

When you enter Steve & Lisa Donofe's home, these two words hang on the walls:

FAITH – FAMILY

We view these words as foundational to our lives, and act as daily reminders. We are about openness and communication. In fact, our door is always open – rarely is there a week-end without family or friends or neighbors over. We sit for dinner every night as a family to talk about our days – and every meal starts with a prayer. We spend every holiday with our family or friends– and we ensure that every day is full of life.

Dear Expectant Mother:

We are so thrilled to know that you are even reading this letter...taking the first step at choosing a family for your baby. We want you to know about the home that we've created for our family. We've invested in our faith, we've committed to the adoption process and now we're reaching out to you. How do we take that first step together? First, we'd like to help you understand who we are - we are the Donofe family: Steve (36), Lisa (35), Ava (7 ½) and Reena (4 ½) (+ our dog Babs and our rabbit Double Stuff).

Lisa and Steve have been married for 11 years, and we've been in love since college (1990) when we began dating. We always knew that we'd get married, and we agree that our love grows the longer that we're married, and the more we overcome together. Our marriage has blessed us with two beautiful daughters, Ava a big sis, scorcher and scholar, and newly found pianist - and Reena. a bundle of smiles and love with a wonderful disposition, and now with a love of gymnastics. We celebrate our lives every day – and we pray every night. We identify ourselves as Catholic, Christians, but most importantly God fearing as we try to tap that higher purpose, stronger life force that touches each of our souls. We identify ourselves as Italian by decent, so eating pasta, grown men embracing and talking with our hands is part of who we are.

Our Family Story: Our parents created a foundation for us that is as solid a lodge stone as you can find. Steeped in work ethic, love, communication and embracing life. We've each got siblings who give us perspective, love and their own unique ways of shaping us. We embrace our closest (lifelong) friends as family, too. We've cast a very wide net: we both have close High School friends, College Friends...and friends that we met during our job relocations. Just like the Prayer of Jabez – “*we enlarge our territory on a regular basis*”. We are passionate, life embracing and we both focus on balance in our lives: work, fun, personal time, family time...all steeped in our faith.

And you know what? We found out that we can't have any more kids...and we aren't ready to be done growing our family. We now hope that we can find a birthmother, someone like you, who is looking at the best outcome for her baby – and sees our family as one that can be a perfect fit. We recognize with eyes wide open there is anxiety, and we completely can relate to this. Lisa lost her mom in a car accident when she was 16 years old. Trauma and loss at a very young age – it forever shapes ALL of us in the family. We are living proof that 1) while not daily sadness, it is a permanent blueprint 2) together, we deal with that loss better than individually and 3) Lisa's mom is very much real to our kids as they know her as “their angel in heaven”. This shapes our family unit. Most importantly...there's an abundance of love that the Donofe's are ready to impart on its potential newest member – and that goes all the way to our girls who play “babies” just about every day. We've certainly got 3 moms in this house!

To help paint a picture of our lives, we'd like to tell you more about us –

Steve – Growing up, I learned about family, hard work, ethnic backgrounds and football: high school, college...and the Pittsburgh Steelers! My parents have been married since 1964. People loved being at our house growing up...whether high school or college...I always wanted the kids to come to my house.

Also, it was never a surprise for me to see a few extra people at the dinner table. My sisters are 5 and 7 years older than me and were always around and we played constantly. During holidays, we would create shows for our family – we always performed. We now talk weekly, half the time about getting together and half the time reminiscing. My grandmother also lived with us growing up. Nothing was better – she taught us how to play cards, play bingo and was always a help in the kitchen. My Nona is 89; her mind still sharp as she watches sports everyday of the week and never forgets to send a card for a special event or holiday.

Lisa –God has blessed my life with many special people – though I found that out through the tragic loss of my mom. That experience taught me the importance of family and friends. My sister is 9 years older than me so I am the token “baby” of the family. Our relationship has blossomed into a most unique friendship. My father remarried a year after Steve and I got married. She is a wonderful match for my dad. Her daughter has 2 boys so she loves the sweetness of our girls and cuddles them as if they’re her own. The word, LOVE, is used frequently in our home. Whether I’m talking to a dear friend, or special family member on the phone I say, “I love you” before hanging up. People WILL get a hug and probably even a kiss before leaving our house if you are related or not. I have learned that with faith, you can withstand the greatest sorrow. Steve truly is my prince, or angel as I call him. You see, the two of us started dating 6 months after my mom’s death. I know that he was heaven sent to care for me as she could no longer do on earth.

God has a plan for each of us. I understand his call for us to adopt. The loss of my mom allows me to relate and embrace you and your unborn child so that you both can continue living life to the fullest. There will forever be a bond between the two of you. You will carry this precious child in your womb, and give him/her life. Then I will teach him or her how to love, dream and grow into a beautiful individual. It’s ironic, we find that we can both impart different things on this baby – you are giving life and I will give the child love and experience. Both allow us to have the greatest title ever...Mother.

Us – We’re from the same hometown, and we had mutual friends – in fact most of us dated each other in high school- but not the two of us. Not until college. For whatever reason, we were both friends until Christmas 1989, and Lisa’s new sassy hair cut made her go from “there’s Lisa”...to “Whoa – HEY THERE...it’s Lisa!” We had chemistry from the beginning, and we dated all through college and then married in 1996. We started in different careers – Lisa an elementary teacher and Steve in research. Then, we both moved into sales, our true passions (inspired by our parents on both sides).

Once married, we began seeing lots of the country through work and pleasure. We’ve always enjoyed those experiences, and our kids have loved it, too. They think nothing of flying or driving 10 hours. It is what we do. Importantly, a lot of our travel is seeing grandparents, aunt/uncles and cousins. While we don’t live around all of them – it certainly never feels like it. We all visit each other, and the kids never feel far away. Even extra special, we’ve got one nephew who was recently adopted. He’s a great little boy, and we think that’s special for my sister and husband...and really special for us as we look to adopt: there’s a built in confider right in the family. He’ll be someone in the family who, no matter what, can understand firsthand how special it is to be adopted...just like him!

You have seen a few of the highlights of life with the Donofe’s. As you consider the options for your baby – know that we feel blessed to be in a position of financial, familial and spiritual stability. We pray for guidance and patience, as we are planning to enlarge our circle and we hope that you’ll see our family as part of your plan, too.

Sincerely –Lisa and Steve Donofe

Please call us at 866-599-9190, or if you prefer,
You may contact our adoption counselor Tobi Ehrenpreis at 847-674-3231