

Hello,

We are Matt, Erin, and Mya. Thank you for your willingness to consider adoption and take the time to read our letter. We hope to give you a sense of who we are and the love and happiness that we have to offer your child.



Matt: Erin and I have been married for almost five years. She is my best friend and someone with whom I can share anything. Every day when I come home from work, we talk about how our days went. Mostly, we talk and laugh about little things that happened that are probably only funny to us in the goofy sense of humor that we share, but even on days that things haven't gone very well, it's nice to have someone to talk to who is understanding and supportive. We come from similar backgrounds and have similar interests. We're both very close to our families and make sure that spending time together as a family is a priority. We both rely on our Christian faith in our decisions and actions. When we were first married and talked about having children, I told Erin that I would love to be an adoptive parent some day, and she told me that she felt the same way. Neither one of us knew how important that conversation would be later on down the road. During Erin's pregnancy with Mya, there were some complications. Her doctor told her that becoming pregnant again would be risky both to her and to the child's health. Neither of us was willing to take that risk, so we decided that we would not attempt another pregnancy. It was a really tough decision and one that we had never expected to have to make. Thankfully, we had already talked about adoption, and we both knew that that was what we wanted to do. We have so much love to share with another child. We are thankful that adoption offers us that opportunity.

Erin: I am the oldest of three children. I have one brother and one sister. I feel very blessed to have siblings and am excited for our children to know the very special bond only siblings share. My mom stayed at home with us while my dad ran the family business. I grew up



eating dinner as a family every night and going to church every Sunday. We spent a lot of time together on a lake, hiking in the woods, and going on family bike rides. My parents taught us good values and love for God through example. My mom has volunteered for countless organizations helping many families in our community. My dad has organized volunteer groups to help with families still affected by Hurricane Katrina. They are both very involved in their church and are an amazing example of living their Christian faith. They continue to be a source of guidance for me. They are fantastic grandparents! I love watching my dad fish with Mya and my mom share her love of nature with her. They could not be more excited about having another grandchild. We see grandma and grandpa at least once a week since they live so close. We look forward to years of swimming, skiing, and hiking at the lake with our kids and our parents.

Matt: I have two sisters and two brothers, and I am the oldest boy in my family. The five of us grew up sharing two bedrooms, one for the girls and the other for the boys, which made us a very close family. We are all still involved in each others lives. We get together whenever possible. In fact, my older sister and her husband live a mile from us. My parents are both role models for how I try to act. My mom was a stay at home mom while the five of us were growing up, which was more than a full time job since I was on the swim team, played basketball, and tennis and my siblings were involved in their own activities. She was always one of the moms who volunteered to help at school events and really made an effort to be involved in our lives. My dad is a veterinarian. He is one of the hardest working people I have ever met, but he has never made me feel like work is more important than our family. He always found time to play basketball or work on school projects with me. We get to see my parents once every week or two. They love spending time with us and are excited about having another grandchild.

Erin: We met when Matt was 10, and I was 8. We lived on the same lake, and our families would get together. I remember riding my bike by his house and telling my friends, "I am going to marry the boy that lives there some day." One year during summer break from college, Matt started coming over to our house to water ski with my brother. But soon he was calling for me! After we had been dating for about a

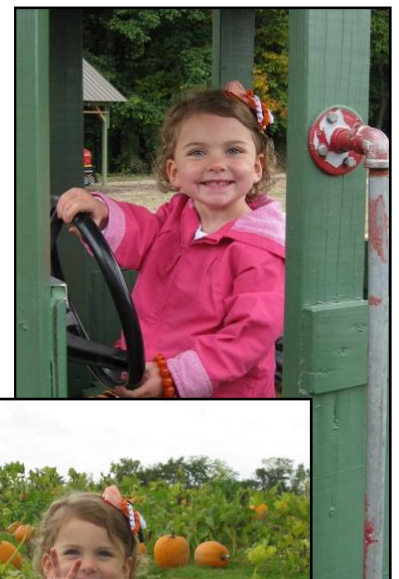




year, Matt took me out to dinner and then down to the dock at his lake house. He asked me to marry him on the dock we used to jump off of as kids! A year later, we were married and had our reception at the lake. It was beautiful, and I knew I was marrying the man God had intended for me. When we had been married about a year, we found out that we were pregnant with our daughter, Mya. She was born in early fall and was absolutely perfect! While my pregnancy did not go well and I have been advised against further pregnancies, she was born healthy. She is now three years old and is all girl. She enjoys having stacks of books read to her and is already starting to read on her own. She takes ballet and will have her second recital this summer. She is very excited to be Snow White. Matt recently took her on a father daughter date to the Nutcracker Ballet. I don't know what she enjoyed more, the ballet or spending special time

with her daddy! Mya will start pre-school in the fall and could not be more excited. She already talks about what she will pack in her backpack. It is perfect timing because with her being at school a few hours a week, I will be able to spend special one on one time with our baby. I am so grateful that I have been able to stay home with Mya during these precious baby/toddler years. I feel very blessed that I will be able to have that special time with our next child. We will enjoy things like walking to the local park, going to museums and the zoo. One of my favorite things to do is spend a rainy afternoon in the library children's section. We know that Mya will be a great big sister. She talks about "her baby" daily. When friends come over with their babies, she loves to sit next to them and rub their hands or help hold the bottle.

Matt and I are very thankful for our educations and hope to instill a love of learning in our children. Matt has a bachelor's degree and works as a supervisor at a nearby hospital. He has the duties of running tests as well as coordinating the staffing. I am very proud of him that he has achieved professional success at a relatively early age. He has become a very patient and highly skilled boss. Every day, I am amazed at how gifted he is at his job and can't wait to see what his professional future holds! I have a bachelor's in Sports Ministry. I intended to become a youth minister, but after college, I became a nanny for four





children. Through this experience, God taught me that my true passion is to be a mother. It was wonderful being someone who could directly influence a child's life for the better. It also taught me that a child does not have to be biologically yours to love them as your own. I feel so blessed to have had this opportunity! I am now a stay at home mom and enjoy every minute of it!

Matt: Erin is a very kind and down to earth person. She is a kid at heart and a dedicated mom. She enjoys getting Mya out of the house and playing outside in our yard, and they also stay busy taking walks to the park, reading books, doing arts and crafts, and playing dress-up. She reminds me of a school teacher with

how great she is at helping Mya develop and learn. Erin has a small group of close friends with young children that she gets together with at least once a week. She amazes me with her enthusiasm for living life to the fullest. She is energetic and always ready to try something new that sounds fun and exciting. She has introduced me to the fun of visiting apple orchards, county fairs, and other local attractions. She volunteers her time as a way to impact other people's lives. She has been a Sunday school teacher, soccer coach, and helped with a church service that provides assistance to needy mothers. Erin is also the one who really jump-started my spiritual growth. When we first started dating, she challenged me to learn more and grow in my faith, and that's what has really drawn us closer together.



Erin: Matt is the kind of person that you just feel comfortable around. He has a way of making everyone feel special with just a few words and a smile. I am often humbled by his kindness. He inspires me to be a better person and to show God's love more freely. I have seen him stop to help someone load a chair into a car in a parking lot when it was cold outside and he could have just walked on by. I have sent him to work with a meal that I prepared for his lunch later to find out he gave it to a co-worker whose wife is suffering from breast cancer. We have a boy who lives near us who does not have a father. This boy's favorite thing to do is play



football. Matt found out that he does not have his own football and would have to go around the neighborhood looking for one to borrow. Matt went out and bought him one. When he noticed the football was getting worn out, he went out and bought a new one. Matt is an amazing father. He would often get out of bed to comfort Mya in the middle of the night, not because he had to but because he wanted to. He knows the importance of building a good relationship with our children. He will take Mya out to the library or to dinner so that they can spend special time together. I am confident that he will raise children that look to him for guidance and are confident in his love for them. He has become a passionate follower of Christ. He is the leader of a men's group at our church. I have seen him grow into a man that truly loves God and wants to share His love with his family and others.



Matt: We want you to know that we have put much thought and prayer in our decision to adopt. Our families are excited, and we know that they will love your child regardless of biological connection or race. We know that adopting outside of our race is not something that is taken lightly. We have thought about the area in which we live, church we attend, and schools that our children will attend. We live in an integrated neighborhood that has families from different racial and ethnic backgrounds. We have African-American friends through work, church, and within our neighborhood. We also want you to know that your child's adoption story will be celebrated in our home. We want to keep in contact with you through letters and pictures. We will raise your child to know that the decision you made was out of love and that you had their best interest in mind. We hope that we have expressed to you the loving family that we can offer your child. Thank you for reading our letter and considering us in your search. If you would 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.



May God bless you and your child.

Matt and Erin