

Dear Birth Mother,

Hello, what a time this must be for you. We want you to know, how important this adoption journey is for us: as you consider us, know that your child will be safe, loved, and supported with many resources, education, and a safe and loving home. Parenting fills us with excitement and awe, and we think we can make a difference in your child's life. We love each other very much and are eager to share that love. We know who we are, what we want, and where we want to go. Family is the ultimate adventure, and we are excited to embark upon the path!

How are you doing? We hope this process brings you some comfort to know us a bit – we love arts and culture, nature and the outdoors, and exploring new ideas and experiences. We would love to speak with you and get to know you as well if that is comfortable for you.

We want you to know that we have a wonderful home that is ready for your child – a unique old house large enough for slumber parties and playrooms and areas that make for incredible hide and seek games (there's even a secret attic). We have a nice yard with trees and flowers for playing outside while we grow vegetables in the greenhouse. Activity is essential and we make the most of the outdoors locally, with active walks around our neighborhood, up in the hills with mountain views, amongst friendly neighbors and their children. We like to cook together and hope to share this with a child: Teresa loves to try new recipes, and Alex helps (including the dishes!). We often sit and watch the horse across the street through our window (all the kids in the neighborhood love him), and feel our home is peaceful and full of love, just waiting for a child to complete our family.

Alex is from a large family of 11 kids. That means your child will grow up with dozens of cousins! He grew up with solid family values and country-living out on a homestead on 20 acres of Alaskan forest in the community of North Pole. We're excited to bring a child into year-round outdoor adventures that he grew up with, from summer 4-wheeling, kayaking, and camping, to winter snow machining. He works as an emergency dispatcher for the University Police, and much of his family have served with public service and the military. Alex loves to volunteer in our hometown of Anchorage, and he even looks for opportunities to serve others when we travel. He looks forward to teaching a child to think about what others need and how they can help a community.

We want you to know that education is vital to both of us. Alex wants to introduce a child to his routine of going to the local library every week to check out a new book. Teresa loves reading books and watching movies, a tradition started by being read to by her mother every night. She and Alex look forward to all the new books a child will help them all discover together as a family. Teresa has a bachelor's and master's degree in Theatre and Directing (and a graduate emphasis in Women's Studies), and Alex has a bachelor's degree in Theatre.

Teresa grew up, almost literally, on the stage! She was raised in Anchorage, Alaska, amongst artists and educators. Being in plays was the winter, and traveling to visit family and new places was the summer. Teresa followed in her father's footsteps and became the Artistic Director of an Alaskan theatre company after directing plays and musicals Off-Broadway in New York City and regional theatre. Alex's love of theatre isn't just performing on the stage, but also helping paint and build the sets. So we hope you like that there could be a lot of opportunity for creative outlets from theatre to dance and of course music, for a child. Alex is teaching himself the ukulele and the drum, and Teresa has played piano and sang through her life, and she even taught lessons for a time. Do you like travel? Teresa has

traveled a lot of the world but still has a list of places to go with her own family in the future. She and Alex want to show a child the great art, history, and culture in the world and go on nature adventures. So, maybe your child can help us learn more, as we travel to places where their favorite animals live.

Gracie, the dog: our current furry family member, is a sweet and compassionate soul who loves babies and dogs and cats and all people she can convince to give her a belly scratch. She is ready to play ball and frisbee with your child, but her favorite time of day seems to be cuddling with her family on the bed.

Finally, we know this will be a tender decision for you. We are deeply honored and grateful that you are considering us as adoptive parents. We will raise your child with care and respect, surrounded by great friends and plentiful family. The saying "it takes a village to raise a child" fits our worldview.

Thank you for considering us, let us know how we can be a comfort to you.

Alex & Teresa