

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

Thank you very much for going through this process and giving us the opportunity to show you what our family is all about. We sincerely hope that through this process, you will find all of the answers you need during this time in your life. Although we do not know you, we fully respect anybody that is willing to go through hardship for the sake of a child.



We are Monte and Barbie and as you probably know by now, our family does not form what most would consider the typical household. Due to health problems, we are legal guardians/parents to Barbie's younger sisters. Barbie's younger sisters were adopted by her parents at birth; the older (Nicole - 15 yrs.) is African-American, and the younger (Franchesca - 13 yrs.) is Hispanic. We also have a daughter (Riley Joe - 5yrs.).

We live in a small ranching community and our children go to a wonderful school. Monte works at the rural electric company as an engineer and also works part time as a designer/drafter at a manufacturing company. Barbie was a Pre-k/Kindergarten teacher many years ago. She is now a stay at home mom and a caregiver for her mother. Our family life is filled with joking, playing around, and general silliness. We love to laugh at each other as well as ourselves and we enjoy spending time together. The older girls keep us busy with sports and activities during the school year. In the summer, we like to go camping, fishing, and on many adventures -- of course there is plenty of ranch work to be done too ☺!

We try to show our kids that no one is better than anyone else, and that they need to strive to be pleasant, respectful, and friendly people. We approach the ethnic background situation in our family with complete openness and with the general idea that no matter what color we are or what background we each have, we are all equal parts in our family. Nicole is a special soul who loves to make people laugh. Franny is athletic, sensitive, and a gentle spirit. Riley Joe is a cowgirl at heart who can be loud and full of life. The children generally get along great with each other, and Riley has accepted Nicole and Franchesca as her sisters. It is amazing to see how easily the children have accepted that we are all family and it doesn't really matter how we ended up together.

We have always expressed to each other that we wanted to adopt (as early as our second date!); and we feel that we are at a time in our lives where we can welcome and support an addition to our family through open adoption. We are all excited and looking forward to this new chapter in our lives.



In closing, we want to thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We hope that you are getting the support you deserve; and if you think we might be the answer you are looking for, we would appreciate the chance to get to know you and your family. For more information about us, please contact CSSM at 1-800-222-9383.

Thinking of you,

*Monte Joe, Barbie, Riley, Nicole, and Franny*