

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

We've experienced some difficult moments in our lives, but probably none that compare to the moment you're going through right now. Why life unfolds the way that it does will always be a great mystery to us. But one thing that we have discovered throughout the years is that despite the craziness of circumstances, God brings certain people together for a reason, whether it's a momentary crossing of paths, or a relationship that is meant to be lifelong. We truly believe that relationships are the most important thing in life and that they can develop in the most unexpected ways. We started the open adoption process with the full expectancy that our family would grow, not just in terms of children, but in terms of gaining new relatives through a birth family.



To tell you a little bit about us as individuals, we're kind of quirky people and have some unique hobbies. Russ' main interests are aquariums, cyclocross, and skiing. Carolyn enjoys moss gardening, crafts, and traveling. We have three dogs who we spoil shamelessly. Our personalities are both very laid back, but we still try to stay organized with our time and space. We are fortunate to love our home and love where we live. We also both find fulfillment at work; Russ is a hydrologist and Carolyn, a teacher.

We are both close with our parents and siblings. Russ' family lives in Washington and Hawaii. Carolyn's family is in Alaska and North Carolina. We vacation with them every year. Our childhood experiences, overall, were very positive. We both spent a lot of time playing outside, building forts, and riding bikes. Our families are very into camping and fishing.



We met in college when we were 18 but didn't start dating until we were 30. We married seven years later. We love each other very much and thank God every day that He brought us together. After two years of trying for a child, we learned that we were infertile. We half expected this finding since we married later in life. It was never all that important to us to have biological children, so we investigated open adoption shortly after receiving the diagnosis.



In March of 2019, we welcomed Alexander into our family! He is such a sweet little guy, and loves making sure everyone is included when we play together. His personality is very relaxed for a toddler and he loves to smile. When he's not inside playing with his toy tractors and sticker books, he's outside on his strider bike zooming around or playing with the dogs. As a family, we really enjoy the little day-to-day experiences--cooking dinners and listening to music, hanging out on our

back porch, sitting by the fire pit...along with the big fun things. We absolutely love being parents and we hope to one day have a second child. One of life's greatest joys is seeing a child grow into the unique person that they're meant to become.

We wish you the best with your decision, and if you do decide to choose us to parent your child, know that we will love him or her unconditionally. We expect the child to have his or her own unique interests and their own quirks. We understand that they will make mistakes and we don't want them to fear that. We've made many mistakes ourselves over the years. We'd like our children to learn from them and move forward. More than anything, we want to teach our children to be kind, conscientious, and confident. We want them to appreciate all the little things that life has to offer and realize that we can only control so much. Half of life's adventure is not knowing what is about to unfold. We just need to have faith that what's meant to happen will happen. We're not quite sure what else to say that could provide you with some relief. Just know that we want you to make the decision that is best for you. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and consider us as potential parents for your little one.

With love,  
Russ, Carolyn, and Alex

