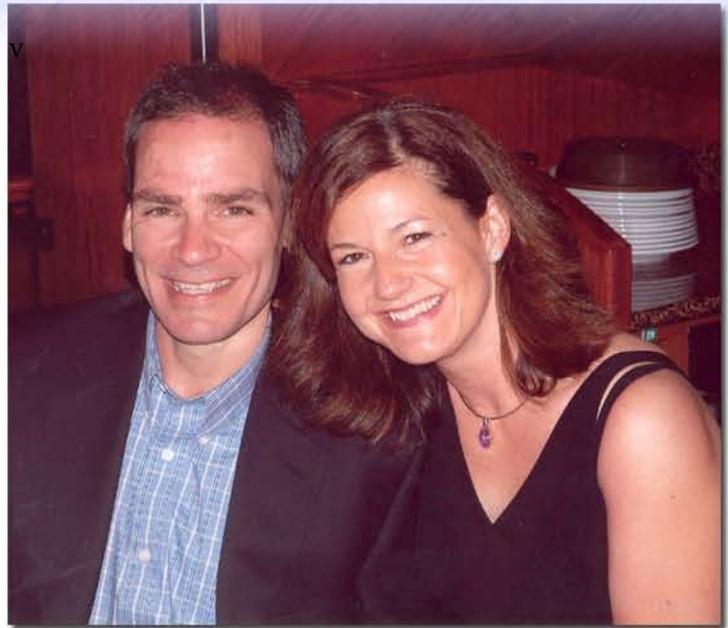


Diane and Gary



Dear Birthmother,

We admire your courage in considering adoption. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell you about ourselves and the love we hope to share with your child.

We hope we can help you feel confident that we will love and care for your child in a way that fulfills your dreams. We appreciate your taking the time to read our letter.

We met through mutual friends twelve years ago. From the moment we met, we felt comfortable with each other in a way we had not felt with anyone else. It sounds cliché, but the advice our parents always gave us, "you'll know when you meet the right one", was true. After dating and traveling and getting to know each other's friends and families, we decided we wanted to spend our lives together. We were married in October of 1996 in a beautiful ceremony, surrounded by our families and friends. Our relationship has grown stronger through the years as we have coped with challenges and enjoyed our lives together. We truly are soul mates, as well as best friends.



Our wedding day

very quickly. Unfortunately, we had an ectopic (tubal) pregnancy and have struggled with infertility ever since. While disappointing at the time, our experience has brought us closer together. We long to be parents and will cherish the gift of a child with all of our hearts. Several of our friends have adopted their children and shared with us the joy of their experience. We've taken the time to learn a lot about adoption and feel grateful and excited as we look forward to adopting in the days ahead.

Over the past several years, our deepest desire has been to be parents and share our lives and love with a child. When we began trying to start our family seven years ago, we were delighted to become pregnant



Our home



Gary's dad and stepmom

Our family loves to get together to celebrate holidays. Christmas is an especially big holiday at our home and within our family. We cannot wait to experience Christmas through the eyes of our child, watching them see the tree lit up for the first time, waking up early Christmas morning to see what Santa has brought them and later welcoming our extended family over for dinner to celebrate the holiday. We look forward to dressing up and "trick or treating" on Halloween, and to attending the parades in our town on Labor Day and the Fourth of July picnic at Uncle Rich's.

We also enjoy spur of the moment adventures. We are excited to bring our child to baseball games in the summer, take hayrides in the fall and snuggle before bedtime while we read favorite stories. We realize that all of the tender moments we have shared thus far together will be even more special shared as a family. Watching our child grow and question and learn each day would be a true blessing.

We live in a beautiful, rural community in Fairfield County, Connecticut with quiet neighborhoods and one of the best school systems in the state, if not the country. Our town is well known for its horse trails, parks and open spaces. Our street has a cul-de-sac at the end of it, and in the warm weather, most of our neighbors and their children gather there before dinner time to visit. We have a very long driveway and live on four acres nestled in the woods. Our house is large and welcoming, with a fenced yard offering plenty of room for kids to play.



Halloween



Gary's Irish Grandmother

We are fortunate to be in a position to prioritize spending time with our child. Gary is vice president of a chain of restaurants co-founded by his father many years ago. Diane oversees marketing and advertising for the chain, and has a very flexible schedule working out of our home. We're professionally and financially stable and at a perfect time in our lives to focus on raising a family.

We were blessed with parents who raised us with strong values of honesty, commitment to family, love and belief in ourselves as individuals. We both have had the opportunity to receive good educations, and are committed to providing the same for our child. We feel fortunate to be able to offer a child the opportunity to pursue his or her dreams, whatever they may be.

With Gary's Mom



We have often thought about the qualities that would make each of us a good parent and it occurs to us to share our impressions of each other with you.

Diane about Gary

Gary is an incredible person. He is funny, brilliant and sensitive. He is also very committed, having assumed responsibility for the family business. He makes me laugh every day and we really enjoy our time together. I

know his sense of responsibility, his sensitivity and sense of humor will make him a great father.

Gary grew up in Connecticut with his parents and a great younger sister. After graduating from college, Gary went on to law school and began a career in law. However, he was encouraged to join the family business and currently oversees operations for fifteen locations. Being very focused, he is able to do what he needs to do to support the business while allowing plenty of free time to pursue his other interests. He is excited that his work schedule will allow him plenty of time to be a very actively involved Dad.

Gary has several interests. In addition to all of his fitness pursuits, he can always be found studying something. Gary



Gary teaching "tie knotting" to cousin Ben

has an insatiable curiosity and, when something attracts his attention, he will study it until he has mastered it. I think his curiosity and patience will make him a great father, exposing our children to all sorts of new things. As a child, Gary collected coins and still enjoys the hobby today. I can see him sharing his love for coin collecting with our children, if they're interested. Gary loves old movies and has an unbelievable memory for dialogue and movie facts and trivia.



Gary with his sister Karen

Gary's parents and sister both live close by, and he has a large extended family, with whom he's very close. At any gathering, there are at least a dozen children, ranging in age from toddlers to teenagers. They are very excited at the prospect of having a new cousin to play with. The kids love Gary and he can usually be found in their midst, acting as their personal jungle gym. Gary gets a kick out of the things young children do, and laughs at their antics, whether it's our niece shaking her head in response to being told "no, no" or a young cousin offering his pacifier to the family dog.

Gary will be a wonderful father. He works hard and is committed to providing for his family. Gary would do anything to help a friend or family member in need. I know that he will give our child all the love and support to help him/her realize their full potential as an adult.

Gary about Diane

Diane's kindness and her easy communication style are what drew me to her when we met. I think the phrase "she never meets a stranger" was coined for Diane. She will talk to anyone, anywhere – especially children. And, it is not unusual for strangers to open up to Diane and tell her details about their lives within minutes of meeting her for the first time.



Diane grew up in Western Massachusetts as the oldest of two girls, in a very close-knit family.



Diane and her sister, Laura

fundraising for Relay for Life, which raises money for the American Cancer Society. She also runs a fundraising campaign in our restaurants each year to raise money to support local families in need. Given that she now works out of our home, she is looking forward to being a full-time Mom.

Diane is very artistic as well - she loves to make cards and scrapbook the many photographs she takes of family and friends. Last Christmas, she surprised her sister and brother-in-law with a scrapbook of the first nine months of their daughter's life. I don't know who was happier – her sister receiving the scrapbook or Diane giving it.

With a new friend

She remains very close to her sister, Laura, who lives nearby with her husband William and one year old daughter, Aaliyah.

A few years ago, Diane left a successful business career in anticipation of being a full-time at-home mother. While preparing for adoption, Diane has focused on helping charitable organizations in our community as well as overseeing the marketing and advertising for our restaurants. She has committed her time and initiative to



Diane with her niece, Aaliyah



Diane will be an incredible Mom. She is caring and kind and will offer our child unconditional love. Her patience, love and guidance will give him or her healthy self esteem, with a sense of responsibility to "give back" to those in need. Diane will teach our child to see the good in this world, and to live life to its fullest.

Vacationing in Rome

We both love to be active. We enjoy traveling and have been to wonderful destinations in the United States, Europe and the Caribbean. In fact, we just went on a cruise to the Caribbean during March of 2007, while in the process of our adoption home study. There were many guests on the cruise ship, and we were seated each night at dinner with a wonderful family with two adopted children. We both felt it was a "sign" that out of a large number of possible dinner companions on the ship, we met a family with such a wonderful adoption story!

We also breed and show Newfoundland dogs (like the beloved family dog "Nana" in Peter Pan). Our home is a favorite destination for neighborhood children who want to visit with our dogs. Gary has enjoyed presenting our dogs in the show ring. Additionally, Diane has visited the local nursing home with our dogs for pet therapy – the residents love to see a Newfie walking down their hallway to visit (and, we have to be honest, our Newfies hope to find food or something on the floor).

Gary is an avid runner and fitness buff, working out almost daily. He also is an outstanding tennis player, and plays in a weekly league. Diane enjoys exercising at the local gym, and works out with a Pilates instructor on a weekly basis. We are both committed to a healthy, fit lifestyle and look forward to being active with our children, whatever their interests may turn out to be. And, as much as we enjoy activity, we also love our quiet time together at home. The perfect ending to a great day for us is to cook dinner at home and watch a movie together.



Our Newfie, Tank

We believe that we have so much to offer our child. We were both raised with strong values of honesty, commitment to family, love and belief in ourselves as individuals. We were both raised with a faith in God and we will raise our child to know and find strength in God. We feel that we are meant to expand our family through adoption and have been blessed with many opportunities in our lives. Our marriage and relationship is strong and continues to grow through mutual respect and love for each other. We wish to welcome a child into our lives and raise him/her in a home filled with love, respect, integrity and fun.



Diane's Parents

We cannot possibly know what you are feeling right now as you determine the best choices for you and your baby. Please know

that you are giving the greatest gift of all and how much we respect your decision. We will honor your gift throughout our lives so that your child will know of and appreciate your love and courage.

Should you choose us as your child's adoptive family, we would offer the day-to-day love and encouragement that every child needs. Your child will have two parents who will always be there and will love him or her with all of our hearts.



Gary and his Dad

We understand that this is not an easy decision for you. We would be happy to send you regular photos and letter updates as your child grows up, so that you can see for yourself the life your love and concern has provided for your child. Your child will always know that your decision was made with strength and devotion. If chosen to be the parents of your child, we will be grateful to you every day of our lives. If you'd like a chance to learn more about us or to speak with us in person, please call Full Circle at 1-800-452-3678. We would enjoy the opportunity to speak with you directly. Thank you for taking the time to read about us. Regardless of your decision, we wish you all the best in life.

Diane and Gary

