



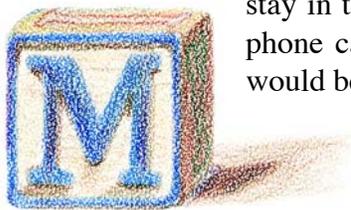
# Michelle & Michael

Dear Birthmother,

Having adopted once, we are full of appreciation for the difficult decisions you are faced with at this time. We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for considering us as possible parents for your child. Making decisions about the future of your child, we imagine, could feel quite overwhelming. You are a thoughtful and courageous person to place the needs of your child first. Please know that we will share, in appropriate ways, a sense of both the difficulty of the decision and the love with which you made the decision; if we are blessed to be chosen by you, your child will always know he or she is loved by you. Our hearts go out to you as you struggle with your decisions. We'd like you to know that we look forward to not only welcoming a second child but also to welcoming a precious baby's birth family into our lives as well. We would be honored to speak with you over the telephone or, if you would like, meet with you in person.

We adopted our son Matthew in December of 2004 and have always known that we hoped to be able to love more than one child. Michael is close with his sister, Kathleen, and Michelle is close with, Rochelle and Andrea, her two sisters and her brother Marc. We can't imagine our lives without brothers and sisters and we would like to be able to give Matthew that experience as well. We are so excited to welcome a second child into our hearts and home. We will watch with a sense of wonder as our next child develops and blossoms into his/her own personality with his/her own unique skills and talents. If you are interested, we would love to hear about your hobbies and talents or about what you were like growing up so that we may appreciate his or her inherited gifts and also give him or her a sense of connection to you and your family as she or he is growing up.

We would like to tell you about ourselves, our life with Matthew and how eager we are to have a second baby. Before we were chosen to be Matthew's parents, we tried to have children for over four years and underwent many infertility treatments in the process. Our doctors informed us that we are not able to bear a child ourselves. Becoming a parent through adoption has been an absolute privilege and an honor. To have been chosen for the awesome responsibility of caring for, teaching and shaping a child's life has been a humbling and heart-opening experience. We stay in touch with his birthfamily through photo/letter updates and we've shared that we're open to phone calls and visits if desired. If chosen by you, we look forward to learning your wishes. We would be happy to meet with you and your family and keep in contact in any way that is comfortable for you. We understand that people want and like different things; if you'd like to stay in touch over the years, please know you're open to do so. If you want more privacy, we'll respect that too. We want to honor your personal wishes.





Michelle & Michael.



Michelle, Matthew & Michael.



Halloween Pirates,  
Michelle & Mike.



Matthew & cousin Sean.



Bundled up with our family on a recent hayride.

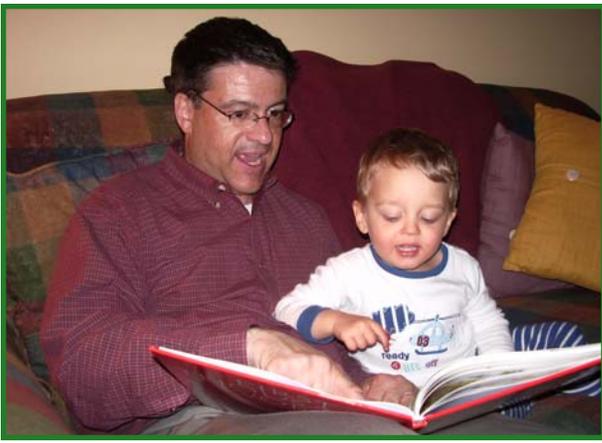
We have been married since June 15, 1996 and have known each other for over eighteen years. Mike's life-long best friend introduced us and Mike tells the story of how, after meeting Michelle numerous times before, he met Michelle again on New Year's Eve 1988 and he made a New Year's Resolution to ask me out on a date. We met again shortly after New Year's and Mike kept his resolution. Our first date was on February 1, 1989. We still remember it as if it were yesterday and can even describe the meal that we ate and the clothes that we were wearing. But most of all, it was the start of a wonderful relationship. I was attracted to Mike's sense of humor and outgoing personality.

**Michael:** I was attracted to Michelle because she is one of the most sincere and loving persons I have ever met. Michelle has a way of bringing out my best qualities and helps me to be a better person. I cannot imagine life without her. We didn't run out of things to talk about on our first date and found that we had a lot in common (for instance, our fathers were friends in college). We still celebrate the anniversary of our first date by going out on a "date" together to the movies, a concert, or even skiing for the day.

As a family, we love going to the beach together in the summer. On weekends we enjoy getting together with our friends and their children and taking Matthew to activities at our local zoo such as the "Bear Cub Club" and "Boo at the Zoo" for Halloween. Our town holds a Halloween costume parade for children. We have fun getting dressed-up in costumes and joining in the fun too. We look forward to attending Music Together classes (music making for families) and Mommy and Me swim classes at the YMCA with a new baby. Michelle has a great network of friends who have children the same age as Matthew as well as some new babies. Michelle and her friends love to do fun things with the kids such as apple picking, pumpkin painting, decorating cookies for the holidays, going to story hour at the library or just having a picnic at the park and then playing on the playground. Matthew loves other children and loves to hold his friends' new baby sisters as well as his new baby cousin. He is so sweet and loving towards them. He would love to be a big brother to a new baby sister or brother and has asked us, "When will a baby come to live with us?" We know he will be a wonderful big brother when that moment comes.

As a couple, we love to laugh together and make up silly names for each other. We enjoy skiing, camping, biking, golfing, movies, reading, going to the beach and getting together with our families and friends. Michelle has played the piano all her life and Mike has been taking piano lessons for the past five years. We love attending concerts and going to the theater. Travel has always been exciting for us and we love to explore big cities.





Bedtime stories are the best!



Matthew & Mom at the Mystic Aquarium.



Proud Godparents of our niece Audrey.

**Michelle:** Mike has always been my biggest fan and has always encouraged me in many ways. Whether it be in preparing a new dish for dinner to completing an art project, he never holds back on his appreciation and praise. He is my best friend in the world and I could not imagine life without him. I feel that our relationship is like being on a 'team.' Like team members, we support each other no matter what, care deeply about each other and cheer each other on. We complement one another well, as Mike is more boisterous and funny and I am more sensitive and reserved.

Michael is a wonderful father. He loves waking up each morning to sneak into Matthew's room and greet him with hugs and kisses. He can't wait to get home from work and plays Matthew's favorite "Hide & Seek" with him. Mike is a very hands-on Dad and loves to play on the floor with Matthew. Bedtime routine is very special and Mike loves to read stories to Matthew. Mike adores Matthew; I love to watch them play together.

Kids, in general, love Michael. He has a special way with babies and is very animated with them. He can get the shyest baby giggling with his funny faces. He's not afraid to get on the level of a child to really relate to them. We were roasting marshmallows around a fire on the beach once and he had all the kids in stitches. One of the moms asked if he hired himself out for birthday parties. Mike was recently very honored to be chosen as Godfather to our baby niece Audrey.

**Michael:** Michelle is a great mother. She is a fantastic teacher and role model. She spends lots of time with Matthew teaching him his numbers and letters, games and songs. She is instilling a love of music in Matthew and he is eager to explore his musical talents with her. Michelle exhibits an amazing amount of love, care and patience with Matthew and I can easily imagine her love and warmth with a second child. She spends countless hours with Matthew and always has the energy and desire to play or provide him with new experiences. Sometimes I do not know how she gets the energy to keep up with him. Michelle's teaching and love is quite evident in Matthew and I am sure that he will grow up to be a kind, considerate, loving person as a result of Michelle's example and love. Michelle and I both can't wait to welcome a second child into our loving family.



Michelle & nephew Sean playing a Christmas "duet."



Michelle's illustration of "The Land of Nod."

Michelle currently works as a free-lance graphic designer. She has started her own business and works from home. Just as her mom stayed at home with her and her brother and sisters, she has always envisioned doing the same. Having always been a creative person since childhood, she began taking art courses several years ago. Children's book illustration (Michelle drew the illustrations for this letter), watercolor painting and calligraphy are just a few of the courses that she has taken. Envisioning herself working from home, she enrolled in and completed a program of study in advertising and print design. Taking free-lance jobs has worked out really great and Michelle only takes projects that won't interfere with her time with Matthew. After a new baby comes, Michelle looks forward to continuing as a full

time at home mom. She will be able to meet the children at the bus, listen to how their day went and help them with their homework and projects. She will help them feel loved and cared for.

Michael is a partner in a large law firm. He practices employment law in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. His office is located less than 15 minutes from our home. He also has an office at home complete with computer and fax machine. As Mike's schedule is flexible, he is able to come home early to play with Matthew. This flexibility will be important someday when he will want to attend school activities or sports. We feel it is important to share dinner as a family just as we did with our families growing up. Mike is always on hand for the nightly routine of baths and bedtime stories.

We live in a three-bedroom home on a one-acre lot located on a cul-de-sac (perfect for learning to ride a bike) in a neighborhood of several houses, all with children. Our large backyard is a great spot for a swing-set, wading pool and sandbox. We have a large deck and enjoy family gatherings and cookouts. There are lots of kids in the neighborhood and all of the neighbors look out for one another.

We live in a rural community that is about 10 minutes away from a large city, 10 minutes away from the beach, an hour from Boston and short drives to Providence and Newport, Rhode Island and Cape Cod. Our community hosts an annual apple peach festival and we live a short distance from the orchards. Michelle loves to pick blueberries and strawberries and makes home-baked apple pies and strawberry-rhubarb pies. Our neighbors grow and sell strawberries and apples and keep sheep. When our windows are open, we can hear them calling to each other. Another neighbor owns horses.



Enjoying the holidays.



Big hugs are the best!



Our home.

The local school system is quite good and in the past, Michelle volunteered once a month at the elementary school. Our area has a lot to offer to families raising children: the local zoo, the seashore, historical monuments, summer festivals, theater, museums and libraries. A state university is located nearby and it always offers a variety of cultural events.

Education is important to us and our families. Mike's parents were the first of their families to attend college. Mike's mom went to school at night when Mike was in sixth grade and became a school-teacher. She can't wait to help her new grandchild with homework. Please be assured that we will do whatever is possible to ensure that our son/daughter attends college some day and is able to pursue whatever dreams he/she has. We have already started a college fund for both children toward that goal.

Michelle grew up as the oldest of four children. Her dad, Louis, is a lawyer and her mom, Claudette, had the very busy job of caring for the kids. Her sisters Rochelle and Andrea are married to Michael and Jason. Andrea and Jay are parents to our five-year old nephew Peter and two-and-a-half year-old niece Elizabeth. Rochelle and Mike are parents to Sean (same age as Matthew) and just welcomed new baby Audrey. Both couples live less than an hour away. Michelle's brother Marc and his wife MaryEmilie live out-of-state and are parents to Abigail who is now four years old and six-month-old twin daughters Genevieve and Karoline.

We keep in touch through frequent telephone calls and emails. All of the kids are excited to welcome another cousin. On a weekly basis, we meet for Sunday dinner with Michelle's parents, her sisters and brothers-in-law and all the nieces and nephews. We love to share jokes and catch up on news. We especially look forward to watching the kids play together and marvel at how fast they are growing.

Mike grew up as the eldest of two children. Mike's dad was a mechanical engineer for the Navy. Mike's mom stayed at home until Mike was in the sixth grade. She then went back to school and became a teacher. Every summer, Mike and his family would take day trips all over New England to places Mike and his sister picked. Mike, who was a history major in college, picked places like Plymouth Plantation and the USS Constitution in Boston. Mike hopes to revive these trips with our children. Mike's family was very close and he had his grandparents until just a couple of years ago. The whole family would get together every Sunday. Mike's dad passed away in 1995. Today, on a weekly basis, we get together with Mike's mom and his sister Kathleen and Mom treats us with her home cooked meals. Kathy, who Matthew calls TiTi, can't wait to spoil another niece or a nephew. Mike's mom is so excited about becoming a grandmother again. She has announced this news that we're trying to adopt to just about everyone she meets.



Michelle with her parents Claudette & Louis.



Mike & Matt ready to watch football with the guys.



Nephew Peter gets a squeeze from Aunt Michelle.



Mike with his sister Kathleen & his mom Natalie.

In addition to our immediate families, we have many aunts, uncles and cousins who we see frequently at different family gatherings such as birthday parties, cookouts and the annual "cousin" party hosted each year by one of the cousins on Michelle's side of the family. We cannot wait to have another child and watch as they develop their own tastes, interests and talents. We plan on doing many fun things with our child including going to the mountains to learn to ski, and making snowmen and snow angels in the snow. We also would love to stay at home and watch videos and drink hot cocoa on cold winter's nights. It will be fun to go camping and hiking with our friends and their children. Baseball is a sport we both love and many times during the summer we attend minor league games. Mike loves to play ball with our son in the backyard and Matthew looks forward to having a sibling join his team. Michael's birthday is a few days before Christmas and Matthew's is a few days after, so the holidays are celebrated in high style with lots of carols, decorations and celebrating. Mike is "Mr. Christmas" and loves to decorate the yard and search out the perfect Christmas tree with Matthew. He remembers fondly how the Christmas tree hunt was a big highlight of his childhood. We are both involved in the community at our church. We enjoy connecting with our friends and family on Sundays. We are grateful for the values we were raised with, particularly the importance of treating everyone with dignity; we were both taught as children to always treat



others as we expect to be treated. These and other basic values have formed our lives as adults. We feel that God has blessed us in many ways in our life with good families and friends. It is our hope that, through a generous person such as you, we may be blessed with another child. Growing up, Michelle was taught to say bedtime prayers each night. She would like to pass this little tradition along and on the top of the list will always be special prayers for the special woman who gives us the gift of a child.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider us. If you would like to speak with us directly or learn more about us, please call Full Circle, toll free at: 1-800-452-3678. We would welcome the chance to speak with you, if you so desire. We wish you comfort and peace with all the decisions facing you at this time.

Sincerely,

*Michelle & Michael*

