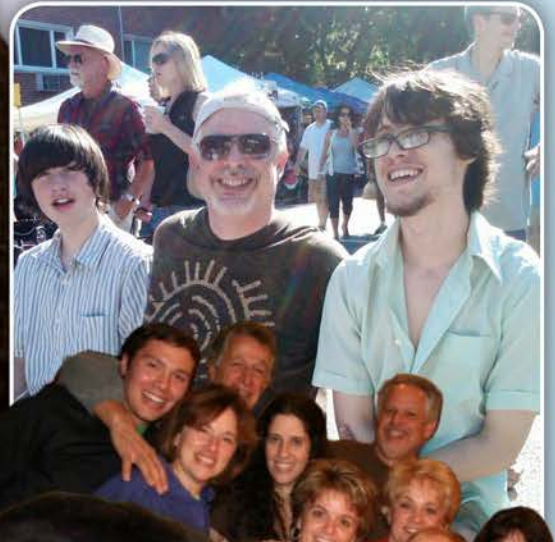


Kirsten & Marty



Dear Birthmother,

For 3 years, we tried to create a child to love. As hard as we tried, it didn't work, and our doctors tell us that it would take a miracle for us to become pregnant. So instead, we're hoping that you will bring us our miracle, now that we've committed to building our family through adoption.

And now here you are, a child growing inside you, knowing that something about your life won't allow you to raise a child at this time, while still wanting the best for that child.

Maybe we can help each other during this hard time. We respect and admire your courage, and you can be sure that all the love and strength it takes to make this kind of decision is something we will share with your child throughout her or his life. We'd like to give you the peace of knowing that your child can have the best of both worlds—knowing about you and your brave, loving decision, while at the same time growing up with all the things you can't give him or her at this point of your life. We feel strongly that your child must be told often about the love and maturity that went into your choice for their future, and we hope that knowing this might bring you both some peace.



Hello from Kirsten and Marty!

We have a lovely life together—a nice house in a city we love, wonderful families, fun friends, jobs we enjoy, and steady income. What we don't have is a child to share all of this with. We are really eager to be parents together and to have our love for each other spill over onto a child.



THE FIRST TIME WE MET...

... was in 2004 at a party in Chicago. Both of us were really sick of dating. When we talked at the party, we quickly found out that we have lots of common interests—we both love music and the arts, we have similar professions, we both like to help make the world a better place by doing volunteer work for charities, getting involved in politics, traveling and learning about other countries. As we started to get to know each other more deeply, we found that we share the same values: treating people with compassion and respect, and what's most important in life—family. We're very committed to each other and to building our life together.

WE GOT MARRIED . . .

. . . in 2005 and had a beautiful ceremony with 120 friends and family members who showed up for us from around the country and even from outside the U.S. Marty's two sons from his previous marriage were in our wedding ceremony. They are almost grown up and no longer live with him. Marty knows the joys and challenges of parenting and has lots of experience being a dad, and we've had a glimpse of what it will be like to be parents together. We're ready!



**Our home—4 bedrooms,
3 baths...and lots of love**



OUR HOME . . .

. . . is on a nice street right across from a school and a playground. There's a pretty yellow room on the second floor, with an empty crib just waiting for a baby. We live 6 blocks from Lake Michigan and we imagine taking a child on walks to visit the lake and play in the lakeside parks and beaches.

Our town is very diverse, and we love the fact that all kinds of people work and play together here. There are lots of activities to get involved in, and good schools. We want to teach our child the importance of respecting others and learning about all the different cultures in the world. We strongly believe in open conversation and building peaceful, loving relationships, even when it's hard.

That's the kind of relationship we would like to have with you, too, if you choose open adoption.

OUR WORK

Marty is highly respected in his field and is vice president of his company. He designs training programs for company employees to help them learn their jobs effectively. He has graduate degrees in educational psychology and cognitive science, so he really understands how people think and learn.

Kirsten is an instructor at a respected university, where she teaches communication skills to undergraduate students. Kirsten's parents are both teachers too! She also runs her own business teaching public speaking to business people. She has a graduate degree in performance and loves to be in plays in her spare time. When the baby comes, Kirsten will cut back on some of these jobs so she can give this baby all the love and attention it deserves in its early years.

Family & Friends



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OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES . . .



Fun with friends and family at Marty's birthday bash

. . . are warm and wonderful people! We recently had a birthday party for Marty and 34 people showed up at our house. Sometimes we go to school programs and parties for the children of our friends. We hope that soon it will be their turn to come to our child's parties and programs.

Our families . . .

. . . both approve of our decision to adopt and are very excited about meeting a child who will expand our family in wonderful ways! On Kirsten's side, there are 13 cousins between the ages of infant and 12 years old who are really fun to play with! We visit Kirsten's family in the summer, when we get to swim in family members' pools, eat great homemade Italian food, and go to summer festivals. We also love Thanksgiving and Christmas with



Hanging out with Marty's cousins



Laughing with Kirsten's sister, some cousins, aunts and uncles at Thanksgiving

Kirsten's family in Ohio. We see Marty's family in the spring in Florida, where we get to play on the beach and soak up the sunshine, and at other times of the year too. Marty's family members are great travelers, so sometimes they come and stay at our house, or we all travel and meet up in places like San Diego, Washington, D.C., and New York. We're very close with both families, and we both love our mothers-in-law!

KIRSTEN SAYS . . .

I have never met a person who doesn't like Marty. He gets tired of people calling him a "nice guy", but it's true: I married him because he is the kindest, most generous person I have ever met. People like him instantly. He is full of energy, hardworking, loyal, and very devoted to the people in his life. He is also a great hugger and a fantastic cook who specializes in finding just the right meal for picky eaters! I've spent a lot of time observing Marty with his two sons, and even though they aren't little kids anymore, Marty is there for them when they need him, always providing for his children. Marty has endless patience. He is a wonderful, warm father who really knows how to give unconditional love and support to a child, and he loves being a dad.



Marty with baby Daniel



Kirsten with her cousin Natalie

MARTY SAYS . . .

Everyone around Kirsten says that she will be a wonderful mom, and I agree. I can't wait to parent a child with her. She is very loving, fun, and playful with children and adults alike! She's one of the most responsible people I know, and likes things to be organized well, always paying attention to the details, thinking ahead, making sure things are safe for everyone.

Kirsten has a big heart, and is very good at understanding people's emotions, and because of this she has lots of solid, loving relationships with people who trust her. Kirsten is also very honest, so she'll probably be the first one to tell a child some of the hard truths about life—even when it isn't easy—and she'll be great at helping them through life's challenges.

WE LOVE ...

... movies, concerts, plays, trying out new restaurants, going to zoos and museums, and sometimes just hanging out with friends and talking about life. We especially love to travel and learn about how people live in different parts of the world. Our favorite places so far are Hawaii, Santa Fe, Japan, and Spain. We want to show a child the world!

Riding in a rickshaw, with our driver Toshi in Japan



Up on a rooftop terrace on our last day in Barcelona, Spain



Riding the waves during our Hawaiian honeymoon—tropical paradise!



Singing karaoke (not very well, but having a blast!)

Our special message to you:

Sometimes life doesn't go as planned. That's what happened to us, and maybe to you, too. And sometimes the best solutions come from going beyond yourself and finding solutions with other people—people you haven't even met yet. That's what we're hoping. We really respect your desire to give your baby the best life it can have. We would like to help you do that, and we're here whenever you are ready to talk with us.

Sending strength, peace, and all our best wishes to you
during this challenging time,

Kirsten and Marty

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