



BETHANN & DAN

Dear Birthmother,

There is nothing we'd like more than to have the blessing of a second child. We adopted our daughter Avery in 2009 and felt our family life bloom. We know that, with a second child, we will have the joy of hearing padding feet and giggles and enjoy the role that parents have in helping our children explore the world and develop a great sibling relationship with each other.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and considering us as possible adoptive parents for your expected child. The challenges of this time period, for you, are not lost on us. Please know that, if we are chosen, your child will be cherished by us and raised to know how much you care. We are open to connection with you, over the years, and would welcome learning more about what you'd like.

Before we even met, each of us had the thought that we wanted two children. We love our daughter Avery more deeply than we can express. And, at the same time, we feel our family will be complete when we hear another pair of little feet running down the hall. We have found our calling in parenting and have more love to give, from diapers to three-AM feedings to those first precious smiles and steps. We know in our hearts that two children is right for us, and for Avery, who is an extremely affectionate and social girl. She loves babies and sends them "mwah" kisses, even in the grocery store; she seems destined to be a very loving big sister. There will be even more joy in our house with two kids romping around the backyard,



a quiet moment in our backyard



Our wedding

having a dance party in the kitchen and splashing in the bathtub. One of the sweetest pleasures of family is watching siblings grow up together, enjoy each other and form bonds known to no one else, and we want this for our family and our daughter.

Soon after we met, we knew that we wanted to be together and build our lives and a family. We were working together professionally, and had a crush on each other, though neither of us knew it - Dan was attracted to BethAnn's compassion as well as her femininity, and BethAnn was attracted to Dan's humor and professional competence. It took several months, but finally Dan asked BethAnn out for dinner and she said, "I'm blushing," to which he said, "Well, my heart

is going a million miles a minute if that helps!" We fell in love in the truest sense of the word and exactly three years later, we were married on the ocean in Rockport, MA. We wrote our own ceremony and our own vows, and each guest received a sand-bucket full of shells and sea-glass collected from our trips to the ocean.

We tried for many years to conceive a child and had our share of miscarriages and complications along the way. Adoption was our choice. We have come to believe that "everything happens for a reason," and it is very clear that Avery is the child we were waiting for all along. We are blessed with knowing, through this personal experience, that no matter what happens, our second child will come to us in the right time. We also are grateful that our difficulties in conceiving served to strengthen our marriage, and, truly, that we are better parents and partners as a result. We love our days, from eating



breakfast together as a family to play-dates with the neighborhood babies to that quiet, intimate time in the rocking chair right before bed. We have shaped our work lives, our family home and our marriage to focus on the children we were meant to have, and can't wait to feel we have a completed family. To say that our family and friends are excited about our second adoption is an understatement. They cannot wait to shower love on a new baby in addition to Avery!



With Otie on the porch

Dan's parents, Sybil and Sam, live in Manhattan right beside Central Park and we visit each other regularly. They also have a house in Long Island and we convene there for weekends and take walks to the bay, run around the yard with Avery and eat Sam's buckwheat pancakes for breakfast. Dan's brother and sister-in-law, Alexei and Jamie, have two boys, Oliver and Owen, and they live uptown from Dan's parents. We spend most of Thanksgiving week with the whole family in New York and it gives Avery an opportunity to hang out and play with her cousins. The boys are incredibly sweet with her, giving her little kisses and helping her play with their toys, which warms our hearts.

BethAnn's father, John, lives in Pittsburgh but visits several times a year, including at Christmas. We always have a live tree and lights outside, and take off the week from work to spend time together as a family. Sadly, BethAnn's mom died in 2009, a few weeks before Avery came into our lives.

As for "Papa" John, he is deeply devoted to Avery and can't wait for another grandbaby to enjoy and read to. BethAnn also has many cousins from home, some of whom now live closer - last year when the cousins visited Boston, we packed up all the kids and went to the Children's Museum, and it was a joy to see the kids all flying around together, blowing giant bubbles and climbing on the pretend trees.

We moved into our home eight years ago and plan to stay here. We renovated the house some years ago to have three bedrooms and enough space for a growing family. We live in a small neighborhood with a



Avery and Papa read 'Goodnight Moon'



Our house in summer

number of younger families, so there are plenty of kids around. Our town has a large population of children and tons of children's programs, from art classes to sports camps to the free "music lady" at the local library. There is a beautiful state park right down the road, with a lake and picnic space for families to enjoy. We have an excellent public school system. Our town keeps elementary class sizes small, so each child can realize his or her potential. Community



Sam and Sybil



*Avery, Maddy and Jared
in Wellfleet*

service is also encouraged for elementary school students, to create "good citizens" who help those who are less fortunate. In a recent magazine study, our high school was ranked among the top in Massachusetts.

We focus on having a good time as a family. We go to Children's Museums, take long family walks and run around the backyard with Otis while Avery shrieks with delight.

We like to travel as a family wherever we go, whether it's to a wedding, a restaurant or St. Thomas, Virgin Islands for vacation. We are also lucky to have a large and supportive group of friends who are a big part of our lives. Our friends have kids ranging in ages from one to thirteen, and there is always a birthday or dinner at someone's

house going on. We are also very close with our next-door neighbors, Heather and Pete, who have a three-year old daughter. They are all extremely enthusiastic about bringing another baby into the mix! We also have long-distance friends who adopted their daughter Isabel from Guatemala and who come to stay with us, and local friends who adopted their daughter Sabina just weeks after Avery.

Adoption is also a part of our extended family's life, as our sister-in-law Jamie is one of six children, three of whom are adopted. We have spent Thanksgivings with her brothers and sisters and gotten their thoughts



Summertime in our pool!

and encouragement on welcoming an adopted child into our home and lives. The child who joins our family will have friends, family and neighbors who delight in our adoption plan, who are familiar and comfortable with adoption and who are ready to embrace the child we're lucky enough to adopt.

When it comes to our work lives, we have an unusual and wonderful situation in that we run our own business together, designing schedules and prioritizing as we feel is best for our family. Our work involves helping people solve their



*On vacation on Lake Superior
with friends*

personal challenges, helping them consider alternative ways to view important issues in their lives, and generally feel better about themselves and their relationships. We feel glad to have careers that are very satisfying and visibly helpful to others. BethAnn is currently working two days a week in anticipation of staying home after the baby comes, with the flexibility to do consultation on the side. Dan works full-time but leaves early at least one day a week, to spend time with family. We enjoy our weekends to the fullest. We also love that our schedules allow us to have breakfast as a family every single morning. The best thing about having our own business is that we can design it around our family's needs, prioritizing pediatrician appointments, school meetings or playgroups.



Playing cards on New Year's Eve



BethAnn and her friends

and we believe a child can benefit from knowing all who love them. If we are fortunate to be chosen to be the adoptive parents for your child, we ask that you let us know what kind of contact you'd like over the years that would help you feel connected. We realize that this is a difficult time and that some of the answers to these ideas will unfold naturally as we get to know each other. However things work out, we want to honor your role, and help the situation feel as caring as possible for both you and your child.

In addition to valuing family and friendships, we also value education. We will provide the encouragement and financial support necessary for our child to go to college and pursue a career that fulfills their dreams. We already have sufficient funds set aside to pay for the college education for both children. We both were lucky to have the support of our families and look forward to encouraging our child in learning the skills and exploring the fields that capture their heart and curiosity.

We want you to feel reassured that your child is growing up happy, healthy and well-loved,



We LOVE cooking... and eating!



We eagerly await welcoming a baby into our home and our hearts and want to thank you for reading our profile and wish you many blessings in whatever decision you make. If you'd like to learn more about us or speak with us directly, please call Full Circle Adoptions at 1-800-452-3678.

Warmly,
BethAnn and Dan