



Dear Birthmother,

Hello. Our names are Stacey & Joe. While we assume that you have not made any final decisions about adoption, we understand that you are considering adoption because you love your baby dearly and are trying to assure him or her of a bright and happy future. If you decide that making an adoption plan is the way to accomplish that, we would be honored if you chose us as parents. We look at adoption as a special way to bring about the family that we have always dreamed of having.

Joe was adopted at birth and has had an amazing, loving life. Since Stacey was young, she has felt that someday she would adopt a child and she has also struggled with infertility issues. These individual pieces have pointed us to this path, which makes perfect sense to us.

We didn't know just how perfect until September of 2007, when we were blessed by the birth of our son, Noah. Noah's birth mom, Brittany, chose us to be parents of her precious child. We were humbled by her trust in us to love and provide for Noah and she will always have a special place in all of our hearts. Noah will know of her profound love for him and how she wanted him to have a life in which he could achieve his full potential, in a loving, happy home. We cannot wait to welcome another precious baby into our hearts and home.

Our Lives...

We are both 38 years old. We have been married for almost nine years and have known each other for thirteen years. We met through a friend who went to high school with Joe and college with Stacey. We immediately hit it off. One of our first dates was a trip to Wrigley Field for a Cubs game followed by our next date,



which was an afternoon of rollerblading along Lake Michigan. We enjoy being active and outdoors. Joe is an avid sports fan - he loves all of the Chicago sports teams, especially The Cubs. We go to many games at Wrigley Field, by ourselves, with members of the family, or with groups of friends. Noah attended his first Cubs game last summer, and it was so much fun. It is amazing to watch children experience the excitement, sights, and sounds of major league baseball.

When Noah celebrated his birthday in September with a big party in his grandmother's backyard it was apparent how much older he's getting, and what joy he has brought to us and our entire family. We moved into a new



house a few months ago - it has a big room filled with toys that Noah loves to play in. He loves to play with other children, and we know he will be a great big brother. There is an empty bedroom right next to Noah's waiting for his future sibling.

Our family started to grow about 7 years ago when Max, our wheaten terrier, joined our family. As you can see from his picture, Max looks like a big teddy bear. He is so lovable. We are teased by our friends & family because we love to spoil him. He has tons of toys and treats. All of our neighbors know Max, and he is great with children.

Noah adores Max, and Max feels that same way even when Noah tugs on his tail. He loves to give kisses and is so excited to see us when we come home. Even if we have only been gone for an hour, he jumps up & down and wags his tail like crazy. We love to take Max with us on road trips and to the park.

One of our favorite things to do is travel. We love taking trips to Iowa City (Stacey's college town), Boston (where Joe went to college) & Wisconsin (for ski trips, concerts & boating). Sometimes we also like to travel further away and have visited many amazing places. We honeymooned in Tahiti, which was remote and beautiful. Joe scuba dives, and we could see the fish swim under our bungalow. We also love Florence, Italy. Stacey loves to shop, and Joe loves to sightsee. We really enjoy Ixtapa, Mexico, where we can relax in the sun, swim and eat tacos. We haven't vacationed much in the past year, since

being home with Noah has been our first priority, but we really look forward to visiting these places with our children someday. So far, Noah has traveled as far as Arizona & Las Vegas to meet other members of his family.

We live in Chicago in a great part of town that is close to Lincoln Park Zoo, Lake Michigan, and tons of parks. We both love biking and running outside (Stacey has run in four Chicago Marathons). There are many children in our neighborhood, and we have an amazing playground with a water park right around the corner from our house. We have made many friends in our area as a result of living here for close to 9 years so it feels more like a small neighborhood than a big city.

Joe works in downtown Chicago for a large financial services company as a Financial Advisor. He works with families and helps them prepare for their futures - this training has certainly come in handy for us as we've begun planning for our family's future. Until recently, Stacey had been working for a real estate company, as the Director of Human Resources. She worked full-time until Noah was born & then reduced her work schedule to part-time. Recently, Stacey made the decision to stop working altogether in order to spend more time with Noah and to be a stay-at-home mom when our new baby arrives. She found her career rewarding but has always known that her true calling was to be a mom and now can devote all of her attention our children and family.

Our Childhoods and our Families...



Joe grew up with an older brother (by 5 years), David, who was his playmate and best friend. The two of them would spend hours inventing games to play and sorting baseball cards and comic books. Joe's parents (who always called him Joseph) put their names on a list for adoption before David was born.

They happened to get pregnant, and when a baby was available for them to adopt a few years later, they felt doubly blessed to welcome Joe into the family. They really were the kinds of parents you'd read about in a

storybook, with Joe's Dad going off to work and Joe's Mom staying home to take care of the two children. There was always a snack after school and a home made dinner at night. The family moved when Joe was 9 from the Chicago suburbs to a city near Tampa Bay, Florida, called Clearwater. They were the new kids on the block and making new friends is never easy, but it gave Joe and his family perspective when they moved back to Chicago 4 ½ years later. It was great to be back together with all the Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins. After Joe's brother went away to college, he had the house all to himself, and since he was the baby, his parents did everything to make sure he was well protected.

We are still very close to his family, as Joe's brother lives close by in the Chicago suburbs. We get to be fun Uncle Joseph and Aunt Stacey to our niece, Mia, and nephew, Benjamin. Unfortunately Joe's Dad passed away a couple of years ago, but the family has done their best to get through the tough time and move on. One of Joe's wishes is to, one day, be as good of a father to his child as his dad was to him.

Stacey was born in Iowa City (where she later went to college) but has lived most of her life in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. She is the oldest of four siblings. She has two younger brothers and a younger sister. Stacey's brother was born when she was 13 years old so she got to help out with babysitting, changing diapers and feeding him when he was very small. We are very close with Stacey's family, and she has a wonderful relationship with all of her siblings. They are great aunts & uncles! One of Stacey's brothers just graduated from college and lives just a couple of miles away. Of course, Stacey's parents love being grandparents!!



Stacey had an active childhood - girl scouts, camp, playing musical instruments, skiing - and she looks forward to inspiring our child to do the same. We have close friendships with many of Stacey's childhood friends, and we get to enjoy reliving the memories from those younger years when we all get together.



In Closing

We hope that you have been able to get a good picture of who we are, our lives, and our desire for family. We plan on raising our child in a way similar to how we were raised - in a loving and encouraging environment. We can promise you that we'll love your child and raise him or her in a home that promotes love, warmth and caring. Also, we will make sure our child grows up knowing of your love and courage. In our home, your child will think of you as a loving, heroic mother who did what was necessary to give her baby a bright and happy future, with the opportunity to reach for the stars.

We will gladly communicate through phone, letter or face-to-face meetings in order to provide you with any additional information that you might want. Likewise, we would be happy to send you letters and photographs letting you know how your baby is getting along, if you wish. We wish you the best of luck and really appreciate that you have taken the time to consider and get to know us and our family.

To learn more about us, to talk with us by telephone, or to meet us in person, please contact Steve and Joel Kirsh at 800-333-5736.

We hope to hear from you.

Warmly,

Stacey & Joe