



Hi there! We are *Sam and Tonia*

It is an honor for us to write to you today. We are in awe of your courage in pursuing adoption for this beautiful baby. *It is clear that you love this child so much, and we admire your bravery and selflessness.* We hope this letter will give you an inside look at our lives, and the love and support we can offer your child if we are blessed to be entrusted with his or her care.

About us

We live in central Iowa and have been married since 2012. We met when Sam was working for a small-town newspaper covering high school sports, and Tonia worked in high school youth ministry at a church in town.

We dream of being parents, of growing our family and sharing our love with a child. This is a dream we've pursued for the past eight years, but the path to parenthood has been long and difficult. Through our struggle with infertility, and the realization that we would not have biological children, we realized that God was calling us to adopt. In an odd way, this news gave us peace and comfort, and encouraged us to more fully pursue God's will for our lives.



*We dream of being parents,
of growing our family and sharing our love with a child.*



Sam with his niece



Tonia with her nephew



Together, we make a strong team.

Tonia is outgoing, thoughtful and a flawless planner, always looking ahead to what's on the horizon and formulating a plan. Sam is intelligent, patient and incredibly giving. *We love nothing more than spending quality time together*, whether it's exploring the nearby bike trail, tackling home improvement projects, or cooking up tasty meals (pizza and steak are our favorites) to host friends and family at our house. In recent years, we've also discovered a love of travel and a joy in sharing new experiences together. We've hiked the Rockies, chowed down on authentic Mexican food in the southwest, watched racehorses gallop in Kentucky, and caught Chicago Cubs games in stadiums around the midwest. *This love of travel and learning about all that the world has to offer, is something we hope to share with our children.*



About Tonia

written by Sam.

Tonia is the kindest person I know. She has the ability to connect with anyone, young or old. She's as comfortable talking with our 5-year-old niece and 2-year-old nephew as she is the 80-year-old volunteers at the church where she works as a receptionist. She asks questions and finds a way to relate to everyone, no matter their background in life.

She provides a wonderful example of selfless love every day, putting the needs of others ahead of her own.

She looks for the good in every person and in every situation and strives to lift up instead of tear down.

She makes you feel valued, heard, and loved.

Even her hobbies are geared toward serving others. Tonia loves to sew and she makes stuffed animals for nieces, nephews, and our friends' children. She's already created a giraffe for our future child! This is something she enjoys doing with her mother and she is excited to share it with our future children as well.



The same qualities that make her such a wonderful wife and person will make her a great mother. I can't wait to see her excel in this new role.



Random Facts about Tonia

1. Her love for organization goes way back. As a child, Tonia asked for - and received - a filing cabinet for Christmas.
2. She's never met a houseplant she didn't like, even brown and brittle ones, which she loves to nurse back to health.
3. From quiches to cookies to cakes, she loves to bake - and is great at it!



About Sam

written by Tonia.

There are a million adjectives to describe Sam: joyful, heartfelt, loving, compassionate, honest, nurturing; however, I'd like to give you a small glimpse of his amazing heart.

He is thoughtful and prayerful when he speaks. He listens well and only offers advice when asked. He views others with compassion, not judgment. Sam is a family man, settled, grounded and calm. He has a childlike joy that is both refreshing and energizing. He loves to play, and when we are with friends' children, he is first on the floor to play and begs for just 5 more minutes. Every winter, he's outside playing baseball with snowballs, naming his pitches as he aims for his target.

In his spare time, Sam loves to ride his bike. We live a couple blocks away from the local bike trail which provides connections throughout central Iowa and endless areas to explore. He's also an avid vegetable gardener and loves to share that experience with his nieces and nephew. *I can see him out there with our future children, carefully showing how to plant bean seeds and pick ripe, juicy tomatoes straight from the vine!*



Sam is a family man, settled, grounded and calm.

Random Facts about Sam

1. As a child, he loved to wake up early on Saturday mornings just to watch cartoons and eat cereal. He looks forward to doing that as a dad, too!
2. He played the cello from fourth grade through high school and still fiddles around on it today. He may have also Googled "lullaby songs for cello" a few times!
3. He loves to vacuum designs into carpet, much like the mowed designs on a baseball field.



First and foremost, we will offer love. If we're chosen to be adoptive parents, we promise to spend every moment loving, providing for, and caring for this child as best we can. We know it will not be easy, nor will it be perfect, and some days incredibly difficult. But we will spend every day trying.

We are a stable and strong couple with a beautiful home and life, but there is a piece missing in our puzzle: a child. We are financially secure – the only debt we have is on our home – and we have money in savings. We have already started to save for our future child in whatever direction life takes him or her.



What we hope to offer a child



Both of us are blessed with jobs that we love. Tonia works for a church, providing mother's hours and great benefits, including the ability to bring a child to work! Sam works for the state of Iowa. The pay and excellent benefits have provided stability and allowed us the opportunity to pursue adoption and raise a family. *Plus, we both work only 10 minutes away from home!*

We look back on our own childhoods and would love to create a similar environment for any child who comes into our home: *an environment of playful fun, making memories, an environment of love, honesty, trust and encouragement to make their own decisions.*



Some of our favorite traditions that we hope to pass along include long summer days visiting Tonia's family's lake house, where we soak up the sun, take boat rides, play card games and enjoy quiet nights on the deck watching the water. On Thanksgiving, we gather with Sam's ever-growing extended family - 27 people at last count! At Christmas-time, we gather with friends to build gingerbread houses (and eat a little candy), bake cookies with Tonia's aunt, and tour around town enjoying Christmas lights and sipping on Chick-fil-A milkshakes. Christmas Eve brings 7 p.m. Mass at church, followed by opening presents and eating shrimp cocktail at Sam's parents' house. Easter always includes Mass and an epic egg hunt, and in our family on your birthday, you get the birthday cake of your choice before making a wish and blowing out the candles!

A bit about our families, after all, we spend a lot of time with them!

Sam is the second of four siblings. His older brother lives in New York with our nephew and-sister-in-law, and he has two younger sisters and two brothers-in-law who live nearby in central Iowa along with our 11 year old niece. His parents still live in his childhood home just five minutes away from us. All are excited about our desire to adopt.

Tonia's mother has a lake home an hour away from us and splits her time between Iowa and Kentucky where Tonia's brother, sister-in-law and three wonderful nieces live. We always look forward to Fourth of July get-togethers at the lake house when they visit! Unfortunately, we lost Tonia's father in the summer of 2020. Our family will continue to honor him and the wonderful legacy he built.

In addition to the support of our families we have a wonderful support system in our church. *Our faith is very important to us! It is the foundation of our relationship.* We are very involved in our church community. Our faith is woven into everything we do, and we are eager to share it with any children with whom we are blessed.



Our Thoughts on Adoption



We know that every adoption story is different, and *we are committed to establishing a level of openness that everyone is comfortable with.* We will be open as to how your child became a part of our family, and that you loved him or her first.

No matter what, we promise that this child will always know of your immense love. *You are giving the gift of life, a truly precious gift!*

As you face this difficult decision, please know that both of you are covered in prayer and love by both of us over here in Iowa. We would be blessed to meet you and if you chose us, we would be honored to take part in this journey with you.

With love and respect, *Tonia and Sam*

