

Dear Expectant Parent,

We are Lowell and Maria. We are grateful that you are looking at all your options and considering adoption. Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. While we know a simple letter is not enough, we hope that you will feel that you know a bit about us and would like to know more. We would eventually like to get to know you as well.



Lowell – I grew up in Indiana with my parents and two younger siblings; a sister and a brother. After the third grade, my parents decided that I and my siblings would do better being home schooled. We were part of a large home-schooling community that allowed us to be exposed to many things. I enjoyed spending time in the woods, camping, hiking, fishing, and archery. I tried college, decided it was not for me, and worked for a few years in Indiana doing various things. On my 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday I got a call from my grandma in eastern Montana. After explaining that I did not like my job, where I lived, or the people I was around; she suggested I move out to Montana. Three weeks later I moved out west and took advantage of the oil boom. Luckily my family had visited while I was growing up and I knew and liked the area.

Maria – I grew up in Washington with my parents and my little brother. For the most part it was a normal childhood. Dad worked while mom took care of the home. I enjoyed books, movies, and playing sports. At the age of 11 my dad started long haul trucking. He would only be home for a couple of days each month, but we would talk daily on the phone. Mom continued to handle the home while dad was away. She raised us a little differently than what I saw with my friends' moms. Mom is not from the US, she moved to the states from the Philippines after she married my dad. Due to this I am used to having a second language in the home; unfortunately, she needed to practice her English so I am not bilingual. Along with this I am used to eating some interesting things. After high school I went to Idaho State University and got my degree in Civil Engineering. I ended up getting a job in Wolf Point, Montana. I was a bit of a culture shock moving all the way to eastern Montana.

We met in November of 2012 after being matched on a dating website. We messaged each other for a month before meeting face to face. We found we had similar core values and interests. We took it as a good sign that on our second date we went hill climbing in Makoshika State Park during a snow storm and got back to the car safely and still laughing. Despite the odds of how we met, we married in Glendive in 2014. Both of us agreed that small town life was for us, so we purchased our home in 2016. This area allows us to enjoy some hiking, motorcycling, and shooting sports. We had bought the home with the intent of having children, unfortunately we were not so lucky. It was actually Lowell that suggested adoption and led us to this path to adopt.

Family and friends are very important to us. We have a close group of friends that we see as part of our family. Their kids call us aunt and uncle and we help mentor them. At one point we decided to get



enough helmets for all the kids to be able to ride with us on our motorcycles. Every year we have made a trip during the holidays to spend time with either of our families. Maria's parents are planning on moving to Glendive to be closer. Everyone has been supportive and are waiting to see what happens in this journey.



We enjoy being active and social. During the warmer months we go off-roading in our jeep, ride our motorcycles, and participate in local shooting events. In the winter we spend a lot of time with friends playing games and having potlucks. We also bowl in a Friday night mixed league. When we are home Maria likes to bake and read while Lowell will tinker in the garage or if the weather is good, make chili over the fire pit in the backyard. While we are relaxing indoors our two cats will snuggle up with us. Lucky is a gray tabby with an opinion on everything and Walker is orange and white and has not yet found a human that is not his best friend.



We hope that this letter has given you a glimpse of who we are and thank you for taking the time to get this far. Hopefully we will get a chance to meet and get to know each other in the future. The two of us are looking forward to being adoptive parents and expanding our family. We are grateful that you are considering making this choice. We hope that whatever your choice, it gives you peace.

Thank you,  
Lowell and Maria