

Dear Expectant Parent(s),

Hello, we are Andy and Amanda, and we are excited to meet you! We know this must be a very overwhelming and stressful time and can't imagine what you must be experiencing having to read through all these letters and decide if adoption is the right choice for you. We will likely never fully understand how you must be feeling, but we recognize the tremendous strength and courage you must have. And we are so humbled and grateful that you would even consider us for this journey.



Over the past two years, we have been discussing and preparing for the possibility of adopting a child. We know for that to happen, very brave and selfless people would have to share their child with us and that it would require a tremendous amount of sacrifice on their part. We do not take that lightly. We can't state enough how much we appreciate that you are taking some time to read our letter to get to know us better. We want to give you an idea about our lives together and who we are as individuals.

I, Andy, was born and raised in Montana. I am the youngest of 3 children and have an older brother and sister and two parents who raised us. My parents were both teachers. They spent a lot of time with us and gave us a great life full of love and support, taught us to be good human beings, and gave us a great education. We had a lot of close family living around us so we got to spend a lot of time with cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. I had a very idyllic childhood, riding my bike around the neighborhood, playing on the lake, building forts with friends, playing sports and spending time at frequent family gatherings. I still get to spend a lot of time with my family and am grateful to have so many of them around.

Amanda and I met 14 years ago at a bowling alley, through a mutual friend. Neither of us thought we would be where we are today, but we slowly started spending time together and realized we had a lot in common and a similar sense of humor and we fell in love. I have never met a more kind, empathetic human being that gives so much love and joy to the world. She loves working with kids at her school and really connects with them on a deep level. I am very grateful each and every day that we found each other.

I, Amanda, was also born and raised in Montana. I have one older sister, and we were raised by our parents who were married during our childhood but divorced when I was in college. Both of my grandmothers also played a big part in raising me. My parents were both the first of their siblings to go to college, so it was important to them that I had a happy life and a good education. Family is very important to me, and I spend a lot of time with my family and extended family. I come from a big family where there is never a dull moment. We have fun traditions, big family dinners, and lots of singing and dancing while we cook. Andy and I are very lucky that both of our extended families are within driving distance of us so we make visits often to see our parents, my grandmother, aunts, uncles, and cousins. This also means we get to spend holidays with lots of family. I grew up doing a lot of cooking, playing outside, camping, four wheeling, skiing, and playing on the water. I was an adventurous young kid, and have always loved music, classic rock, concerts, and guitars. This has not changed as I've gotten older. I love to travel (Andy and I have been all over the world), I love music, and I love quirky, whimsical, and eccentric things. I still love to ski and play in the snow. I also love to ice skate and have been taking beginner figure skating classes. The idea of doing any of these things I love with a child makes my heart skip a beat with excitement. I've always loved spending time around kids, and they have always seemed to like me too. I knew early on in my education that I would want to work with kids. My background is in Social Work and

Psychology. Currently I work at an elementary school doing counseling work and I LOVE my job. I am about to start my tenth school year and that time has flown by. My students mean the world to me and I feel like it is a great privilege to be a part of someone's childhood. I know I would take that same approach to parenting, and I feel very compelled to give a child a fun, idyllic, sentimental childhood.

I met Andy in 2012 when I was 21. We started dating right away and have been together ever since. Back then, I would have had no idea that he would be someone I would one day parent a child with. But over the last fourteen years of being in love, I have grown to see that there is no one else I would rather parent with. Andy changed my life for the better. He is the calm in my storm. Where I get anxious, he is level-headed, patient, and gentle. He takes care of the people around him and always shows up for someone who needs him. I can't wait to see him as a dad.

We have had quite the life of adventures in our time together as a couple. We got married on New Years Eve in 2018 in the snow and below zero temps, and it was one of the best days of our lives. We have loved being on the go and doing things socially. We have also travelled the world and have backpacked to more than twenty different countries together in Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and India. We have had many adventures, misadventures, and meaningful experiences that made us stronger as a couple because we've had to navigate foreign places with only each other to rely on and problem solve with. We love to see the world, meet new people, and experience other cultures. And we would absolutely love to do this with a child and show them the world once they are old enough.

As much as we enjoy travelling, we also love to be home and have built a wonderful life here. We own a home in town that we've worked hard to make our own and unique to us. We love doing things socially in the community and have a wonderful circle of support with our friends and family here. We spend a lot of time enjoying music, cooking, gardening, riding bikes, and getting outside.

We have known for a while we were ready to settle down a bit and welcome a child. Adoption was our first choice in becoming parents. We had a brief experience in helping with a foster child, and we both found an immense amount of joy in playing a parental role to her. It really changed our lives in the best way and helped us understand how meaningful it would be to be parents. While we were very happy to see her reunited with her birth family, we were also heartbroken to say goodbye to her. We are looking forward to having a similar but longer-lasting experience with adoption. And we are so incredibly grateful that you are taking the time to read this letter, getting to know us, and considering us for what is the biggest sacrifice and act of service we can think of. It is incredibly humbling and we do not take this opportunity for granted.

Thank you so much for considering us and we can't wait to meet you!

Sincerely,

Andy and Amanda

