

Hello I am...  
*Stacey*



*Graceful*  
**adoptions**<sup>TM</sup>



## My Hopes and Dreams...

I consider myself very fortunate. I have a loving family, an incredibly supportive and diverse group of friends, a stable, fulfilling job and I live in a vibrant city just a short drive away from the ocean and the mountains. My cozy and sun-filled home is in a safe, beautiful, and family friendly neighborhood. All that is missing is a child to share it with! I always assumed that after working hard to achieve my professional goals, I would meet the right man, get married and start a family. As they say though, things don't always go according to plan... I haven't yet found the man I wish to share my life with but in every other way, I've never felt more ready for motherhood. If at some point I do meet that special someone, I know he will be someone who truly shares my values and who treasures my child as much as I do. In the meantime, what I hope to describe to you in these few pages is a home, a family and a community filled with an abundance of joy and able to provide all the love and support a child could possibly have.

For as long as I can remember, I've loved children and looked forward to one day becoming a mother. I started babysitting when I was 12 and worked as a camp counselor, nanny and at an after school program all through high school and college. About 8 years ago I became a Big Sister for a little girl (who is not so little anymore!) through the Big Sister, Little Sister Program. These days there is nothing I enjoy more than spending time with my friends and their children. I strongly believe that sharing DNA is not a requisite for parental love and as I began exploring ways to create a family as a single mother, adoption always felt like the right path for me. I am so excited to dedicate my life to a child through adoption.

I know that we are strangers, but as I write this, possibly hundreds of miles away from you, I am thinking of you. I am thinking of the strength it takes to love your child enough to want the very best for them. I imagine that you're contemplating all the different paths to choose from, wondering where each path leads and which one will be best for you and your child. I can only imagine how challenging it is to face such a choice and yet, here you are, courageously facing it. Should you choose adoption, you will be taking what may be a difficult personal situation and turning it into the most wondrous blessing for a family who wants a child. That takes tremendous heart.

There is so much more I'd like to share with you about who I am and what my dreams are but I think the most important thing I can tell you is this: If you decide that adoption is the best plan for your baby and you choose me as the adoptive mother, I promise that I will devote my whole life to creating a beautiful life for your child. I promise your child will be surrounded by so much love from me and my family and we will hold you in our hearts every single day. Whichever path you choose to walk down, I will be wishing you and your baby a healthy and happy life full of love and adventure.

With gratitude,

*Stacey*

  
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# My values and beliefs as a parent...



**Relationships** - “Being loved deeply by someone gives you strength while loving someone deeply gives you courage.” - Lao Tzu. This is really who I am, how I live my life, and how I will raise my child. Appreciating and valuing people is something I learned from my parents and has been the foundation of my life for as long as I can remember. I hope that by providing a loving and safe environment for my child and modeling respectful and loving relationships, they will have the courage to explore who they are and to value the relationships that nourish and nurture them. I look forward to my child developing special bonds with family and life-long friendships that celebrate who they are.



**Kindness** - I have always believed that it doesn't take much to show people a little kindness. It is witnessing the transformative power of kindness that led me to a career focused on helping others. Whether it is giving up a seat on the bus to pregnant woman, spending time with an elderly person who is alone on a holiday, writing a thoughtful thank you note, picking up trash at the park, calling a friend who is going through a hard time, collecting blankets and jackets for the homeless, making animal treats to give to dogs at the animal shelter, or helping a neighbor shovel snow, I will encourage my child to value and exhibit kindness and compassion towards others.



**Education** - I believe that a life-love of learning starts in the home. I feel very fortunate to live in an area that has great early education, public schools, and neighborhood programs like toddler drumming class and multicultural storytelling. A good academic education is important, but I believe much of our education occurs outside of a classroom. Staying curious about the world around us and stepping outside of what is familiar often has the biggest impact on who we become. I believe in the importance of nurturing non-academic interests and talents, especially for children where school may be more of a challenge. I will encourage my child to try a variety of activities- sports, science, music, theatre, dance, art, etc., so they can grow and develop their interests, whatever they might be.



**Laughter** - I believe it's important to laugh at ourselves and avoid taking ourselves too seriously. Children seem to inherently understand the value of fun and laughter, but as we grow up, many of us lose the ability to shake loose from time to time. At my sister and brother-in-laws, wedding, instead of a traditional Maid-Of-Honor speech, I dressed up as their favorite Boston street performer (a “bear” who plays 70’s funk on a keyboard guitar) and sang a song with lyrics I wrote about their relationship. They could not have been more surprised. I hope to nurture my child’s sense of delight and joy and fill our home with the sounds of ridiculous laughter.

**Mindfulness** - “Mindfulness is simply being aware of what is happening right now without wishing it were different; enjoying the pleasant without holding on when it changes (which it will); being with the unpleasant without fearing it will always be this way (which it won't).” - James Baraz. Meditation and mindfulness have helped me become more accepting, present and grateful for life’s blessings., At work, I teach patients mindfulness exercises to help them cope with anxiety, self-judgment, fear and uncertainty. There are some wonderful mindfulness exercises for children and studies have shown just a few minutes a day can really help children manage challenging emotions and build self-esteem.

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# My home...

live in a great neighborhood tucked away between the beach and mountains, just minutes away from my family. There are so many children in my neighborhood! There are parks, playgrounds, spray parks, and basketball courts on just about every block.

Directly across the street from where I live, is a park where I take Wilbur, my dog, to play fetch. It's also a perfect place for playing catch, making a snowman, or just running around. Next door to the park is the community garden where I have had a plot for 6 years. I am so excited to dig in the dirt with my child and share the wonders of nature. A few of the other local places and activities I am most excited to share with my child: ice skating rinks, bike paths, children's science museum, ice cream shops, picnics at the arboretum, puppet shows, story time at the library, art and music classes, children's train and boat rides, family friendly concerts, and movies in the park.

My home is warm and friendly, a good reflection of my personality. The kitchen is painted the color of a pumpkin, it looks so cheerful and makes me happy as I am cooking or baking. The furniture style is classic, nothing too fancy or frilly. Much of the art and knickknacks are things picked up while travelling. Some of my favorites include a large drawing of a dancing woman that I bought in Thailand, a colorful embroidery of birds that my sister brought me back from Guatemala, and an image of Frida Kahlo that I found at a market in Mexico City. I have a large collection of books that reflect my love of reading. I still have many of my favorite books from childhood which I cannot wait to read to my child.

I have people over to my home on a regular basis for long talks, dinner, walks around the neighborhood and to watch big events together like political debates, professional sports, or the royal wedding! My friends' kids in particular love coming over to play with Wilbur, hang out on the big hammock on my back porch, or help me pick berries, herbs and fruits and veggies in my garden which I use in my cooking. Freshly picked berries make me so happy and I must say, I make a pretty amazing strawberry rhubarb pie!

I have awesome neighbors with whom I have created a wonderful little community. We frequently get together for BBQ's and potlucks. We're a diverse group of smart, caring young professionals who have become close friends over the years. This year for my birthday I had a big BBQ. Friends and family played lawn games like corn hole and whiffle ball, made giant bubbles, ate delicious food, and had a great time. They are all really excited to welcome a little one to our community.

I have really great memories from my childhood of spending Sunday mornings making pancakes or waffles with my dad, heating up some maple syrup and eating all together as a family. I look forward to having Sunday mornings like that with my little one- teaching him or her about the right time to helping them flip the pancakes, listening to music, letting things move at a slower pace and enjoying some moments of closeness before all the activities of the day begin.

So many things to look forward to!



• Non-smoker

### Hobbies:

Drawing, gardening, baking, listening to music, attending concerts, (favorites are indie rock, 90's/00's hip hop and classical), social justice and community advocacy, travel, theatre, reading, yoga, going to museums and other cultural events, improv classes, hiking.

### Profession:

Clinical Social Worker

### Education Level:

Master's Degree

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# My family...

For as long as I can remember, I've always wanted to be a mother. One of my first memories is from when I was three years old, sitting outside in the July sun holding "my baby Emma" while my mother nursed my newborn baby sister Emily who was brought home from the hospital earlier that day. As the years passed, I realized my desire to be a mother was just the beginning of my interest in helping others.

In high school there were the "normal" activities like football games and prom but for those who march to the beat of a slightly different drummer, as I did, there was also poetry night, music classes, peer counseling, theatre, art, and what was called the MLK Club which did volunteer and service projects every Wednesday after school. I've always been drawn to individuals who are creative, ambitious, compassionate, and a little quirky. I met some of my closest friends during those high school years.

I always loved to read but I struggled with organization and in subjects like math and science. School never came easy to me and there was a lot of pressure to have high academic achievement. Thankfully, because of the opportunities I had in high school, I was able to be creative and find areas of strength outside of academics.

I believe my school's emphasis on tolerance, peer support, and community helped pique my interest in social justice and psychology which eventually led me to my career as a clinical social worker at a large hospital. Where I work is just two miles away from my home and my schedule is regular- I never have to work in the evenings or on weekends.

My family is very close and supportive of one another. My parents were married for 38 years. They were a rare example of a couple that truly loved each other and taught my sister and me what a healthy partnership looks like. I feel fortunate to have grown up in a home grounded in their affection and commitment to one another. My dad was one of the most patient, hardworking, loving, and goofy people I've ever met. He had an incredible childlike sense of wonder about the world. I hope to parent by his example and pass along these wonderful qualities to my child.

My mother still lives in the home where I grew up. She loves children and is a retired 4th grade teacher. She is a wonderful cook and gardener and plans to help with childcare. She will be the best grandmother and truly cannot wait to have a grandchild to love! I see my family often and all of us get together for dinner, a trip to a museum or botanical gardens, a theatre outing, or just to hang out at my mom's for the day and of course, for birthdays and holidays!

We are lucky to have a very large group of friends who feel like family. We spend all of our holidays together and laugh so much that by the time I'm leaving, my stomach hurts! We can depend on one another whenever we need a helping hand and I feel so fortunate to have this large support system in my life. Everyone is very excited to welcome my child with open arms into this loving, multi-generational support network. Like our family friend Neal who is like a 2nd father to me and has already told me how much he is looking forward to teaching my child how to ski.



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