

Dear Birth Parent(s),

I want to thank you, deeply and sincerely, for considering the possibility of allowing your child to be adopted. Your willingness to put your child's needs ahead of your own is courageous indeed, demonstrating your ability to love another in a selfless manner; and your careful effort in searching for and selecting an appropriate family for your child highlights your desire to ensure that your child will be well taken care of. I only hope that you find me and my unique situation a suitable offering for the life you wish for your child.

About Me

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and I grew up in a nearby suburb. After graduating from Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, I attended St. Norbert College, where I majored in both English and Political Science in preparation for attending law school. A year later, though, I enrolled in Loyola University Chicago to earn a graduate degree in English, so I could share my love of learning with others as a college professor; partway through, however, I realized that I needed a stronger background in teaching itself, so I switched to a master's degree program in Educational Psychology. After graduating, I taught at a community college and a liberal arts college before returning to school, at the University of Iowa, to earn a doctoral degree in Educational Psychology; all the while, I found myself serving as a mentor, or a surrogate "big sister," to many of the students I taught, especially young women. Since then, I have been affiliated with two universities in the University of Wisconsin system, the most recent in the southeastern part of the state. My current position allows me to split my time between teaching and administering programs for incoming students, so my year-round work schedule is both flexible and manageable.

About My Extended Family

I am single, never married, because I have yet to meet a man with whom I want to spend my life. Nonetheless, I have an extended family that keeps me busy. My father and mother, both retired, still occupy the house I grew up in, and my four siblings live nearby. My older brother is single (albeit divorced), and my younger sister is married and has three daughters. (I gave each a nickname meaning "beautiful" when born, so she and her husband have Bella, Jolie, and Shana.) My younger brother also is married, yet he and his wife have two sons and a daughter. (They, too, were nicknamed at birth: The boys were given names of friendship, Pal and Buddy, and the girl was given a name of beauty, Leila.) My youngest sister is single and never married, like me.

Much of my time is spent with my nieces and nephews, either attending music recitals and sports events or simply "hanging out." One of my favorite activities is to have them – sometimes singly, sometimes with siblings – spend a weekend with me, so I can lavish attention on them and let them know how special they are. (I am fortunate that, even during their youngest years, I was living no more than a few hours away.)

I appreciate that my family enjoys spending time together, often for a celebration of some sort, but also for no reason at all. Our times together usually involve food: My mother enjoys cooking for a big group, and we all enjoy eating what she prepares. These times, however, frequently include an activity, be it swimming or engaging in outdoor endeavors when the weather is good, as well as watching movies or playing board games when the weather is not. All the while, good-natured teasing – coming from all and directed to all – can be heard.

About My Lifestyle

I live in a two-story house, with a postage-stamp-sized yard in front and back, on a quiet street in the city of Racine. I am close to a neighborhood park that offers outdoor play equipment in the summer and a hill for sledding in the winter. I get along well with my neighbors both north and south, often helping them take care of their lawns or driveways (with them returning the favor). I am near enough to a grocery store and a pharmacy that I could walk to each, and I am only a few minutes away from nationally known stores and locally owned shops.

Away from my job and my family, I spend my time in rather usual ways. When I am with friends, I enjoy sharing a pot-luck style meal in one of our houses or going downtown to a specialty-cuisine restaurant. Additionally, I appreciate their company when going to a local art exhibit or simply seeing what is available at a nearby mall. When I am alone, I enjoy visiting the public library for a newly released work of fiction or window-shopping while moseying along city streets.

I am a practicing Roman Catholic, fortunate enough to live less than a mile from my church. I attend mass regularly, either here or in the Milwaukee area with my family, and I participate in parish-sponsored events. I have taken great comfort from my faith throughout my lifetime, particularly in knowing that my well-being, and the well-being of those I love, is not my burden alone, and I look forward to continuing to express my faith in the ways I interact with others.

About My Interest in Adoption

I am interested in adopting a child so I can contribute to the healthy growth of another human being. I intend to care for my child's needs in a nurturing and loving environment characterized by respect for my child's individual differences. I realize that while some moments will be exhilarating and others will be trying, I will be assisting my child in developing into the person that he or she is meant to be.

My intention is to raise my child in an open manner, providing age-appropriate information about adoption throughout his or her lifetime. I will encourage my child to have the type of relationship he or she wishes with his or her birth parent(s), always emphasizing the love and courage demonstrated in making an adoption decision.

I anticipate that my child, having been adopted by a single woman, may encounter some difficulties that other children, having been adopted by a married couple, may not encounter. Because of my situation, I am fully aware that it will take a special person to choose me as an adoptive parent. I know, though, that I am capable of providing my child with a life full of interesting experiences, and I greatly look forward to having the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

Suzanne