener and a careful problem solver. Nathan is a computer software engineer, and I can sometimes see the engineer wheels turning in his mind as he considers every viewpoint to come up with the best way to



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approach a project or situation. Nathan always wants to help others and figures out a way to make things special for them. For example, he built a swing the first time one of our friend's children came over to our home, and he handcrafted colorful wooden play figures for all the classrooms at church. When young children at church meet him, they remember him and ask me about him. The pre-teen boys look up to him and want to spend time with him. Nathan has a wonderful way of speaking with children. He is calm and attentive. He shows them respect while having lots of fun. I have enjoyed watching Nathan interact with our nephew and the children of friends who come over for dinner, and I am so looking forward to sharing in the experience of parenting with him.

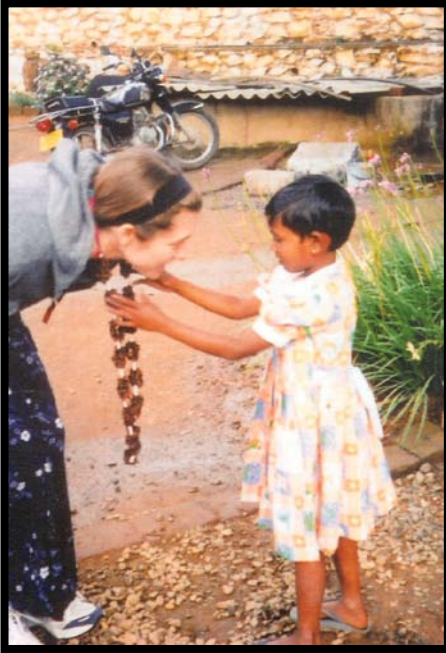


Many of my friends have commented about Nathan's kind eyes. He has a gift for making people feel comfortable and relaxed. Before we started dating, I told my mom that I would live longer if I knew Nathan the rest of my life because he always helped me feel calm, safe, and cared for with his attentive listening and creative and clever ways of showing his feelings. I have continued to experience this each day, and I have also had the opportunity to enjoy watching others experience his compassion, integrity, and thoughtful and careful planning. Nathan shows respect to everyone he meets or comes in contact with. He's also extremely thoughtful and respectful to animals. It's fun to watch him invent new games for our foster dog, and when our Mallards were ducklings, watching them follow him around the yard was adorable.

While we were dating, we took a friend's 4-year-old to the zoo. When our little friend became upset, Nathan sat on a bench and chatted with him. In no time, he was happy again. When I asked Nathan what he did, he quietly responded, "I just talked with him." When we visited Coltan our 3-year-old nephew, Coltan had a great time playing soccer, Candy Land, and cars with Nathan. With a huge smile our nephew told his mom, "Nathan jokes." The children from church look forward to opportunities with Nathan whether it is to teeter totter or to explore the back yard to collect buckeyes, and the guys who work on the church yard know Nathan as the "one who always has the right tools." I can imagine how much fun your child would have helping Nathan in the garden or going on outings to Lowes to pick-up supplies for a new yard or house project.



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I (Nathan) have enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the many different circles of relationships that Sarah is involved in, and I'm sure these circles will be fun and meaningful for a child too. Sarah is great at bringing people together and making them feel welcome. Her house has always been open and inviting. She'll be the fun mom that all the neighbor kids know for her cooking and hospitality when they come to play. All of our friend's children and the youth at church always love spending time with her, and I can see how happy it makes her too.

After talking about our plans to adopt, we received a flood of cards and good wishes from people at the church. Many different parents and grandparents of the children and teenagers Sarah works with have told her what a great mother she will make, and I think they are absolutely right.

Sarah has always had a gift for coming up with fun activities to do with kids. I

remember when she told me the story about her trip to Sri Lanka. She was on a solo mission trip, expecting to spend time with the church partners there and learn from them. After four days on airplanes and navigating through airports in four different countries, followed up by a five hours in an old van on unpaved roads through the mountains, Sarah arrived in the village. She was extremely tired and really sick from the rough van ride. Expecting a much needed night's rest followed up by a tour of the village the next day, Sarah was instead escorted into a classroom full of children and asked to provide one of the activities for them that she had prepared. Obviously the plan for the week hadn't quite been translated accurately because Sarah was not expecting to be the one providing any activities. On the spot, she came up with a perfect craft for the kids - she taught them how to make paper snowflakes. This was something new, exciting, and foreign to them since none of them had ever seen paper snowflakes, or real snow for that matter. While they folded and cut the paper, she pointed out how everyone's snowflakes turned out a little bit different. Just like real snowflakes, she talked about how no two of them were alike and how their uniqueness made each one special. Coming up with fun, creative, and educational activities for children just comes so naturally for Sarah. I can only imagine the wonderful experiences she will bring to our own children every day.

Sarah is a distance runner as well, with tons of determination, energy, and spirit that she brings to everything she does. She is also an occupational therapist. She worked in special education, which requires a great deal of adaptability, patience, and kindness. She is very thankful for the children she worked with and talks about them often. I think they really helped her grow in her ability to connect with others and appreciate life. Sarah really is the most amazing person I've ever met.



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We both value compassion, creativity, open-mindedness, and diversity. We want every child to feel accepted and appreciated for his or her unique gifts and personality. We often talk about the games and activities we look forward to sharing with a son or daughter, so he or she will always be able to explore and grow within a safe, loving, and nurturing family.



We were both raised by parents who value life-long learning. We look forward to sharing this value with your child. We are excited about providing him or her with the best opportunities to develop his or her gifts. We have positive memories of family craft projects, cooking activities, music lessons, swimming classes, and regular trips to museums, zoos, parks, and libraries. We also have fun memories of summer vacations playing outside and trips to lakes for sailing or canoeing, and we look forward to sharing these experiences with your child.

We are both thankful to have strong relationships with our parents and siblings. You can rest assured knowing that your baby will be welcomed into our family by grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, great-aunts, great-uncles, and a great-grandpa who are all so excited to have a new baby join our family. We also both value our sibling relationships and hope we will be able to adopt again in a few years. We would like to give your child an opportunity to be a big sister or brother one day.

We live in a fun and friendly neighborhood. Neighbors are always out in the nice weather taking walks, cooking out, or playing with their children. We also like to have friends and family over for holiday parties and game nights. We regularly host our families for Thanksgiving and Easter dinners, and this year we had our first Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day parties which gave us good excuses to try some new recipes. We are excited about creating special rituals and celebrations for a child to look forward to each season – we both still have fun jumping in the leaves in the fall, cross country skiing on the path next to the canal in the winter, looking for the first flower blossoms in the spring, and playing corn hole and badminton while grilling out in the summer.



We are both active in an open and inclusive faith community. Our congregation is part of the United Church of Christ which has a deep commitment to social justice and peace. One of our main sayings is "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." We desire to be welcoming to everyone. We believe in a gracious Creator who calls us into partnership to work for peace, kindness, hope, and love for all. We pray that all people would know that they are beloved children of God. I (Sarah) grew up as a pastor's kid, and I always loved going to worship, Sunday school, and church activities. Growing up in the church helped me

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learn with and from people of diverse socio-economic, religious, racial, ethnic, cultural, educational, and family backgrounds. It also gave me a chance to travel to many different places and see the world from a variety of perspectives, and we are excited to help your child grow up with an appreciation for the beauty of the world and all God's people.

We hope this letter has given you a little glimpse into our lives. If you think we might make loving parents for your child, we hope that we'll have a chance to talk with you if you'd like. No matter what, we are praying for you and your child and hoping for many blessings for you. 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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