

# *Laura & Stephen*



# Dear Birth Parent,

When we first learned about open adoption, we knew it was the right choice for us. The connection between you and your baby is sacred, and we recognize that. As we explain to our 2 ½ year old daughter, every family looks different, and having a family via open adoption is normal for us now. If you select us, our stories come together and yours becomes a part of who we are. All the different roots and branches of our family tree will contribute to the love your baby feels, to the confidence in their identity and heritage, and to the pride they feel in themselves. Raising strong, proud children is the most important job of our lives, and honoring you is a part of that.



sincerely  
**Laura & Stephen**



## Our Story

We met on a rainy day in March 2004, attending orientation for graduate school at the University of Michigan. Our 20s were spent in traveling around the world, learning foreign languages and doing historical research. At the end, we had fallen in love with each other, and with Ann Arbor. We got married and decided to stay here after finishing school. We bought our house in 2012 and brought our daughter home in 2017. In 2019 Stephen's parents decided to move to Ann Arbor. They will be here full-time except for winters. We don't hate the cold but honestly, we can't judge their choices!



# About Laura

Laura grew up in Boston, MA, and lived in Maine and New York City before moving to Michigan. She grew up with one sister, who now has two children of her own. As a kid, Laura was a bookworm, played clarinet and sang in choirs, and looked forward to summer camp every year. She committed to becoming a stay-at-home mom with the arrival of Clara, and loves it. Watching Clara learn and grow every day is more fun than she could have imagined. In her free time, Laura attends a book club, loves cooking Asian food, baking pies, and watches too much Netflix.

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# About Stephen

Stephen grew up in Baton Rouge, LA, which has inspired a love of cooking Cajun food and barbecue since he now lives 1100 miles away. He and his brother are 13 months apart in age, and spent their childhoods as playmates in video games, sports, and Legos. His brother now lives in Tampa, FL with a son, and his older sister lives with her two boys in Des Moines, IA. There is a family reunion every year, which everyone looks forward to. He spends his weeks working as a safety consultant, helping to write warnings and instructions to prevent people from getting injured. His weekends are spent reading science fiction, smoking or grilling meat for big family dinners, and teaching Clara to swim.





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## ***About Clara***

Our daughter Clara is the light of our lives. Her joy for life is on full display every day. She loves to run, kick balls, do gymnastics, and swim. She is also happy to read, sing along to music, and play Doc McStuffins with her dolls. We surround her with mirrors and role models that embrace her culture. Laura has found mentors for doing Clara's hair and caring for her skin. We talk to Clara about her adoption, celebrate her place in our family, while honoring her First Mother and siblings. She can't wait to be a big sister!

## ***About our Community***

We live on a small, quiet street in Ann Arbor with an exceptionally close group of neighbors. We have block parties a few times a year and all the kids play together in the street. As a stay-at-home mom, Laura has had the opportunity to build a large, diverse circle of mom friends and organizes playdates and playgroups for Clara regularly. On any given day, you will find Clara with friends at the library, at the pool or playground, in music and dance classes, or at the Arts Center in Ypsilanti. We feel so fortunate to be raising children in this community with all it has to offer.

