

## Rich, Deanne & Kaleigh

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Dear Birthparents,

We want to start out by letting you know how emotional we are writing this letter, and can only imagine how emotional you are reading it. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to do what you are considering. It also takes a great deal of maturity, and for that, the baby you are carrying is so very lucky. We would like to share with you a little about ourselves and hope that you will consider blessing us with the most precious of gifts.



Our names are Rich and Deanne and we have a two-year old biological daughter named Kaleigh. We live in the suburbs of Chicago in an almost new 4-bedroom house. (It had to be new because Rich can't fix a thing!) Most importantly, our home is filled with love, laughter and silliness and our dream is to share these blessings with another child.



### Rich on Deanne

Deanne was fortunate enough to come from an incredibly close-knit family. It was a very traditional upbringing -- her mom stayed at home and her dad went off to work everyday. Her parents were completely devoted to Deanne and her brothers, Mark and Bryan, and always encouraged them in everything they did. Even though they are all grown now, her parents continue to be a wonderful source of support.

My wife often talks about her happy childhood, especially her summers spent at their cottage in Lake Geneva, WI. We spend time up there now with Kaleigh and I know it makes Deanne so happy, and somewhat nostalgic, to be able to share this special place with her. Kaleigh already loves riding on Uncle Mark's boat, splashing in the waves at the beach and enjoying a juicy corn-on-the-cob at the local Corn and Brat Festival.





Deanne was your typical tomboy growing up and loved playing all kinds of sports with her two older brothers. She excelled in volleyball, basketball and softball in high school and eventually earned a full athletic scholarship to play volleyball at Florida State University. (Go 'Noles!) There she earned a degree in marketing and later went on to earn a Masters in Business from DePaul. I know she loved

her time in sunny Florida, but she chose to move back to Chicago to be near her family, where her heart has always been.

Professionally, Deanne worked for many years in the medical sales industry, but was happy to “retire” once she became a mom. I know having a stay-at-home mom meant a lot to Deanne as a child and we are blessed that she is able to do the same. She now spends her free time fundraising for the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, coaching her niece’s softball team, reading and watching reality TV shows like *The Bachelor* -- her favorite guilty pleasure!

Deanne is quite simply the most amazing person I have ever met. She is smart, beautiful and really cool! The things that endear me the most however, are her ability to love, her devotion to family and her silly, playful sense of humor. Whether she is remembering all 17 nieces and nephews on their birthday, planning an anniversary party for her parents or dancing with our daughter to the latest Rihanna song, she never ceases to amaze me. I know that Kaleigh and I are extremely lucky to have her and we want nothing more than to share this amazing woman with another child.

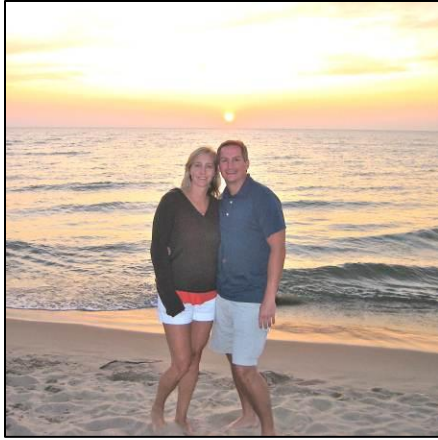
### Deanne on Rich

Rich grew up in a large family, with two brothers and four sisters. What makes his story unique is that his father died in an accident before Rich’s first birthday, and sadly while his mother was pregnant with his little sister Christine. Growing up without a father was difficult, but Rich made the most out of an incredibly tough situation.



As a kid, Rich loved sports more than anything, and that allowed him to find male role models in the form of coaches. These influential coaches instilled in him a drive and determination to succeed. This determination led Rich to Illinois Wesleyan University where he played football, ran track and majored in Business Administration.

Today, Rich is a well-respected manager at a mutual fund company. I have so much admiration for Rich as a professional – he’s smart, he has a great work ethic and he truly enjoys what he does. But it is how Rich is as a person that I admire most. He is easy-going and always upbeat, and happy to lend a hand to the people in his life.



Rich likes to play basketball and go to Bulls games in his free time. He also never misses a Bears game, and his favorite game-watching buddy is Kaleigh. In fact, Rich beams with pride when she joins him decked out in all her Bear’s gear – complete with a Devin Hester jersey and pom-poms!

Rich is my best friend, my love and quite simply the funniest guy I know. He believes it is his mission in life to make me laugh everyday, which most often happens even before we are out of bed in the morning. He also loves to make Kaleigh laugh, as it is the sweetest sound either one of us has ever heard. I could watch them play together all day – both of their faces red from giggling so hard.

#### Rich and Deanne Together – Eventually

We met the good old-fashioned way -- in a bar! We dated for several years before we ultimately decided to end things because neither one of us was really ready for marriage. While we went on with our own lives, we both often thought of the other as “the one that got away”.



As fate would have it, we happened to run into each other again six years later. We immediately knew we were meant to be. We will be celebrating five years of marriage this year and still can’t believe our good fortune! As they say, timing really is everything.

We tried to have a baby right away, but after a couple of years without success we realized God had a different plan. It was a difficult time, but since we talked about adoption prior to getting married, we already knew what our next step would be. We wanted a house full of children to love and it didn’t matter how God brought them to us.



We immediately started working with a social worker when Deanne became pregnant with Kaleigh. It was a surprise of a lifetime! She has been such a blessing to our family and we thank God everyday that she came into our lives.

### Kaleigh

Kaleigh is your typical, happy two-year old – she loves Dora and Mickey Mouse and her favorite word is “No!”. She keeps her days busy with story time at the library, jumping in her bouncy house and coloring everything she can get her hands on, including our floors! Kaleigh leaps at the chance to hang out with other kids, especially her buddy Braden, who lives across the street, and her cousins Nicole and Bella. Having her very own little baby brother or sister to play with all day long would be a dream come true!



Our home is located on a beautiful tree lined street that is loaded with kids. One of our neighbors has three adopted children and it is amazing to see what a beautiful family they are. They are somewhat inspirational to us as we move along in this process, and we hope that maybe one day we can inspire another family as well.

We like to joke around and say that the town we live in is just like “Mayberry”. We have a beautiful park with a sledding hill, some of the top-ranked schools in the state and an ice-cream shop all within walking distance. We are members of the Catholic Church, where we attend mass and fun family events.

The area we live in has so much to offer and we like to take advantage of it all – the zoo, the Children’s Museum or even a quick train ride into the city. But most of our favorite moments are when we are just simply relaxing in our own backyard with family or friends. For us, it really doesn’t get any better than that.



Thank you so much for taking the time to read our letter. We hope that you can see we are a happy and loving family who is eager to bring another child into our home. If you feel that our family is a good fit, we will make sure your child knows the courage, the love and selflessness you showed in making this difficult decision.

All the best to you and your baby,

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