

Dear Expectant Mother,

You are about to make one of the most important decisions of your life, and we want to be a part of it. Our names are Marc and Tammy, and we are incredibly grateful that you are considering us in your adoption plan. We want the privilege of welcoming a baby into our family. But first, we want you to have the opportunity to know us better.



Tammy's life: I grew up just outside a small city in a neighborhood full of children. I have a brother who is two years older than I am. He is married with three beautiful daughters who are growing up faster than one can imagine. My parents are wonderful people who provided me with an excellent example of how a marriage works, along with raising healthy, happy children with love and opportunity.

My Dad worked long hours yet always made time for my brother and me. We went on family vacations every summer, sharing experiences that we still reminisce about regularly. We were raised with expectations, for example, every night we knew we were expected to be home by 5 to sit down to dinner as a family and share stories about our day. My brother and I grew up with love and structure which, I feel, are incredibly important in a child's life.

My mom was a stay-at-home mother, which I certainly took for granted as a child but now realize the opportunities that this created for my brother and I. We both participated in a variety of sporting



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activities, and mom never missed a game, or practice for that matter. She was there to help out in our classrooms at school and for any other of the many needs and wants we as children always had.

Growing up I dreamt that someday I would meet my prince charming, get married, and have lots of children. First though, I needed to get my education before settling down.

My career path has shifted over the years. Straight out of high school, I enrolled in Emergency Medical Technician training and began my career in healthcare. It didn't take long for me to realize that I loved caring for others and that I wanted to do more. Soon after, I enrolled in and completed Paramedic school. After graduating, I worked 24 hours on and 48 hours off helping others. All along, I knew I loved what I did, but this would not work for me when it was time for me to start a family. Therefore, I enrolled in college and earned my bachelor's degree in nursing. I now work in critical care, but in the hospital setting with better hours, and, frankly, much better weather conditions! Currently I am working on my graduate program and will soon be a Family Nurse Practitioner, hopefully landing my dream job of working part time managing the healthcare of individuals who are uninsured.

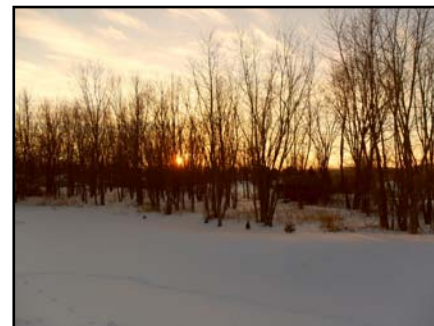


Marc's life: I grew up in a suburban Illinois town blessed with good schools and even better parents. My mother, a longtime elementary school teacher, taught me the value and importance of education from an early age, and my father, a barber who owns his own shop, instilled the ethic of hard work and teaching by example. I'm a passionate seeker of truth and information, having worked as an investigative journalist for over 13 years. The zeal for education I inherited from my mom led to bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism and public affairs reporting, and today, I'm an editor and reporter at a newspaper and online media company.

Along the way to adulthood, I enjoyed a nurturing and active childhood, growing up with an older brother – by four years – and then later getting the opportunity to be a big brother myself. Having a little brother – 12 years younger than me – meant hands on practice in helping raise a child from an early age. That experience helped define who I am today and how I interact with and nurture my twin, 8-year-old boys. Before Tammy came into my life, I had the experience of caring for my wonderful sons – essentially by myself – for the first three years of their lives. Raising the boys has showed me what a great privilege and honor it is to raise and shape young lives. I'm eager to do it again – this time with a woman who has become such a wonderful mother to my sons. And they are eager, beyond words, for an opportunity to be big brothers.

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How we met: A friend of mine from work knew Marc and decided we needed to get to know each other. On our first date, he spent a great deal of time telling me about his upbringing and his twin boys. I remember sitting there over coffee watching him glow with love when speaking of those little guys. I think that is why I fell in love with him so quickly. Not only was he a great match for me, I knew he was exactly the kind of man with whom I wanted to raise children.



Where we live: We live in a great neighborhood that happens to be very diverse and full of children of all ages and races. This will allow your child to experience many different cultures, and not feel out of place with any ethnicity he or she might be. Every day we see the rewards of living in such an ethnically diverse neighborhood, and are thankful to be part of it.



Our home was built in 2005 and has four bedrooms. We have a nice wooded view just beyond the gorgeous pond in our backyard. We also live in a top ranking school district, which will provide your child with great opportunities for education.

Tammy's perspective of Marc: One of the things that Marc did every night was read the boys bedtime stories -- not just one or two stories but several. The three of them gathered on a little rug in the center of the

boys' bedroom floor, and together stories were shared. I knew Marc had been doing this long before we ever met because at just the age of 3, the boys knew most of the stories he read. Even better than that, they were able to inject their own amazing animation into the storytelling -- with funny voices and facial expressions -- a memory that makes me laugh to this day.

Now that the boys are a little older, they are reading books themselves and telling us the stories. In addition, Marc is teaching them many other activities. They love to go out in the backyard and fish in our pond. It is well stocked, and one day the three of them caught 17 fish. Marc's dedication to his fishing pole shows because he dove into the pond after it when one of the boys hooked a big catfish and allowed the pole to get away. Marc was soaked from head to foot with a ruined cell phone, which was in his pocket during the dip, but the fish didn't get away -- and neither did the hilarious memories of pulling in the 19-inch catfish with Marc actually being wetter than the fish itself.



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Marc's perspective on Tammy: From early on, Tammy embraced the reality that I was a single father and began to make my sons her own. Tammy does everything – from shuttling the little guys to their many sporting activities to helping them with their homework, before I get home from work. But she also comforts them if they've had tough days at school and talks to them about their experiences of the day from the moment they step through the front door after school. Tammy's efforts have earned her the ultimate honor from the boys, who call her

“Mom”. As a matter of fact, in September 2011 we will be attending the final hearing in which Tammy is adopting the boys.

Our life: Our typical week consists of Marc getting the boys ready for school and dropping them off on his way to work. He really enjoys his mornings with the boys. He calls it “man time.” On the other hand, Tammy stays home during the day so she is available when the kids get home from school and to help out at school when requested. The boys start working on their homework and studying when they get home, and together Marc and Tammy go over their homework when Marc gets home from work. Tammy works two nights a week, but Marc is always home before she has to leave. Therefore, we rarely need to seek out a babysitter. On the rare occasion when one is needed, we call Grandma, who lives close by.

We also have pets. Lambeau, our dog, is a happy little fellow who doesn't even realize he is a dog. If he could talk, he would tell you he is human. Precious, the cat, is soft and cuddly and loves to curl up with the boys each morning for her “massage” as the boys refer to it. We also have a beautiful fish tank full of fish that lack personality but are nice to look at.

Experiences we cannot wait to share with our new baby: We love to travel. We have been to Pennsylvania and Niagara Falls -- for our honeymoon. We visited Niagara Falls again last summer – this time with the boys. Two summers ago, we

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took the boys to Disney World along with their cousins. And most recently, we took an adventure to Jamaica where the boys experienced new cultures, traditions and swimming and boating on the beautiful Caribbean Sea. We have gone on a few camping trips together and also go to an indoor water park resort every few months to help with the cabin fever. As a matter of fact, we even bought a time-share with an exchange program so we can travel even more.

Why we are hoping to adopt: Before getting married, the doctor told Tammy that she was going to have trouble getting pregnant and that she may not be able to conceive at all. We sought assistance with fertility treatment right after our marriage in late 2007. After many unsuccessful attempts to conceive a baby, we knew adoption was the choice for us. You would be providing us such a gift by entrusting your precious baby to us as adoptive parents.

Now that the decision has been made to begin our journey through adoption, we have told the boys. First let me mention, they've been asking for a little brother or sister since before we were married. They are so excited and tell me everyday all the things they are going to do for their little brother or sister. They say they plan to read the baby stories, push the stroller and rock the baby to sleep. The only thing they don't really want to do is change diapers. But they said if they HAD to, they would. We reassured them -- with a chuckle -- that we would handle that chore.



Adopting a child of a different race has been something we talked about from the beginning. We have many friends of different races and even family members who have married individuals of another race and have had bi-racial children. Everyone is incredibly supportive of our decision to adopt a bi-racial or African American baby and have offered themselves if we find ourselves with a question from time to time. We also have plenty of little playmates of all races for your baby to grow up with.

In conclusion: We really hope you consider us in your quest for the perfect couple to provide a loving home for your child. We would be happy to send you letters and photographs, letting you know how your child is getting along, if you wish.

If you would like to know more about us, please call us directly at 1-888-204-9995 or contact Steve and Joel Kirsh 1-800-333-5736. Please be assured that none of us will try to influence or pressure you in any way. We want you to make the decision that you feel is best for you and your unborn baby.

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