



Dear Birthmother,

Our names are Cheryl and Keith, and we are grateful for the opportunity to tell you about our lives, our hopes, and our plans for the future. While we cannot know what you are going through right now, please know that we admire you for considering adoption for your child. We wish you all the best as you try to make this important decision.

We recently celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and have been together for 10 years. We are completely in love and have the deepest respect and admiration for each other. Our relationship is built on communication, flexibility, compassion, and openness to learning and change. We are so grateful to have met each other and know that we are blessed to have a caring family, wonderful friends, excellent health, and a great home.

We live in a university town in North Carolina. Cheryl is in graduate school, completing a Ph.D. in sociology, with a focus on child and adolescent health. She has a flexible schedule and looks forward to spending lots of time with our new baby. After many years as a college history professor, Keith left the classroom to pursue a career in museums and public history. We both have a deep interest in the education of children and families.

Throughout our marriage, we have struggled with infertility. During that time, we discussed our dreams of a family and our values as future parents. Both of us have always been excited about the idea of adoption. We believe that there is a reason why we went through infertility and would like to think that it is because we were meant to adopt a child. We long to adopt and are committed to an open adoption if you are comfortable with this. We are excited to raise a child in such a large and loving extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and life-long friends. We will give your child a life of unconditional love, direction and values, discovery, and opportunity. Thank you for considering us as your baby's adoptive parents.

All our best,

*Cheryl & Keith*



## Keith

Keith and I are best of friends. We are still amazed that we have had the great fortune to share each day with each other. In 1999, a mutual friend encouraged us to meet. Keith and I went out for a coffee. I immediately knew that Keith was special. He is a warm, thoughtful, kind, sensitive, and funny man.

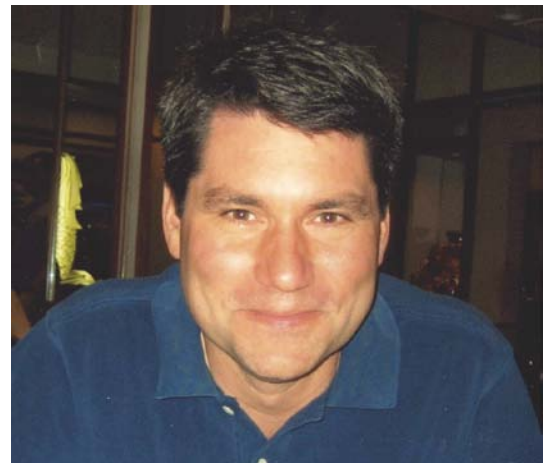
We had a beautiful fall wedding on September 20, 2003, in New England.

Since the leaves were so beautiful and the sun was shining, we decided to walk through the town center to the reception. We spent our honeymoon exploring Mexico. It was one of many wonderful adventures with Keith. We both share a love of travel and exploration. Being married to a historian, I always have the perfect tour guide to travel with. Yet, it is his curiosity and willingness to try new things that makes being with Keith so much fun. He can make the simplest trip feel like a new adventure.

Keith is a devoted, giving, and emotionally supportive husband. He is strong and a natural leader, while also very nurturing. I feel safe in his arms. I know that your child will feel the same way. I also still feel excited every time I see him. I am grateful beyond measure that we met and are sharing our lives together.

Keith is an enthusiastic uncle to his ten nieces and nephews. He is a hands-on uncle who has changed diapers and jumped in to baby-sit. He has spent hours with his nieces and nephews reading books at bedtime, watching favorite movies again and again, playing board games and sports, and losing at video games. He seems like a natural dad. Whenever friends come over with their children, Keith is the first on the floor playing with the kids.

Keith is also a devoted son and brother. Growing up in a large family of five kids in Chicago, Keith was raised to be respectful of others and open to their opinions. His dad was a college professor who was beloved by his students. Keith knew he wanted to be a teacher after he sat in on one of his father's classes. Keith's mom is a constant presence in his life. After raising five kids, she decided to go back to work and worked for the next 40 years. His parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and a love of reading, history, and the arts. With five young children, his parents provided a loving and structured home life. Everyone was expected to be home for dinner and ready



to talk about their day or what was in the news. Dinner was served every night exactly at 6 pm. Keith's mom is a very active grandmother and is excited about our plans to adopt. Keith loves family reunions and being around his three sisters (Eve, Lisa, and Bridget) and brother (Mark). The family loves to tell and hear stories. Growing up as the fourth of five kids, Keith is able to bridge the gap in ages and seeks to understand everyone's point of view. His father passed away nine years ago and so he keeps in daily contact with his mother. Two years ago, he took his mother on a trip to Italy to celebrate her birthday. Keith wants to make sure that everyone is happy, healthy, and safe. He, especially, wants to take care of me. I feel this every day through his



devotion. I could not ask for a more loving husband. We cannot wait for a child to be part of our lives. We promise that your child will be the center of our universe.

### **Cheryl**

Cheryl is the most beautiful and caring person in the world! I am completely smitten by her inner and outer beauty and her devotion to family and friends.

At our wedding, I gave a toast

and described Cheryl as a rare painting that captures both the natural beauty and quiet strength of the person in the picture. Cheryl's inner strength is shaped by her compassion and warmth, sense of tolerance and fairness, her intellect, and her desire to help others.

I met Cheryl for the first time on a blind date. I was immediately struck by her curiosity and her mind. I remember that we talked for hours. I had never met anyone like her in my life. I knew that I wanted to see her again. She is so smart and, at the same time, so humble and is constantly looking to learn more about a topic or a person. It is her curiosity and inner calm that allows her to connect with so many people in her daily life. She draws people out. Cheryl can strike up a conversation with anyone and anywhere whether it is on a hiking trail in Spain, in a national park in California, on a ferry boat ride in Vietnam, or in the checkout line of the local grocery store.

Cheryl is passionate and focused about everything that she puts her mind to. She loves children and can't wait to devote herself to being a mother. Raised by loving parents in the Washington, D.C., area, she was instilled with a deep work ethic and commitment to one's family, friends, and community. Her parents





always believed in her and encouraged her. Her father is an engineer and builder who insisted on individual responsibility and hard work. Cheryl's mother was her greatest advocate and supporter, giving her unconditional love. She also taught her a love of learning and literature, the joys and wonders of good food—especially shared with family and friends—and most importantly the core values of love, compassion, and integrity. Cheryl tells the best stories of her mom and her sense of enthusiasm and fun whether it was experimenting with new food or rounding up their escaped dogs by driving around the neighborhood and opening the car door for them to hop in. Her mother could never say, “No,” when one of the kids came home with a stray dog or cat. Cheryl's mother had the biggest heart.

Cheryl looks and finds the greater good in people and the world. She seeks to understand many sides of an issue and avoid judging others. As a result, people seek out her advice. I, myself, have learned to seek the bigger picture. Her vision also carries over into the natural world. One of my favorite recent memories of Cheryl is when we were hiking with friends during a snowstorm in a pine forest. We were all talking about how beautiful the snowy trail was. Cheryl stopped to listen to the blowing wind and the falling snow. And then the rest of us stopped in unison. We stood silently for a few moments. By stopping to listen, Cheryl led us to experience nature on its terms and in a much deeper way. It was a magical moment. I look forward to these experiences with our child.

As an aunt, sister, and godmother, Cheryl maintains a huge list of birthday dates and gift ideas. She is a loyal friend with several close friendships that began in elementary school. Cheryl keeps in close touch with her extended family and friends. She wants to hear about the latest news in their lives and stay connected with them. She is so proud of her nieces, nephews, and godchildren and is their biggest fan. Growing up in a household of three brothers (Mark, Gary, and John), she was confident when playing sports with boys but also could play the role of big sister to her baby brother. Her mother passed away unexpectedly ten years ago, and she still misses her daily contact with her. But, she speaks several times a week to her dad and speaks regularly with my mother. Cheryl will be a great mom.





### **Our Home**

We live in a wonderful neighborhood filled with families. Children are constantly out riding their bikes, playing sports, and visiting friends. Our neighbors are out walking their dogs or sitting out on their porches and decks. We do many activities with our neighbors and their children from birthday parties to Friday night potlucks at the playground to winter dinner parties. It is a fun and friendly community. For example, all the neighbors decorate their homes for Halloween. Kids know that the best carved pumpkins and Halloween candy can be found on our street! We look forward to taking our child on our daily walks in the neighborhood and to the playground on our street.

Our neighborhood is located in a town that is filled with tree-lined streets, libraries, parks, museums, historic homes, and bike trails. Cheryl and I walk most places since everything is so close to our home. The town is known for its arts community, holiday parades, music festivals, and close proximity to two culturally-rich cities. We also love the fact that we can easily drive to the mountains for a hike in the fall leaves or to the ocean for a beach weekend. We can't wait to include our child in our adventures.

Our three story house is amazing. It is filled with lots of windows, sunny rooms, high ceilings, and wood floors. Keith especially loves the big kitchen so he can whip up yummy meals. Cheryl loves the deck, large flower garden, and wooded back yard. We both enjoy being outside and gardening. Besides the beautiful house, we chose the neighborhood for its excellent schools, young families, and the numerous after-school music and arts programs for kids. It is a safe and supportive community for children. This will be an ideal place to raise a child.

### **Our Life Together**

Keith and I have an extremely close and loving marriage. We are very intimate and supportive emotionally and are each other's best friend and advocate. We share many common interests and discover new ones together. We both laugh a lot and especially laugh at our quirks. We each try very hard to please each other. What is so amazing to us is that we have grown even closer since our



marriage and the relationship continues to deepen. Our spiritual connection has also broadened. We truly appreciate every day we have together and are profoundly grateful. Our house is filled with love and laughter and we are so excited about becoming parents.

### **Our Values**

We value family, friends, spiritual life, and trying to make a positive contribution in the world. Most importantly, we are excited about being parents and giving our unconditional love and emotional support to your child. That is our priority. We know that parenting and its responsibilities comes before anything else in our lives and believe that it will be important to provide a supportive and stimulating environment with clear and consistent structure, guidance, boundaries, and discipline. We will create a learning environment and help your child to discover his or her talents. We will raise your child to be compassionate and ethical and to treat others with respect and



kindness. Your child will be surrounded by a loving family and supportive community, including our church community.

We have so much love to give. We have longed to adopt for so long and have carefully prepared for this joyous event and lifetime commitment.

We hope that after reading this letter you feel like you have gotten to know us. If you choose us to adopt your child, we will raise him or her in the

knowledge that adoption is an act of love. We will always keep you in our hearts. Depending on your preferences, we would like to share photos and letters to let you know how your child is doing.

We send our very best wishes to you during this difficult time. We wish you peace with whatever decision you come to make.

If you would like to know more about us, talk with us by telephone, or meet with us in person, please let Steve or Joel Kirsh know. You can reach them anytime at 800-333-5736. We hope to hear from you soon.