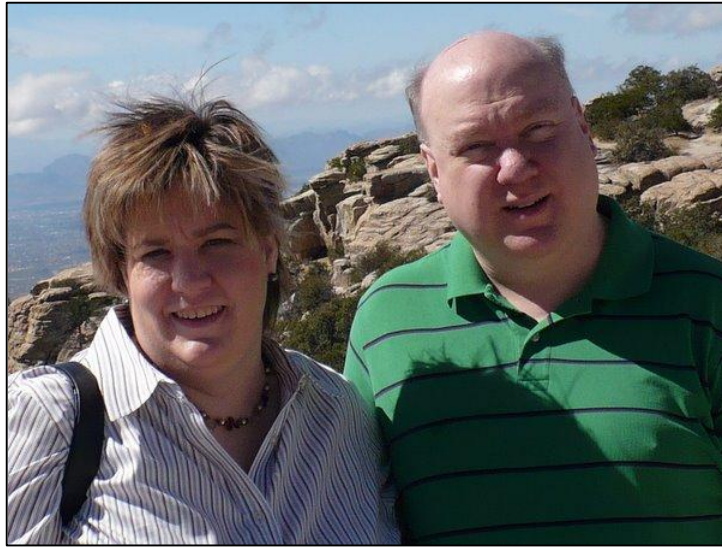


Dear Birthmother,

Our names are Rich and Laura. We live in a wonderful community in the Midwest, in the suburbs of a big city. We have all the great benefits of a vibrant urban area and the friendliness of a small town. We live in Rich's childhood home, updated to suit our lifestyle. We have lots of family nearby, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.



We long to have a child. Laura's mom was adopted, and we have several other adopted members of our extended family. So when we were unable to give birth to a child, we knew that adoption would be a wonderful way to extend our family. We understand the great gift you are giving the couple you choose to raise your baby. If you select us, we will honor you and your decision, and raise your child to know of your deep love and unselfish choice.

Rich is a business consultant in the financial services industry. He also has his own service and repair business that he runs out of our home. Laura works in the insurance industry. Both of us have the flexibility to work from home and to adjust our hours to minimize the time we will be away from our child.

Rich: I had a great childhood. Recently, when my parents decided it was time to sell their home, I knew I couldn't find a better home — or neighborhood — in which to raise my own family. Even though we completely remodeled the house, it is still filled with wonderful memories of my own childhood, growing up with my two sisters, Milissa and Julie. I'm very close to both of them. We see them almost weekly and talk even more often. When Julie brings her 3-year old daughter, Catherine, over to the house, it's wonderful to show her where her mommy grew up and tell her stories about her mother's escapades.

My parents both worked. My grandma, Nana (Verna), lived with us, so she was there to greet us when we came home from school. My parents both worked. My dad was an industrial designer, and my mom was a banker. We all would sit down at the dinner table nearly every night and catch up on the day's events. It's a value I want to share with my child: gathering at the dinner table, talking, taking some time to touch base, no matter how busy the day has been.

I remember the Thanksgiving food drive organized by our church each year. My mom always made a point of donating kitchen staples, like flour and sugar. She intentionally selected food that a family needs all year long. It was a practical donation. And as I got older, I understood that it was representative of my family's commitment to others in the community. Through the example of my parents' activities, I understood that it was my responsibility to help others, not just at the holidays, but throughout the year. I want to be a role model for my son or daughter. I want to raise my child to understand the importance (and satisfaction) of giving back to the community.

It's funny what you remember from your childhood. I have a great memory of going to see the movie, *2001 A Space Odyssey*, with my dad. It was a science fiction film, and I was only five,

so I didn't understand a lot of what I was watching. I was awed by the scenes of astronauts floating in space. And I was thrilled to be with my dad, included in this seemingly grown up adventure. I loved spending time with my dad, watching him work on a project, listening as he



When we met we found we had so much in common, including a love for travel.

explained what he was doing. Sometimes it's the most ordinary of moments that stick with you. I will remember that as I go for walks with my child, build with blocks, or even drive through our town, running errands.

Laura and I met on the Internet. When we went out for dinner on our first date, we discovered we knew a number of people in common. After hours of talking that first evening, we also discovered we had many shared interests, as well.

Laura is wonderful. She's patient and kind. She encourages people to be their best, and she celebrates their successes with them. When I wanted to start a business buying, selling and restoring pinball machines, she enthusiastically supported me. She understands how much pleasure I get from growing the business.

I know that she'll be a wonderful mother. She will encourage our child to dream big and follow those dreams. She's a wonderful listener. She's warm and loving. She'll

cheer our child on in whatever activities are important to him or her. She'll be there to dry tears and to share in the laughter.

We both love to travel. Whether it's around the U.S. or traveling abroad, we love to explore new things. We especially like to combine travels with visits to historical sites, museums, or theme parks. We can't wait to take our child to Washington, D.C., to visit the National Air and Space Museum, to see the dinosaurs and Hope diamond at the Natural History Museum, and to see all the national monuments and government buildings. We want to visit Florida where Laura's parents have a home, going to Disney World (of course) and the Kennedy Space Center. We imagine spending a vacation at a dude ranch in Arizona or a trip to Europe taking in the amazing art, architecture, different foods and languages. We want to give our child the opportunity to explore the world and find his or her passion in life.

Laura: I grew up with my sister, Melanie, who now has a daughter and son of her own. Melanie lives out of town, but we see each other several times a year and we talk all the time. Her kids, Jessica (13 going on 30) and Alex (8) visit us each summer, without their parents, which is a treat for everyone.



With our nieces, Catherine and Jessica. They would adore welcoming a new cousin.

My dad was a postal inspector and a federal law enforcement officer. My mom is a postal clerk. We had a large extended family, and we always got together for holidays and over the summer. We'd visit our grandparents and great aunts and uncles, who all had summer homes near each other. I loved to go fishing with my grandfather, Pawpaw. I remember when Melanie and I caught our first fish. We were so proud to bring them home and show them off to our parents, aunts and uncles. In spite of my mom's protest that she shouldn't go to any extra trouble, my aunt insisted on cooking them right up. She was adamant that a first catch was a special event and must be celebrated. Melanie and I were bursting with pride as everyone at the table tasted our fish — and of course we relished telling them our first fish story.



Rich at the British Museum. We look forward to returning someday with our child.

Rich and I both love to read. I will begin reading to our child as an infant — nursery rhymes and picture books — and I'll look forward to the day when he or she can read to me. I hope to continue a tradition from my childhood: everyone in the family reads the same book once a year, and then we all discuss it. If you love to read, you can never be bored — and you can travel anywhere in the world through books.

I enjoy my work as an internal consultant with an insurance company. It's my job to assess what improvements can be made at the company. I research and document potential changes based on industry practices and the marketplace. What I like the best about my job is helping someone learn something new and helping them understand that they were instrumental in making it happen. I can't wait to watch our child explore the world, to discover new things and learn a new skill. I will be encouraging our child to take (safe) risks and not be

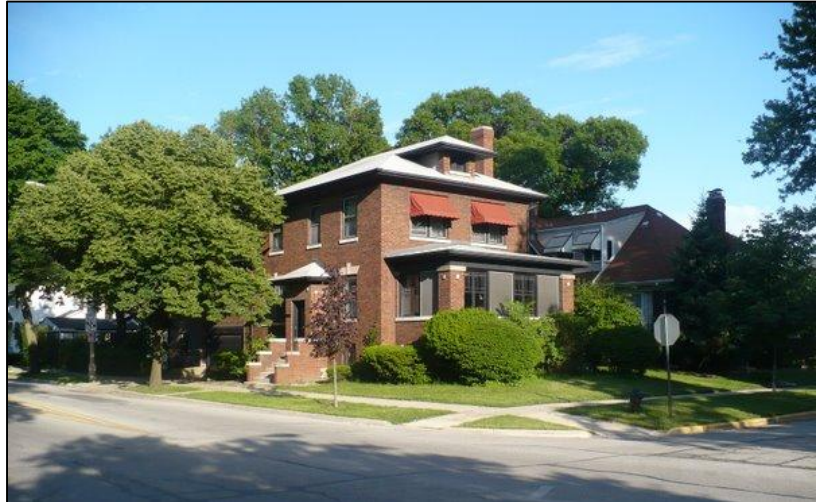
afraid of new things because of a fear of failing.

Rich will be a wonderful father; he's a wonderful husband. He is always quick to put others' needs first. He is kind and patient. I watch him build castles out of blocks with our niece, Catherine. He can re-direct a three-year old who is getting frustrated and cranky. He can be firm, but loving and fair, with Jessica, our 13 year-old niece. Family comes first for Rich, and I am so grateful for that. . He makes me laugh. I call him the "Laundry Fairy" because I'd rather do any other household chore besides laundry. I imagine him playing finger-painting with our child, helping with homework, playing catch in the yard. I know that our family will always be the center of his life.

Rich and Laura: We live in a neighborhood filled with children — 80 by the last count. There are wonderful schools (some of the best in the state) and parks within walking distance of our house. There is a community pool just six blocks away. We have block parties twice a year and many family activities sponsored by the community. We can go into the city for museums and theater, major league sporting events and concerts.

Our three-bedroom house was built in 1927. We have an enclosed front porch, living room, dining room, kitchen, media room and basement with a game room for pinball games and a play area. The yard has a large patio with an eating and grilling area with a sitting area, as well. We envision putting in a play area in the yard for our child which would include a wood swing set and fort. Our favorite room in the house is the living room. It's warm and inviting, the perfect place to curl up and read a book especially in the winter with a fire going in the fireplace. It is also where we spend much of our time with family and friends. Our living room is filled with photos and mementos of our travels. We can't wait to add photos of our child.

Rich and I both enjoy cooking. We particularly enjoy making recipes from our families. Laura makes great pecan pies and amazing yeast rolls. Rich grills everything: ribs, chicken, veggies. We love to have our family and friends for dinner. It doesn't have to be a special occasion for us to entertain. We like to get together just to catch up and relax with good company.



We live in a wonderful neighborhood with many children and great schools nearby.

We hope you will choose us to adopt your baby. We will cherish him or her. We will provide your child with a stable, safe, secure and loving home. We will give your child every opportunity to pursue his or her interests, emphasizing the importance of education and community service. We will foster his or her self-confidence and compassion for others. We will love your child with all our hearts.

If you choose, we would be happy to share with you progress reports and photos of him or her through the years, if you wish. We will always remind him or her of your deep love and how you wanted only the best for him or her.

If you have any questions or want to know more about us, Steve and Joel Kirsh would be happy to speak with you. You can reach them at 1-800-333-5736. We wish you well.

Warmly,

Rich and Laura