

# Tammy & Geoff



Dear Birthmother,

We cannot imagine how difficult a time this must be in your life. We want you to know that we think you are a brave woman making a courageous choice for your child. We very much appreciate you reading our letter and considering us.

The most important thing you need to know about us is that having your child in our home and in our hearts would be the most wonderful gift in the world. We would dedicate our lives to making your child happy and we want you to know we are open to staying in touch with you, to assure you that your little one is thriving. We would like you to feel confident that your child is growing up happy and well loved. We'd be happy to send photo/letter updates to you over the years and have phone conversations and in-person visits if this is something you would like.

Let us take a minute to tell you about ourselves: we fell in love in college. We dated for six years while traveling, learning about each other, and building dreams together. We got married in a beautiful old church and began building our life knowing that children would be our biggest blessing.

After three years of trying, one painful miscarriage, and multiple doctor's visits, we learned that my ovaries had stopped working and we could never have a child on our own. After sitting with our grief and loss, we realized that the most important to us was having a child to love, regardless of how that child came into our family. We now believe this is the way our family was destined to grow and are hopeful that you might help us make this dream come true.





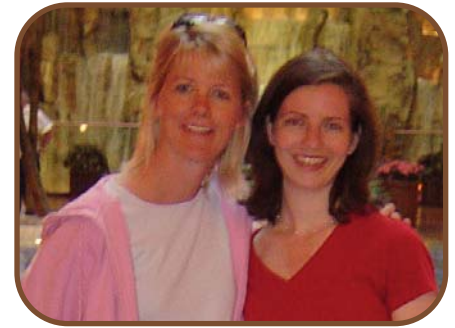
**Geoff with nephew Jack**



**Tammy with niece Jillian**



**Tammy and Geoff with their  
nieces Jillian and Melanie**



**Tammy and her sister Alison**

We both grew up in close knit families with a great deal of love and affection. Geoff's parents live ten minutes away from us and every week we enjoy family dinners, outings, and adventures. While my family is not as nearby, we are very close and get together often. Our large extended family is thrilled that we will be bringing home a baby. Family gatherings are frequent, fun, and full of love.

We've created our home with children in mind. The first room we redecorated was the nursery — it has a little bassinet in it that gets the morning light and an antique rocking chair for calming late night tears and soothing sweet bundles back to sleep. Our house is up the street from a great elementary school and we look forward to walking our child to school every morning, visiting the neighborhood park, and to going to play dates with neighborhood friends. Geoff particularly looks forward to taking our little one to the gym where he coaches basketball. Every summer our town hosts carnivals and festivals and we look forward to those along with taking our child to Red Sox games, to the library, and traveling. We also look forward to spending evenings helping with homework; we both went to college and have already started college funds for our child — we deeply value education and plan to support our child in whatever career they choose to pursue.



**Our home**

We are both extremely lucky to have found fields of work that we love. Geoff is a landscape architect who designs and models outdoor space to bring beauty to homes and neighborhoods. His job keeps him outside all spring and summer and he hopes to share his love of the outdoors with his child. I am currently getting my doctorate in pharmacy and will begin working as a pharmacist in late 2009. I love being in health care, and chose the field of pharmacy because it means I can have part time hours so I can spend my time & energy raising our child. Geoff's mother Elaine cannot wait to take on the role of full time Grandma and will be helping me at home for the first few months after the baby arrives. After the first few months, Grandma will take care of the baby for the few hours I am at class. Geoff is also lucky to have a flexible work schedule and can flex his hours so that he can share in the care of our child and also work from home. Our first priority will always be our child.

Our weekends are full of activity — in warm weather we have done volunteer work helping to build houses and more recently, I volunteered at the local Senior Center. We hope to instill in our child the value of giving back to our community.



When not studying or working, we love to visit with family and friends, I enjoy baking, and we always look forward to our weekly family game nights. Summer brings vacations at my brother's home in Nantucket. Some of my best recent summer memories are building sand castles and swimming in the ocean with my nieces and nephews. These sun drenched days always end with a trip to the ice cream parlor, and sometimes make us long for the days when we can share these times with a child of our own.

When we picture raising a child, images flash through our minds — splashing in the bath tub, reading bedtime stories, clapping at first steps and garbled first words, taking vacations to the beach and Disney World. Our most important goal is that our child always knows how much we love them and how much joy they bring to our life. We will work hard to make sure they also know how much you love them and how amazing you were to make the courageous choice to share your child with us.

*From Geoff:*

*How we met and our relationship:*

Our journey began 15 years ago on a dimly lit path in Amherst, MA. A beautiful but shy young girl met for the first time an innocent and gawky young man. This blind date had no choice but to succeed. After all, what is meant to be is meant to be! Since that night we have encountered many highs and a few lows growing closer and stronger with each twist and turn. We have graduated college, began new careers, joined together in marriage, watched a parent pass on and grandparents do the same. We have added a puppy to our family, welcomed in newborn nieces and nephews all while struggling with the pains and uncertainties of infertility. We've watched godchildren grow, volunteered our time in the community, established a comfortable life, and settled into a nice home. But one thing is missing, and that is the presence of children.

We were married in October of 1998. Even though we both wanted to be parents we made sure we talked and thought everything through before we started our family. We read some books, discussed how we would approach parenting, then 2 years after we got married we started trying. We tried for many years to conceive a child but were unsuccessful. We again took some time and came to the conclusion that we can't wait to be parents and we are enthusiastically grateful for the opportunity to adopt a child. We definitely grew together the most from our infertility. We want more than anything to be parents. We will love and treasure the gift of a child more than words can do justice. Our appreciation for this opportunity is great. We are ready!

*Geoff's Family/Geoff:*

I have a very strong family, both in values and faith. My family (mom & dad, younger brother and his wife, my aunts and uncles and my close friends) all live within 30 minutes from us, which will be an asset to any child that joins our loving family. My mom and dad, married for 35 years, have had the most influence on the man I have turned out to be. They have always been there for me and have given me support in all of the decisions I have made. Whether it was my dad going to my games and practices to my mom teaching me how to hang a new closet door just recently, I could and continue to always count



**Jillian and Melanie with Grandpa and Nana (Tammy's Dad and Stepmom)**



**Geoff golfing with his Dad and his brother Andy**



**Geoff's Mom and Dad**



**Tammy's brother John with his son Jack, Tammy's Dad, Brother-in-law Ed, and Geoff**





**Geoff and Melanie  
on Nantucket**



**Dinner with Tammy's family on our Ireland vacation**



**Tammy feeding the ducks  
with nephew Jack in Ireland**

on them to be there. That is the most important comfort a parent can provide a child and I will do the same for ours. They are looking forward to becoming grandparents! My brother has one of the biggest hearts of anyone I know. He and his wonderful wife will be a fantastic uncle and aunt to our child. They are trying to build a family of their own and the timing couldn't be better. This means our children will grow up together, like we did with our cousins, which made childhood a very fun and precious time.

I have lived in Massachusetts all of my life. I have met, gone to school with, worked with and for many admirable people. I am still close with a few friends from my high school years. I graduated college with a degree in landscape architecture and now I spend my professional days designing and constructing gardens for private residences. My profession affords me the flexibility to ensure I am there for my child, a model that has been set by my employer. They consistently display the family values I will instill in my children. In my spare time I enjoy watching, playing, and coaching sports (especially basketball and golf). For the last seven years I have spent every winter coaching two basketball teams with my dad. I enjoy photography, and traveling, with the best trip I have taken occurring last year when I went with Tammy's family to Ireland. It is safe to say that the underlying theme in my life is family first. I cannot wait to share these values, experiences and emotions with my new daughter or son!!!!

### *Geoff on his love...*

I cannot imagine my life without Tammy. She is a loving, caring woman whose heart extends to all people and animals alike. Her calm analytical mind that keeps me grounded daily. The quality I admire most about Tammy is that she does not judge people. She inspires me every day to be the best human being that I can, and supports me with her unconditional love. I also admire her honesty. These traits as well as her intelligence will certainly make Tammy a wonderful mom! I cannot wait to share that with her.

Tammy also has a strong family that I love! She has a wonderful dad and step mom who has supported her in all that she does. Tammy's love and admiration for her dad is remarkable. His love, wisdom and thoughtfulness have provided Tammy with a great set of values. We've seen him be an amazing grandfather, and he tells us often he's eagerly awaiting being one again. Tammy's older brother has also been a major influence to her. From day one she has looked up to him with a love and respect that I can only hope my brother has at least half of for me. He is a wonderful older brother to her and has been a positive presence of support through our trying times of infertility. He too has a tremendous family with a great wife and two adorable children whom I enjoy playing with. That takes me to Tammy's sister. Words cannot describe how much Tammy's sister means to her but I can tell you what she means to me. They have one of the tightest bonds I have ever been around. Take all I said above; add in understanding, compassionate, and nurturing, and you have Tammy's sister! It is her ability and determination to be a great mom that has me excited to be a parent. I've watched her and her awesome husband raise two wonderful little girls. They are naturals and may or may not know, that they have provided us with many



invaluable approaches to parenting. These are the people in addition to my family that our new daughter or son will get to be around. Again, family is the underlying theme to the success of Tammy and I as individuals, to the success of our marriage and will be an integral part of our happy future.

*From Tammy:*

Geoff has mentioned many things that are important, and we share all those dreams together. His love of life and devotion to family will make him the most amazing Dad & I cannot wait to share in that. I have loved him for so long, and completing our family with children will be the final piece of the puzzle we have worked so hard for & struggled to complete.

I met Geoff in my freshmen year of college, when a friend set me up on a blind date for a college dance. I will never forget walking down the hill to meet Geoff, and instantly making a connection with him. We talked a lot that night, so much that I don't even think we got a chance to dance! He shared my love of animals, and my deep connection to family. We made another date immediately, and the rest is history!

Geoff proposed to me under a gorgeous sunset on the beach of my favorite place on earth, after a day-long bike ride & picnic. I unquestionably said yes & looked forward to our future! We married in 1998 in an Episcopalian church in Worcester. We had discussed in length our religious preference. Geoff was raised as a Catholic, and I was raised as an Episcopalian. We felt it was important if we had children that we practice the same religion. After visiting each other's churches as well as others, we decided that we would practice Episcopalian. Geoff went through classes & participated in a confirmation, and we have been members of a local church since then.

We both knew we wanted children. The trauma of our infertility was awful. We had built our lives on the premise of having a family, from the choice of careers to the location of our home. After much research and thoughtful consideration, we decided that adoption was the blessing we were looking for. We realized that becoming a family was what was important to us, not getting pregnant. We realize we are blessed for having this option, and look forward to the day when we are lucky enough to share our love & future with a child.

My desire to be mom was strengthened by my relationships with my nieces and nephews. They love their Aunt Tammy & I love being there for them. Being a mom is always something I've dreamed of. While it saddens me that my Mom will not see me being a parent (she passed away from cancer a few years ago), it comforts me to be able to pass on the values & traditions that I learned from her.

I cannot imagine the struggle of what you are going through right now. What I can promise you is that if you choose us to raise this child, he or she will never want for love, comfort or stability. He or she will be cherished and valued every single day of their life.

Very truly yours,

*Tammy and Geoff*

