

*Dear Expectant Parent(s),*

*Writing this letter is not easy for us, as we are sure that you reading this and the heart wrenching choice that you are making is not easy for you. It may not feel like it right now, but because of your love and courage you have made a difficult decision that will fulfill one of our most important dreams.*

*Over the last several years we have come to the understanding that our bodies will probably not bring a child into our lives. But we still want to be parents, and have hope that through open adoption our family can grow and create our next great adventure. Let us tell you a little bit about ourselves, and maybe our story will help you make your own very important choice.*



*We are John and Elena, and we live in an old log home just outside of Missoula. It is warm, welcoming, safe and a wonderful place for a child to play, learn and grow up. Our family includes a black lab pup named Bob. We like to think that he will be a friend and another protector for our new baby. We also have two cats that are sisters named Abbey and Finnick. If it wasn't for Finnick having a white chin it would be impossible to tell them apart. We also have a fish named Lisa. There is a funny story about Lisa. Elena never had any pets when she was growing up. John had many. Elena begged John for a while to get a puppy. John with his never ending humor suggested that we get a fish and if the fish survived for a year that we would get a puppy. Not going to lie, because it was really funny watching Elena learn about fish, making sure that Lisa was warm enough, fed enough and always had a clean tank. Elena didn't know much about fish when she started, but through her dedication and love she became an incredible fish mom. At this point we still have Lisa and Elena got that puppy.*

*Elena teaches at a local University. Over the last 10 years she has finished her Masters and received her PhD in conservation with a focus on national park management. She did all that in a second language, as she was born and raised in Moscow, Russia, and moved to Montana in 2010 as a Fulbright scholar to get her graduate degree. Since then, she calls Montana her home, and absolutely loves its open space, spectacular scenery, and kind people. Her research was in Glacier National Park. Although Elena has travelled to almost 50 countries, Montana is her favorite place on Earth! She is very excited to share her knowledge about other cultures and love for Montana with our baby.*

*John was born and raised in Montana. After high school he spent several years traveling throughout the country (Arizona, Washington, California and Hawaii), but he always seemed to find his way back home. Almost 20 years ago while living in Hawaii John met a gal and ended up having a baby boy together. He was also named John and is currently in boot camp for the Navy. John and young John's mom were never married, but have always been there for*

*each other which enabled young John to grow up in a loving family. This may sound strange, but young John's mom Ani is incredibly excited for us to bring a baby into our lives and she will be the best auntie that a child could have. For work, John is the Executive Director of a state-wide nonprofit that helps individuals that are impacted by all types of brain injuries. They also do fun things like concussion awareness and giving away free helmets to kids.*

*In addition to our paid work, we are also very involved in our local communities. John has been the president of two non-profits that help young mothers and teens that are pregnant or parents, and is currently the mayor of the small town that we live in. Elena enjoys volunteering at our local school.*

*We love Montana. We are both very outdoorsy and we spend most of our days off playing in the mountains. One of our favorite things to do is to hike and do our best to find deer, elk and moose antlers. This was new to Elena when she met John, but now she tends to be the one that finds the most. Being in the outdoors, whether it is standing on top of a mountain or sitting by a river brings us joy and has created an appreciation for the beauty of what God has shared with us. Our baby will be a part of these adventures. A free range child that will breathe fresh air, explore Montana mountains with us, climb trees, and fish and swim in cold creeks until their toes get numb and then go warm them up by the fire.*

*We are not perfect and we make mistakes. We are both dorks and we spend a lot of time laughing at our own goofiness, but we know that we have enough love in our hearts and heads full of life experiences that we will do everything that we possibly can to raise an amazing child that will one day be an amazing adult.*



*We want to be parents. We want a baby. We are hoping and praying that through these words on this paper that you will see that we will be a great choice to raise a child. Our hearts, our minds and our lives are ready for a loving open adoption if that is what you would like. We know that you are putting a huge amount of trust in us and we can only imagine how difficult that this must be. We see your decision as a blessing and a gift, we will always respect you and do our best to raise a happy and loving child!*

*Thank you so much for considering us,*

*John and Elena*