



Dear first parent (s),

Hi. We are Vanessa and Allen. We feel honored that you have chosen to read our letter and learn more about us. It takes courage, grace, and love to read through these letters, and we are praying that God would give you wisdom and peace as you make an adoption plan for your child.

We truly respect your strength and determination to find a loving and stable home for your baby. We recognize that the decision you are facing is one of the most difficult, selfless and loving acts that a parent will ever face. Our hope is that we are the answer to both your prayers and ours. We want nothing more than to raise a precious child in the best way that we can, giving them a stable and fun family home. As we share our backgrounds and stories with you, we hope that you will consider our home for your baby. Your baby will be so loved in our home.

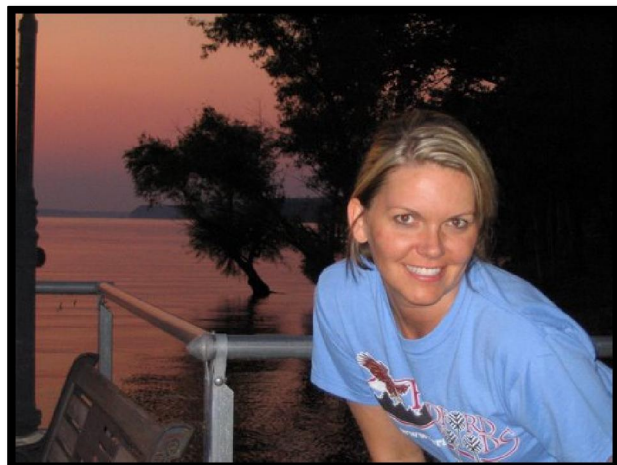
We are happily married and are excited to raise a child in a loving and nurturing home. We've had a desire to have a child for a long time now. We tried getting pregnant on our own with no success,

and rather than seeking complicated fertility treatments, we felt directed toward pursuing adoption. Adoption has always been a big part of our families and we look forward to it as being our way of having a child. Indeed we come from a large family with diverse backgrounds and skin colors, whether through adoption or marriage, which is why we are excited to adopt a child that may be of a different race than our own.

About My Wife

I met Vanessa almost 11 years ago in Anchorage, Alaska. I was in the Army, and she had recently gotten out of the Air Force and was working as a video editor. For me, Vanessa stood out like a candle in a dark room. She is warm, compassionate and genuinely charismatic with a subtle hint of wittiness that makes you laugh at just the right moments.

Vanessa is truly gifted behind the lens of camera or in front of a blank canvas. She has knack for seeing the beauty and subtle detail in things often missed by others. When her family comes to visit, her nephews immediately want to see "Aunt NaeNae." It's amazing to watch her engage their imaginations, whether its painting, looking at nature close up, or just playing in the dirt.



About six years ago, Vanessa's love for children lead her to pursue a career in elementary education. I believe that she has found her place in this world. She is at home in a classroom and has an unrelenting passion for teaching children and engaging their minds in fun learning activities. Daily, I look forward to our evenings at home when she shares stories of her day's events.

Vanessa is a truly special person with a beautiful soul. I believe she will be a wonderful mother and a great role model should God see fit to bless us with a child.

About My Husband

It was love at first word. I will never forget the way he greeted me. Allen's voice is like no other – a strong, melodic voice. As we fell in love, I would sit and listen to him tell story after story, partly just to hear him speak. He can sing any song he sets his mind to, which is amazing for me, because, despite their unwillingness to share the microphone, none of my siblings are much of singers, while Allen and his sister could both be on American Idol. In fact, between my two brothers and two sisters, only one of them can carry a tune, but we all sing anyway. I remember once at Christmas, my family was looking forward to trying out our karaoke machine. Prior to that day, my best friend of twenty-five years came over, while Allen was at work, and after we made sure the doors were locked and the windows shut soundly, we started up the karaoke. My goal was to find a song I was decent at singing, so I could sing it at Christmas. I could only find one song that seemingly suited my voice. On the big day, I was nervous to sing, but everyone was singing, so why not? It wasn't perfect, but it was fun. Allen was proud and encouraging. To him, there is not much I can do wrong. He is my biggest fan – thank the Lord.



I call him the “dog whisperer”, “cat whisperer”, “baby whisperer”, and lately the “squirrel whisperer.” When he is delivering mail, you can't imagine the animals he encounters. I'm convinced it's his calming voice that the animals love, though truly, it has more to do with his patience and kindness. There are not many work days that pass where he isn't tempted to bring home a kitten or two, especially if it is cold and rainy. His heart is always in the right place.

One of my heart's desires is to watch Allen become a father. When we married, we had only one nephew. Now, we have four and one niece. Every summer for the past few years, our oldest nephew, Trae, stays two weeks with us. Allen goes above and beyond to create experiences for Trae while he is here, whether it be teaching him how to take a blue gill off the hook without getting gilled, or showing

him how to sand wood smoothly. Two summers ago, Trae took delight in laying tile on our front porch with Allen. He has completely earned Trae's trust, and likewise. He amazes me.



Allen models patience and respect while encouraging Trae to carefully spread grout and match the tiles on our front porch.

About Our Surroundings

We are blessed to live near both our close-knit families. After meeting each other in Alaska and finally having the opportunity to settle down, we were quick to decide to move back home to be near our families and friends. That was ten years ago. We bought our first house three years ago. During the past few years, we have thoroughly enjoyed tending the yard and the flowers, adding our own touches, and making our house a home.

Vanessa works at an elementary school roughly five minutes from our home, and Allen works at our town post office. He is the mail carrier on our route, which means he gets to stop and eat lunch at home each day. Faith is also very important to the both of us. We have a strong desire to grow in our faith and plan to raise our child as a Christian. We would be happy to send you letters and photographs, if you wish.

Thank you for reading about us. If you 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. We are grateful for your consideration.

In God's Love,

