



Nancy

Dear Birthmother,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself to you. I imagine that this must be a very challenging time for you. I have great respect for you and your willingness to consider making an adoption plan for your child. I look forward to knowing the parent who is making such a courageous choice.

I have always loved children. I tried for a number of years to conceive a child, but my doctor tells me that this is not possible. Because I have already witnessed the blessing of adoption in my own family, I feel excited and hopeful about becoming a parent this way. My brother and sister-in-law adopted my nephew Jack from Viet Nam five years ago. He is now a happy kindergartener and eager to be a big cousin to the child who will join my family. My family and I are openhearted and full of hope around my plans to welcome a child through adoption.

As I go through my days, I often imagine doing things with my son or daughter: apple picking at the orchard just down the street, shopping for groceries and cooking supper with my best friend and her kids, going to the neighborhood soccer game and cheering on the team. These activities, and many more, are some of the simple day-to-day things that I do even now, and look forward to sharing with my son or daughter. As I spend time with my nieces and nephew, taking trips to the zoo or doing arts and crafts or watching them dance and sing, or reading them bedtime stories, I dream of the day that I can enjoy these same day to day pleasures with the child I am blessed to love.

I am very grateful to have the ability to be a full time at home parent during the years that my child is growing up. This will give me the freedom to devote my energies to being a mother and giving the child I'm blessed to parent the best life possible. As I have thought long and carefully about being a single parent I have realized how lucky I am to have an abundance of love and support from my friends and family who are all very excited about welcoming a new baby and being a part of his or her life as she or he grows up. Having the time and energy to devote to parenting is a gift I will never take for granted.



Sammy, Jack and Jamie - three cousins hanging out together after making a snowman



Family reunion with my cousins and their families

As I imagine being a mom, I find myself thinking of all the things I have enjoyed doing with children over the years. In addition to my nephew Jack (my brother's son), my sister and her husband have two daughters, Jamie and Samantha. I love being "Auntie Nan" to all three. I was thrilled that my sister and brother-in-law wanted me to be with them when both Jamie and Samantha first came home from the hospital, and equally excited to greet my brother and sister-in-law at the airport when they brought Jack home from Viet Nam. They are as enthusiastic about welcoming this child as I was in being Auntie Nan. My brother and sister and my nieces and nephew will embrace my child with all their hearts.

This past summer they all came out and spent a week with me. The eight of us stayed at my house together, and had a great time playing tag and helping the kids build castles with Legos. We went to the beach to celebrate my uncle's 75th birthday with a reunion of my cousins and their families. There were over forty of us altogether and it was great to watch Jamie, Sammy and Jack get to play with their "next generation" cousins. I look forward to the day when I can bring my child to these reunions and play with him or her along with the other cousins in the family. I am ready for the responsibilities and joys of motherhood.

I bring to motherhood many years of experience caring for and working with children. I have worked with special needs children, pre-schoolers at a daycare center, and young adults at the Perkins School for the Blind. Following graduate school I worked with junior and senior high school students in my church. Our proudest accomplishments were our yearly trips to work with Habitat for Humanity building homes – trips that included Hurricane Andrew relief work in Miami and in Biloxi and New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina. I love being with children of all ages. I have also done theater and improvisation in the Boston area, and enjoy creating and telling stories that engage their imaginations and make them laugh.

Up until last year I worked with an agency that brings animals and nature for therapeutic visits into nursing homes and schools for children with special needs. In anticipation of planning to adopt a baby, I cut back on my work, though I still serve on the Board of Directors. I have a wonderful dog that I trained to be a therapy dog. My dog Lucy is a standard poodle and has lived with me for the past 12 years. She is a great companion and



My house



Me and Lucy, my dog



Me and Judith with Sammy and Jamie this summer

is completely at ease around children. Whenever the neighborhood children visit they love to take turns giving her treats, playing fetch with her or holding the leash while we take a walk. When I visit elders in nursing homes or children with special needs, Lucy comes with me in her 'work mode' as a therapy dog. The people we visit all look forward to being able to pat her curly black hair and talk to her as she patiently gives everyone their turn. Everyone tells me that she is a remarkable dog.

I live in a house in the suburbs of Boston where there is a wonderful neighborhood and plenty of space to run and play. My best friend and her three children live two doors down and they are very excited about the arrival of a new baby. This is one of the close friends who will be actively involved throughout my child's life. In my neighborhood people know each other and care about one another. It is a warm and loving place to grow up.

This town has wonderful schools and parks, and a lot of other children close by to play with. I look forward to offering my child opportunities to see what interests him or her - whether it is sports, playing a musical instrument, dancing, or whatever sparks their imagination. My house is an easy train ride to Boston where we can go to museums, plays, the aquarium and many other exciting places. Education is very important in my family, and I have sufficient funds set aside to provide my child with a college education and any other learning and recreational activities that they may want to pursue.

I grew up in Connecticut, outside of New York City. My favorite way of explaining my home was that it was a wonderful combination of The Country Mouse and The City Mouse. My mother was an Occupational Therapist who was very involved as a volunteer at our schools, and took care of injured baby wild animals for the Audubon Society. My father was an investor in New York who introduced us to poetry, history and a love of travel.

My enthusiasm for exploring nature is boundless. My friends say that I have an eye for noticing the little treasures that are often overlooked. Each season brings new wonders to discover. This past summer I watched a tiny caterpillar grow over the course of a month; making a chrysalis and hatching before my eyes into a beautiful black and orange butterfly. I have saved nearly all my books from childhood, many filled with images from nature, and look forward to sharing them with my child. My nieces have already given me their favorite books for me to read to the baby.

I love traveling and have collections of shells, stones, driftwood and of course photographs from my trips. I look forward to gathering reminders of nature's beauty with my child and creating our own collections together. I recently took a trip to Australia with my brother and his family. Jack and I had a wonderful time exploring this



Jack and I hanging out with a friendly kangaroo in Australia



Judith and I enjoying the quiet waters of a New Hampshire lake



Snowshoeing in upstate New York

beautiful place together and seeing kangaroos and koalas up close. Jack had quite a collection of sticks that he gathered! I hope to eventually travel with my child to explore new places both nearby and far away.

I belong to a wonderful church. I was drawn to this particular congregation because of the diversity of people who are members: elders and youngsters, couples and singles, as well as many families grown through adoption. The minister and the members of my church are very supportive of my desire to be a mother, and they are looking forward to welcoming this child. I believe in the importance of the values that this church teaches: loving your neighbor, sharing your resources, and trying to make the world a better and more just place for everyone. The children in my congregation grow up knowing that they are part of a community that is full of love and acceptance.

I would like to know the hopes and dreams you have for your baby. If you choose me to be the adoptive parent for your child, I will join in your commitment to provide him or her with a bright future. Your child will always know that your decision for him or her was made with strength, devotion and out of great love. This child will be one of my life's greatest blessings and I will be grateful to you every single day. With your permission, I would also look forward to updating you regularly through photos and letters. I look forward to staying in touch over the years if you are open to this.

I hope that you are finding the support that you need during this time, and the strength within yourself to trust your decisions because you know what is best. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and considering me as you consider who should be the adoptive parent for your child. I would welcome a chance to talk with you and meet with you if that is something you would like.

If you would like to learn more about me or to speak with me directly please feel free to call Full Circle Adoptions, toll free, at 1-800-452-3678 (1-800-45 ADOPT).

I wish you the very best in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

*Nancy*

