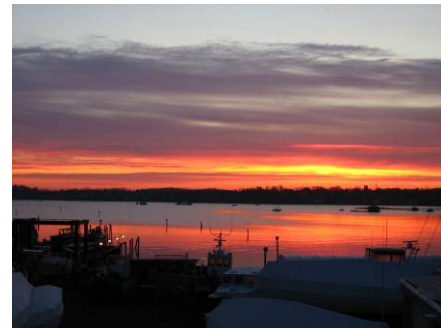


Dear Birthmom,

Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity to introduce ourselves and tell you about our family, our home, and our hopes and dreams for a child. We admire you for the courageous decision you have made to choose life for your baby and to look at all the options for securing your baby's future. We're Patrick and Denise. We want you to know that we are prepared to give this child a life filled with love and opportunity.

We've been happily married for several years and are looking forward to adopting a baby. When we were first told that we could not give birth to a child, we were heartbroken. Denise felt like a failure as a woman, especially after going through numerous and, quite often, painful infertility treatment procedures. But after thinking about what was important to us, we realized that loving and nurturing a child was far more important than giving birth. Adoption offers us a chance to realize our dreams and to give a child a wonderful life and bright future.

We live in a historical, seaside town in New England, rich in history and culture. Our home is near a beautiful ocean harbor filled with sailboats. The neighborhood is filled with young children, and our town has a very good school system and offers an abundance of recreational resources for children and families. Our home is just minutes away from local hospitals, colleges and museums.



Patrick is a civil engineer and works for a state agency. Patrick had to join a union in order to work for this agency, and the union does not allow employees to work overtime. Therefore, Patrick works until 3:15pm Monday through Friday, never having to stay late, providing plenty of time for fatherhood! Denise works as a Marketing Director for an architectural firm and has flexible hours. Her boss has 6 children (all girls!) and is understanding of any one having to leave early or come in late due to family matters.



*"I consider any child to be blessed to have both Denise and Patrick as parents. They will give the child unconditional love, structure and a very healthy home environment. I see them both as being very active parents and involved in activities to promote the well being of the child into adulthood."* Quote from one of Patrick and Denise's references in their pre-adoption homestudy.

## *“A Love So Great It Could Fill A Pyramid”...*

We met in the land of the pyramids....Egypt! Patrick was working as a civil engineer, and Denise was hired by the same engineering company to audit the project Patrick was working on. Due to the overcrowded office space, we were assigned to double up in a very small room to perform our jobs. We became very close friends in that tight space, telling each other our life stories, our secrets and our dreams, while getting our work done of course.



*Denise:* I was attracted to Patrick because he was easy to talk to and was very supportive and comforting during the times I ran into difficult situations in Egypt. I also fell for Patrick's boundless energy, which was contagious. In Egypt, he coached a boys elementary school soccer team, took neighbors' dogs running for exercise (the dogs tuckered out before Patrick did!) and was the photographer in the running club we joined; taking pictures while running at the same time...oh, did I tell you he's also coordinated. I knew that I would return from Egypt with an amazing work experience. I never imagined I'd return with a love so great it could fill a pyramid.

*Patrick:* I found myself falling for Denise more and more each day in that cramped little office we shared. I admired her for her courageousness for accepting a job in a foreign country with a company where she didn't know anyone. I was drawn to Denise's openness and her conversations about the love for her family and her longing for her cats. She would buy cat food every day and leave small piles of it around the neighborhood to make sure the stray cats didn't go hungry. With similar interests, Denise became my traveling companion on weekends where we enjoyed running, hiking, scuba diving and, of course, sightseeing. My newly found confidant would make me laugh with her playfulness and silliness which led to my heart being filled with love sooner than I ever anticipated.

Our work assignments in Egypt may have come to an end; but our feelings for each other didn't. When we moved back to the States, we continued our relationship and constantly discovered how similar we were (and still are!) with our shared values, goals and interests.

## *“I Forever Do...”*

We decided that there was no better way to fulfill our commitment to each other and unite our families than to get married. We chose a destination that was special to us, St. John, US Virgin Islands. It was important for us to spend our wedding day (and honeymoon!) with these special people who came as far away as Egypt. When the reverend asked, “Do you, Patrick, give this ring to Denise as a symbol of your love?” Patrick just didn't answer “I Do”; he answered “I Forever Do”.

*“They embrace life openly with a spirit of adventure and are both strongly supported by friends and family. This was very apparent at their wedding. Despite the far away destination they were surrounded by a large group of family and friends.”* Quote from another of Patrick and Denise's references in their pre-adoption homestudy.

## *Denise's Toast to Patrick on their Wedding Day...*

"I couldn't quite come up with the words that truly express why I am here today so I thought I'd borrow them from a famous philosopher, Winnie the Pooh: "If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you."

## *A Marriage of Shared Values, Goals and Interests...*

Our marriage is a mutually understanding and respectful relationship, with shared values, goals and interests. We both take pride in our good communication (thanks to that small office we shared in Egypt!) and mutual understanding of our individual needs, as well as a means of expression.

*Patrick:* Denise is pretty patient about my habit of leaving my gym clothes around the house. I know when she asks me: "Did the hamper explode again?" it's time for me to pick up things.

We make decisions and problem solve as a team, taking the time necessary to listen to each other's thoughts and feelings. We feel we can rely on each other and are mutually supportive, which means putting our needs aside when the other is in need. Denise was supportive of Patrick as he worked hard and trained to compete in an Ironman Triathlon; and Patrick was supportive of Denise when she returned to school to earn her graduate degree.

We were both raised in the Christian faith. We both acknowledge and agree with the importance of religion and faith in the overall development of a child's life. We plan to raise our child within a church that supports our beliefs. Our marriage is the joining of our two families.

## *Surrounded by Family...*

Patrick's mother Ruth was a single parent and supported her family through her dedication, creativity and talent. She worked hard to build a career as an interior decorator, and she now owns her own interior design business. At the age of 12, Patrick helped his mother raise his 9 year old sister which has made him a very responsible and trustworthy person ever since. His mother's example of hard work, family commitment and fiscal responsibility, along with her stressing education, gave Patrick the foundation of his value system.



*"I know they have dreamed of having a child to share their love. Denise and Patrick have so much to offer a child. They value open communication and have a strong respect for individuality. They would cherish and provide a safe, secure home full of love."* Quote from another of Patrick and Denise's references in their pre-adoption homestudy

Denise is very close to her mother and father who live only a half hour away. She appreciates the attributes they've given her in life. Though Denise's father, Tom, worked long hours when she was young, he was always there on the weekends for her tying her ice skate laces and driving her to figure skating lessons, cheerleading practices and track meets. Denise's mother, Marie, who worked as an administrative assistant for the same engineering firm for over 38 years, has taught her the value of commitment and responsibility. Denise grew up in a three-family house occupied by her grandparents and her aunt, uncle and two cousins. Denise continues to enjoy being surrounded by family. Denise also inherited her love of cooking for family and friends from her mother. Denise's parents are retired and are enjoying the opportunity to spend time with their children and grandchildren.

Our family wouldn't be complete and our home would be empty if it wasn't for Roushdy and Kiko. For now, we are showering all our attention on these two critters. We call them our "mush-cats" because they are so "mushy" with their affection. Roushdy never gets tired of hide and seek and peek-a-boo when you're in the shower and Kiko is more like a dog always wanting to play fetch and running around the house with socks in his mouth. Growing up with dogs and now having cats have fulfilled our love for animals and it gives Denise's maternal instinct an outlet.

These "furry kids" have taught Denise to be accepting, patient and to embrace unpredictability.



Our cats enjoy lounging in the large sun room overlooking our backyard complete with children's swing and play set (thanks to the previous owners who left it for us). When they're not looking at the many birds in the backyard, they're glued to the many windows of our home watching the loads of kids in our neighborhood; from teenagers on their bikes to toddlers being pulled in red wagons. Knowing that they're safe indoors, they even enjoy watching all the dogs get walked throughout the day. Our home has a large back yard with a flower and vegetable garden (which is probably why we get so many birds!). Our home is one street over from a park that has a kid's beach, a large children's "jungle gym" and a picturesque picnic area. Our home has a large kitchen and dining area which is great for Denise to cook for family and friends (though Denise still hasn't convinced anyone that tofu is the "other white meat") and to continue her family tradition of celebrating holidays and special occasions. It's become a tradition for Denise to go over her grandmother's house with her mother to bake Italian cookies for Christmas. They bake up to 12 different kinds!

*"Denise and Patrick have a marriage with a strong foundation of friendship and love. They are deeply committed to each other and have a healthy approach to life, which they live with joy, love, and integrity."* Quote from another of Patrick and Denise's references in their pre-adoption homestudy.

## *A Healthy, Active Lifestyle...*



We enjoy a healthy, athletically oriented lifestyle surrounded by friends and family who share this same way of life. For the past 7 years, we've been members of a triathlon club (Patrick is now a co-captain) that is family oriented. The team members have many children, who join in on the fun by either participating in the races or by cheering on the sidelines.

We are also actively involved in the start up of a running club that hosts charity races and

events for under privileged children. It's been exciting to watch the membership grow....along with the number of baby jogging strollers each year.

We enjoy traveling and learning about the different cultures, languages, customs and politics. We look forward to our annual vacation with Denise's parents and her sister's family. A family vacation wouldn't be complete without a doubles tennis match between Patrick and Denise and their niece and nephew.....which always ending in a rubber match!

## *A Home Filled with Love and Laughter...*

We believe that being trustworthy, respectful, understanding (especially when Denise leaves the cap off the toothpaste...everyday!) and responsible is paramount, and we will model these values for your child. We are also eager to share our own interests and activities with your child, as well as encourage your child to pursue her/his individual interests and talents. We will encourage your child to do the best she/he can in all areas of life.

We have planned carefully for this adoption, are fiscally responsible and have the financial resources to give your child the means to grow to be an independent, self confident, respectful and compassionate young adult.

We know we were meant to be parents. Our home is filled with such warmth and laughter and we have so much love in our hearts to give a child. You would be giving us a gift we've wished so long and hard for. We would gladly send you letters and photographs, letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.



If you would like to talk to us or meet us in person, please contact our attorneys, Steve and Joel Kirsh at 317-575-5555 or 800-333-5736.

Warmest Wishes,  
Patrick and Denise