

Pete, Kendra and Hannah

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Dear Birthmother,



Hi! My name is Hannah, and I am 5 years old. I have been waiting my whole life to be a big sister. Thank you for taking the time to read about my family and me. I hope you will fall in love with them as much as I love them. I don't know what it is like to give a child up for adoption, but I know that my family will love your child with all their heart. Thanks for considering me as your child's big sister. I can't wait to meet her or him!

Where does my family begin? Well, technically, it began on June 8, 1996. That was the day my parents were married. But before I write about my family, it may help you to know a bit about my mommy and daddy like how they grew up. They lived very different lives.

First, let me tell you about my daddy. He is the youngest of four boys! Yikes! Four boys! He grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago. His home was filled with lots of love, laughter, music, and sports. Through the love of my grandparents, my daddy learned that a little hard work did not hurt anyone. Daddy learned that giving of your time and talents to the church was a way of thanking God for all he had given his family. Grandpa worked as a CPA during the day and was the church's synod treasurer at night. His entire time was voluntarily given to the church. Grandma was able to stay at home and raise the boys. When they were well into school years, she went back to school and became a nurse. They are very learned people and a great witness for Christ. My new brother or sister is going to love my grandma and grandpa! They have taught me that with a little work, you can accomplish a lot!



My uncles all played a musical instrument; however, Daddy just couldn't get into the music thing, but he loved sports. He enjoyed playing football, basketball, hockey, and baseball. In fact, he loved baseball so much that he played baseball throughout high school and college. The majority of my daddy's activities revolved around church. To this day my daddy is involved with the Church Properties committee, has been the church president, and built the preschool.

My daddy is very talented. I don't think there is anything he can't do! For one, he is a teacher. He teaches technology education to junior high kids. Some say he is very brave for teaching that grade level! I think it's kind of neat. Daddy also coaches.

He has the ability to coach football at the junior high level and then, he coaches baseball at the high school level. Consequently, he has a great gift of teaching. But, you know what I really think is amazing about my daddy? He can build things! I am not kidding! He started building furniture in high school and from there that led into houses! You would not believe the things he has done to my house!

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The best is that he made my dressers in my room. I have a place to put my clothes. What is really cool is that when something breaks, he can fix it. Or, at least, he is not afraid to tackle the project until it is fixed. He has taught me that with persistence, I can persevere.



My mommy grew up in a small town in central Illinois. She is the youngest of four, too! A very short part of her life was spent on a dairy farm. But, after awhile, being in town was better for my grandparents. You have to realize that “town” means about 5,000 people. She was born and raised in the same town. Because my grandparents were farmers, she learned the importance of saving, making due, hand me downs, and helping out. As a young girl, she learned about responsibility. She had a paper route from the age of 7 until she was 13! As a little girl, school was not important to her until she reached the age to play sports. Grandma always said, “If you want to play, then you must pay with good grades!” Mommy was always a bit of a tomboy. Once sports began in her life, school was all she thought about. She kept her grades up and volleyball and track were her favorite activities. In fact, she worked hard and earned herself a volleyball scholarship to pay for college. Grandpa and Grandma sure did instill in Mommy the importance of working hard.

My mommy was surrounded by music growing up, too. Grandma plays the piano and organ. Grandpa played the guitar. Aunt Janice plays the flute. Aunt Tana played the French horn. Uncle Todd played the trombone. Mommy played the saxophone. Yep, it was a regular band in that household! In addition to all the musical instruments, they all sing, too! These talents had a huge impact on the church they attended. They often were the special music for church and most of them continue giving of their talent to this day. Grandma always said, “God gave you the talent, now use it to glorify Him!” Perhaps that is why Mommy sings to me so much! Music is a wonderful gift.

Mommy has many talents, too. Currently, Mommy is a high school guidance counselor. She enjoys her job! You should see her turn a room of talking teenagers to students who want to learn about what their future may hold. She loves to help students find their passion and helping students map out a plan to accomplish their goal(s). In years past, she taught junior high science, coached volleyball and track, and now serves on various committees at school and at church. She is my Sunday school teacher. Being a country girl at heart, she is an undercover seamstress. She learned all about homemaking through a club called 4-H. I bet she has more hidden talents than I even know! Most of all, she loves to spend time with me!

My extended family is quite nice. My cousins on my daddy’s side are a bit scattered. My Uncle Dave and Aunt Lynda and their children Nathan, Andy, and Sarah live in Australia. I hope to be able to go and visit them one day. My Uncle Scott lives near Washington D.C. He is single and loves basset hounds! Uncle Jon and Aunt Kim and their children Zach, Ali, and Bekah live in northern Indiana. Grandpa and Grandma live in the same town as I do! That is so much fun. Out of all my cousins, Bekah and I are the closest in age. We always have loads of fun when we are together. Additionally, my cousins on my mommy’s side are not as spread out as Daddy’s side of the family.

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My Uncle Danny and Aunt Janice and their two children Shelby and Christian live in Louisiana. However, my Uncle Jeff and Aunt Tana and their two boys, Zach and Jake, Uncle Todd and Aunt Terri and their two children Hallie and Matthew live in the same town as my grandma. My grandpa died before I was born. Unfortunately, I never got to meet him. I hear he was quite a character! Hallie and Matthew are closest in age to me. When I visit my mommy's family, small town life is a lot of fun. I am blessed to have such a wonderful family.



So, you see, having parents who grew up in two different places pays off quite nicely! I have the best of both worlds. When visiting family, I get a little taste of the country and a little taste of the city! It's a great life!

And, me, what am I like? Well, I know what I like and what I don't! Analyzing is a verb I do a lot of. I like to sit back, watch the action, and then jump in with caution. Perhaps there is a bit of a scientist in me! Train rides are also a favorite of mine. Many times I will ask to be rewarded by taking the train with Mommy and Daddy to the city or out to the suburbs. It is so much fun. As mentioned before, I love to visit with my extended family. I get to be with cousins who are like brothers or sisters to me. Although Mommy and Daddy are very sports oriented, they really don't push me to do the sports they pursued. Currently, I take gymnastics and dance. I am in tap and jazz dance lessons. I am getting really good at fishing! I am not even scared of worms! I enjoy boat rides and staying at the cabin. I love animals. The zoo is one of my favorite places to visit. But the best animal of all was my black Labrador dog, Ripken. We were buddies. I miss him a lot.

Our home is a combination of a 1940's farm house and a modern make over provided by my daddy and mommy. When my parents bought our house, they chose it because of the nice size yard and it's potential. Not to mention, it felt like home the minute they walked into the house. I love it! I have a swing set that is waiting to have someone else come and play with me on it. In addition to our cozy home, Daddy has been building a log cabin. It, too, feels like home. It is on a beautiful lake and we have tons of fun there. My parents have worked hard to provide me with environments that enrich my life every season of the year. God has provided me with so many blessings. Having a home with lots of love and laughter is a true gift.

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Daddy, Mommy, and I like to do a lot together. Aside from what has been mentioned, we enjoy playing board games, reading picture books, going to Sunday school and church together, building our cabin, riding bikes, sledding, watching movies, listening to music, and doing crafts. In other words, we like to be active and spend time with each other. We love to have fun. We laugh a whole lot! As you can see and read, my parents love me and I think they have plenty of love to give to your child. I know I do. Don't get me wrong, I know it will be an adjustment. I have had my Daddy and Mommy all to myself. As mentioned before, I am blessed. God has given me a family who loves and cares for me. He will bless the next little one who joins our family too. I am sure of it.

Thanks for reading my letter. I will keep you in my prayers.
God bless you and your baby,
Hannah (Pete and Kendra)
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Our House



Our Swing Set



Our Cabin



Lots of Fun with My Extended Family

