

**Hello we are...
Mark and Carrie**





Our Hopes and Dreams...

Thank you for considering us as potential adoptive parents to your child. As we are unable to safely have children, we can only imagine the range of emotions that you must be feeling while going through this process. What you are doing must be one of the hardest yet most selfless things that a person can do. We understand that the natural love of a parent is a very powerful thing and that your decision to go through with this process is a difficult one, however, without people like you who are willing to allow their children to be adopted; people like us could never know the joy of being a parent.

In this letter we are supposed to explain to you why you should choose us over the other adoptive parents whose profiles you have read or are about to read. We tried to think of these reasons, and we even wrote a few of them down, only to delete them a few minutes later. Honestly, we cannot explain why you should choose us over other adoptive parents. Please do not misunderstand us, we want a child very badly, but that is the exact reason we felt that we could not list numerous reasons why we should be chosen over another couple. We know what it is to want a child with all your heart and yet be unable to conceive one through natural methods. We know how badly it hurts knowing that we may never have a child of our own. It is because of this that we felt that we could not engage in a battle of one-upmanship, with other couples who no doubt want a child just as badly as we do.

It is our firm belief that somewhere in the United States at this moment there is a mother who is carrying a child that is meant to be our adoptive son or daughter. Our faith in this belief is what keeps us from being discouraged about our situation. When this letter reaches its inevitable destination, which is the hands of "our" mother, we hope that it finds you both well. Know that when the process is over and your child is placed with us it will have all the love and care that is in us.

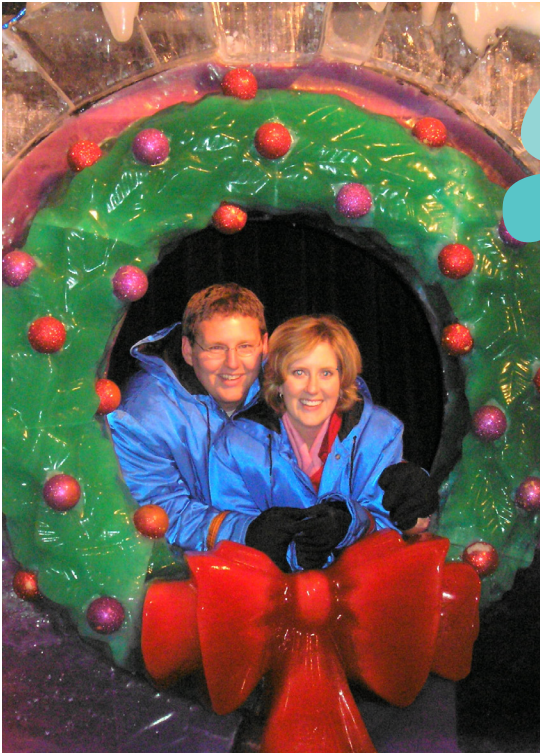
Sincerely,

Mark and Carrie


Graceful
adoptions™

We focus on what matters to make every adoption a beautiful experience.

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Our values and beliefs as parents...

We believe that family is one of the most important things that a person can have in his or her life. Since both of us come from very loving families we want to instill a strong sense of family in our child. It is very important to us that our child feels the love and connection to family that we both had as children.

We both attend church on a regular basis and believe that faith is an important part of any person's life. We believe faith gives you a great sense of hope and is one of the essential elements needed if a person is to be a healthy happy individual.

Because we are educators we know the importance of a strong formal educational background. It is our belief that education is a stepping stone to a happy and healthy life. We will teach our child that, with our support, it is their responsibility to gain a quality education. With this mindset one does not stop learning when they leave the classroom.

We recognize that the classroom is only one of many ways that an education is attained. People are also educated by what they experience in life. Thus, we believe life experiences, such as traveling to new places, is an irreplaceable supplement to formal classroom education.

It is our greatest hope that we will raise our child to be a self sufficient, strong, reliable, honest and productive member of society. While a large support network is a necessity, having the knowledge, skill and desire to accomplish what they believe in is what makes us unique.



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Our home...

A little more about us...

- Both non-smokers
- Family dog

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother:

Reading, sewing, shopping, socializing with family and friends, cleaning the house

Adoptive Father:

Reading, woodworking, watching and playing sports, socializing with family and friends.

Family:

Traveling, collecting antiques, boating, camping, being with family and friends, going out to dinner, going to the movies, working around the house.

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Teacher

Adoptive Father: Teacher

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Masters Degree

Adoptive Father: Masters Degree

Our home, like our life, is simple and peaceful. We live on a wooded acreage that is part of our family farm. While its private property, it sits in the middle of the most beautiful national forest and recreational area in the state. And, because it is our family's property, Mark's parents and grandparents live within walking distance. Being so close to family is wonderful because we can share our daily lives, and they are always close by if we need them.

Once inside our home, you immediately notice the warm and inviting scent of vanilla in the air and when the sun comes up over the trees and shines through the windows in the back of the house, little rainbows appear all over our couch and the floor. We built the house with an open floor plan which allows us to see the entire floor from any room. We imagine and look forward to playing with our children in the living room, or watching them play as we prepare meals in the kitchen. There is also a large "bonus room" upstairs which is waiting to turn into a play room filled with toys that foster learning and development.

For now the only children who enjoy our home are our niece and nephew who we spend a lot of time with. Our nephew goes to school in the district where we both teach, so he rides home with us every day and comes to our house until his grandpa comes to take him home. On our drive home he entertains us with stories of the things he did during kindergarten that day. When we get home we all enjoy a snack together, enjoy some down time by watching cartoons, and then look at the work he did that day. He loves the time he spends at our house and we enjoy him being there. Our niece will be starting kindergarten this year so she will be joining her brother.

We look forward to sharing our home with a child. To watch them explore everything our property has to offer. For the sounds of their sweet voice to fill the quiet space.

We focus on what matters to make every adoption a beautiful experience.

Our family...

We met in first grade. We were friends all through elementary school, middle school and even attended college together. All this time we never dated.

As fate would have it Carrie was hired at the same school Mark had been teaching at for a year. A few months into the school year Mark finally got up the nerve to ask Carrie on a date. He was coaching football at the time and was getting ready to leave for a game. He hung around the school waiting for Carrie to come out. After waiting for an hour, he ran out of time, the bus was leaving for the game. Mark scribbled out a little note that said "Dinner?" signed his name and stuck it underneath the windshield wiper of Carrie's car. A couple of days after that dinner Carrie called Mark to set up their first date. A few months later we were engaged and began making plans to build a future together.



And, we have built our future with family in mind. We are both close to our own families and have integrated them into our life. Even though we don't have any children of our own we do have a niece and nephew that we adore. Ben is five and is getting ready to finish kindergarten and Hannah is 4, she is in preschool. We spend as much time with them as we can because we love being around them, not to mention they are a source of non-stop joy. We spend a lot of time playing outside with them; in the winter we take them sledding and in the summer we never miss one of their action-packed wee ball games.

We also spend a lot of time with our parents and siblings. We eat dinner together regularly and go to movies, concerts and bowling with the siblings our age. Whether it's Christmas time or family reunion season, when our family gets together it's always a happy joyous occasion.

Our child will be welcome addition to all of our family traditions and will be the reason so many more are created and celebrated!



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