Elana & Gary

Dear Birthmother,

As you read this letter, please know how much we greatly appreciate this opportunity to share a little about ourselves with you. We know that this must be a time in your life filled with a thousand different thoughts and feelings, and we deeply admire your strength and selflessness in the decisions you are considering. We truly wish you all the best with your choices in the days ahead.

Adoption has always been our dream and inspiration for parenting. I (Elana) have known since childhood that adoption would be my path to parenthood. When I was young, doctors informed me that I was completely healthy but would be unable to bear a child. As a result, I was raised with a deep appreciation for the gift of adoption. Since the importance of adoption in my life was no surprise to my family, everyone took the time to learn about adoption and, particularly, about all the ways to help a child feel loved by everyone in their lives.

One of our multi-generational get-togethers

After Gary and I were seeing each other for a very short time, we discussed our thoughts about family and the possibility of adoption. I was delighted to discover that Gary was as open to adoption as I have always been. We knew, before we married that adoption would be our path to being parents. We are very eager to share our love with a child and help them to grow up to be happy and fulfilled.

We have organized our lives to prioritize parenting. We are fortunate that the child we welcome into our family will be cared for full-time at home by us, and for a few days a week, by grandma. Elana's work hours as a speech-language pathologist helping children are very flexible; she can take a longer than usual maternity leave of 3-6 months, and, after that period,

she will work only part time. Elana's mother is looking forward to be a loving grandmother when Elana would be working part-time. Gary has more traditional hours in his job working for a university, but he can also be very flexible in his schedule to attend school assemblies, school meetings, or other special events; he will be eager to get home each day to be a devoted and loving father.

Playtime at the beach with our niece Marissa

We have always dreamed of having a family, and the thought of adoption has always been in our minds as an exciting possibility. Both of us are so excited to be at this point in our lives! We are both very open, enthusiastic, and awed by the hope that, through adoption, we can share our love with a child!

We would love to share some of our history with you. We grew up in the neighboring towns of Framingham and Sudbury, Massachusetts. In fact, our families knew each other for many years before we actually met each other. As fate would have it, our paths crossed approximately eight years ago, and we have been inseparable ever since! Our first date even kept going for almost 12 hours because we enjoyed our time together so much!

A special room waiting for a special little one!

One of the most important parts of our relationship is that we both share the same values. We both feel that our loved ones are of the utmost importance, and we will share with our child the sincerity, empathy, and kindness that we have always been shown by them. We dream of providing a solid foundation of love, nurturing, and security for a child to develop and discover themselves and the greater world. We also strongly believe that everyone we come in contact with deserves our respect, honesty, and compassion.

We try to be forthright in all our interactions, and we would love to share these values with a child as they learn to interact with and explore the world around them. Our child will be raised to have a belief in God, a loving connection with faith, and a sense of the balance between pursuing individual goals and helping others in the community.

Enjoying springtime in our front yard

Kayaking on Boston's Charles River

On a lighter note, we are lucky to have similar interests. We both greatly enjoy nature, spending time with our warm circle of friends and family, and cheering on our favorite Boston sports teams. We even have a good-luck Red Sox banner hanging by our pretend bleacher seats that has been up since the Red Sox won the World Series! Both of Gary's grandfathers were huge baseball fans, and their love of the game was passed down to us. We've been fans for over 27 years! We have visions of sharing this excitement with a child on trips to local parks, local minor league ball games, and even trips to Fenway Park! Music brings great enjoyment to us. We enjoy several different styles (jazz, 80's pop, and others), and we'd love to expose our child to the different types. We especially enjoy singing along to our song, "The Never-Ending Story," as we drive down the highway! We're also avid readers, and would welcome the opportunity to share this love of learning with a son or daughter. A fun, relaxing story-time before bed could be a cozy end to each day! Every book, fiction or non fiction, tells a story, and there is always something new to learn.

Planting flowers on our deck

Elana with niece, mother and grandmother

We look forward to larger family events as well. Our families will smile from ear to ear upon seeing our child opening up presents during the holidays. We also have a very special family dinner every spring with over 50 family members that's always a joy! We're all usually laughing and chatting too much to actually sit & eat. In fact, we have found every holiday to be a fun time with our family, and we are so excited about the possibility of sharing these moments with our child!

Gary is a very special, remarkable man. He is one of the kindest, most patient, and sincerest people I have ever met. Seeing him anticipate his mother's needs even before she asks, or watching him light up with a smile upon visiting

Cuddle-time with our nephew Cameron

with our niece and nephew have helped me imagine these amazing qualities in him as a dad. It's such a gift to know how surely I can count on him, and how he has always been there for me and our extended family. I can't wait to watch him read stories to our child, help him or her learn to crawl and walk, and rock our child to sleep. As the child grows up, he or she will learn so much about nature from him and they will form a special relationship around the discoveries of the world. Gary will be one of those dads who children, when grown, talk about with a warm smile and recount all the tender times they shared. I know it's already true for me and for our niece and nephew as well.

Elana is a very caring, fun person with a wonderful heart, bubbly personality, and a great sense of humor. I have loved the "Congratulations" and "I Love You" balloons she has given to me when I got a new job or something special happened. Our first date continued for hours because both of us were having so much fun together. I remember thinking that this was the type of person I would want for my wife. It has only gotten better since then. I know she will be a wonderful mother and that our child will feel as celebrated in his or her small and big accomplishments, from earliest baby-hood on!

Elana & Marissa sharing a moment

All set for a family wedding at the beach

I (Gary) love Elana and can't wait to share parenting with her! We've always known adoption would be the way we would know the joy of parenting together. It has given us the opportunity to learn a lot about adoption. We have read books on adoption, attended conferences, and talked with other families who have adopted. We've prepared ourselves to raise a child with a wonderful sense of self esteem and healthy sense that adoption means love. I know we are making the best possible choice for

our family. As our child's interests develop, we look forward to sharing them together, especially around favorite toys, books, and activities. Seeing today's world through his/her eyes will be fascinating to me as a Dad!

Good times with friends near the Red Sox' Fenway Park

Our co-workers, friends and families have experience with adoption and are very excited about our plans. Our cousin adopted her child approximately 8 years ago. Elana's supervisor worked as an adoption professional for many years. Several members of our circle of friends who have recently become parents look forward to the possibility of play dates for our children in the years to come! All of our friends and relatives have been very supportive of and enthusiastic about the prospect of our becoming parents through adoption.

I (Elana) am also very fortunate to have children in my life on a daily basis. I work with special needs children as a Speech-Language Pathologist at a medical center. Working with children for more than 18 years has been an incredible learning experience, as I feel that every child who has crossed my path has taught me a great deal. The clients I work with range in age from birth to 22 years old, and they present a wide spectrum of issues. The children and their families have meant a great deal to me, as I find their positive outlook to be very inspirational and a strong reminder of what is truly important. It is also extremely gratifying to help children find their voice and to feel as though they can be better understood by those who love and care for them.

Our wonderful niece & nephew!

Gary & Marissa
A hit on the dance floor!

I (Gary) work at a large local university. In my work, I provide advice and assistance to various departments at the university. Assisting university staff in locating the information they need is one of my main tasks. I also help document university finances. My job has multiple responsibilities and requires a lot of patience. I have learned, over time, that this is one of my strengths. I have often thought that my patient nature will also serve me well as a father. I look

forward to being the kind of dad our child can count on to be patient, to be a good listener, and to be understanding. I look forward to being asked for advice and guidance when they want this, and I look forward to being, above all, ready for whatever they need help with.

Fun & laughs during the holidays

We have given a great deal of thought to how our lives will change with parenthood. We've prepared for the adjustments we'll need to make. Elana is in an excellent situation where she can work part-time at her current facility. Elana's mother is excited to be an active grandmother when we're both at work. We particularly look forward to those times when we'll both be home and enjoying every minute of our time with our child! We're ready to be parents and eager to start sharing our love with a child.

Enjoying our neighborhood park

Our neighborhood is a quiet, safe place to live, and has a highly rated school system. In fact, we chose our location largely because it is such a desirable place to raise a child. Neighbors we have talked to are very happy with the education their children have received, and we have no doubt it will be a terrific place to nurture a child. From its peaceful location, one would think that we're not near anything resembling civilization. However, Boston is only about forty minutes away. We also have several convenient shopping centers nearby, which have supermarkets, retail stores, and restaurants (in addition to one of the best little ice cream places in Massachusetts only 1/2 mile away from us!). We even have a local park, children's museum, zoo, and aquarium nearby that would be such wonderful fun to share with a child! The Boston Science Museum is world class and a spot we're sure to return to so we can enjoy different special exhibits.

Our close extended family, including our four parents, our grandmothers, aunts, uncles, brothers, and an adorable niece and nephew are tremendously thrilled and supportive about our plan to grow our family through adoption. They have been unbelievably supportive throughout the adoption process, including taking trips to adoption

Baking cookies... a favorite! YUM!!!

Welcome to our home!

information sessions and assisting in child-proofing our home. All four of our parents, in particular, are extremely excited at the prospect of having a new grandchild to dote over and love. They are already dreaming of trips to parks, zoos, beaches, etc. In short, they are as excited as we are! We would be so happy to have the chance to give our love to your child as well as a stable, nurturing and fun-loving home. It is our hope to provide a life full of support, encouragement and opportunity! In thinking about your child's growing up years, we'd like to know what you might want and what would be most comfortable for you. We imagine it might be difficult to know now, so please know we're open to providing photo/letter updates, staying in touch by phone and email and we'd be happy to find times to get together in person as well. We believe that a child can benefit from knowing everyone who loves him or her. It's important to us that you know we would be delighted to stay in touch, depending upon your wishes and comfort level. We want to know what will help you feel reassured that you made a good decision and that your child is doing wonderfully and is well loved.

Please call Full Circle Adoptions at 1-800-452-3678 if you would like to learn more about us or speak with us. We wish you the best in all your decisions. If we are lucky enough to be your chosen family, we look forward to learning how we can fulfill the dreams you have for your expected child. We are also interested to know how we can help you have a good experience in the adoption process. Our thoughts are with you and we send our sincerest appreciation for considering us.

With all our hearts,

Elana & Gary