



Writing this letter has been one of the hardest things we have ever done in our lives. How do you express to someone who is going through probably the hardest time in her own life, how our hearts are bursting with such a love and yearning for a child? Some emotions can only be felt inside. But in this profile, we are going to try and tell you a bit about us and the life we will provide for your child. We thank you for considering us and continue to keep you and your baby in our prayers.

Marty

Mary

Job Description:

Account Executive for the Graphic Arts Business

Post Partum Doula

Education:

Bachelors of Art Degree, Major: Political Science

Bachelors of Science Degree, Major: Sales & Marketing: Fashion & Related Industries

Favorites:

Cartoon
Peanuts/Tom & Jerry

Cartoon
Curious George

Sport
Hockey

Sport
Skiing

TV Show
Prison Break

TV Show
Grey's Anatomy

Vacation Spot
Italy

Vacation Spot
Ireland

Dessert
Chocolate Chip Cookies

Children:
Jack (age 5)

About Us

Mary: My name is Mary and I am so excited to adopt a child. Marty and I have been married for 7 years. After the loss of our first pregnancy, we became pregnant again and had Jack in the summer of 2003. He is a light in our lives every day! We tried for 2 more years to have another child, but couldn't due to secondary infertility. After much soul searching and speaking with our priest, we decided that God's path to a child for us was through adoption. I have been reading several books about adoption, from parenting the adopted child, to what the birthmother experiences. From this reading, we decided that an open adoption on some level was what we would love to have.

I am one of 5 children and Marty is one of 7. I always dreamed one day of having several children. I met and fell in love with Marty because he is a kind, wonderful and loving man and father. His sense of humor is another reason why I fell in love with him. Sometimes we don't have enough laughter in our day, and he can always make me laugh! He helps us remember not to take too many things too seriously, that we need to have fun too! He is an excellent provider to our family and his values and beliefs make me proud to be married to him.

I recently began a new career as a post partum doula. This is a perfect fit, as my hours are when Jack is at school. I am able to help new moms with their newborns until ours comes home to us. I lived and worked in the fashion industry in New York City for a number of years before returning to Ohio to be close to my family. I am fortunate enough to have been able to be home and raise Jack. Well, actually, we don't stay at home too much! We love going on adventures, such as trips to the museum or the playground. I enjoy knitting, scrap-booking and walking and I love reading! I recently reread Ken Follet's Pillars of the Earth and his sequel World Without End. My favorite books would have to be Pillars of the Earth, Trinity by Leon Uris, and anything by Maeve Binchy or James Patterson!

Marty: My name is Martin and I am so happy to be adding another child to our family. When I met Mary, I knew she was the girl for me! I was drawn to her tenderness with children and animals. When we met she had a 10 year old dog Paddy and a 6 month old pup Fionnula. She is an extremely caring mother to our son Jack and to others around us. When someone is ill, or a new baby is born, she always likes to bring a meal to the family. She is very generous in this way, always giving of her time. I like to say that she truly lives with JOY: Jesus, Others, Yourself.

I am an account executive for the graphic arts business. I have been in sales for over 20 years and love the relationships I have built up with my customers over the years. I am a very detail oriented and organized person. Everything in its place! I spend a lot of my free time doing projects around the house, such as putting a dimmer on a light switch, which Jack loves to help out with. I am in a hockey league with 2 of my brothers and my brother in law, and I love being out on the ice. I am a big fan of Cleveland sports teams, although that can be hard at times!

Our House and Neighborhood

OHIO

We live on a wonderful street that is filled with children. Right next door is a family with 4 children that we play with just about everyday. There is always someone around to get a game going. We are in walking distance to our church/school, a park and shops. Jack loves to walk to school with the girls next door. Our home has 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths and it is our dream to fill the bedrooms with children. We have a large family room where we spend most of our time when inside. There is also a finished basement which is a playroom and Mary's sewing room. A large swing set with a fort is in our backyard and the kids are able to have fun on this even when it is covered in snow. Down the street is a sledding hill, which gets a lot of use during the winter. We have family and a wonderful group of friends that live in or near our neighborhood and come by often.



Our Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



Our Cottage on Lake Erie

Holidays are always a fun time at our house. We love decorating for them all, and having family over to celebrate. Traditions we have started include Jack's Halloween costume party, a neighborhood Easter egg hunt, Easter dinner for the family at our house, and a trip to the country to cut down our Christmas tree. St. Patrick's Day has always been a big celebration for Marty's family since he was a little boy. After going to church we all gather outside while the bagpipers are playing. Then we head downtown where we get a party room and where we can watch the parade if we don't want to go outside. It is a wonderful family tradition that is now a tradition for so many of our friends too.

We also have a small cottage on Lake Erie and we spend most of the summer there. Marty's parents also have a home in our association as well as his brother and his wife, who have 4 kids, and his sister and her husband just bought a cottage across the street. They have 2 children under the age of 2 and Jack can't wait to set up a pulley system from their house to ours so he

can send toys over to his cousin Charlie! We are always getting together for cookouts and trips to the ice cream store. Last summer Marty's sister Kate organized a treasure hunt on the beach, complete with the X marks the spot for the treasure! It is great to have so many cousins and relatives nearby and we feel very fortunate. Family is very important to both of us. We very much want another child to love.

Marty and his siblings also own a small farm house in Pennsylvania, which has just been renovated. It is in the country and is perfect for hiking, camping and creek walks. When we get to the creek, Marty likes to tell the tale he made up of the red-eyed snake who lives there! There is a large beaver dam, and all around you can see where they have left their mark when you find a large branch that looks like a sharpened pencil! Marty and Jack worked on building a tree fort this past winter and that was exciting and fun for both of them. It is close to several ski resorts, and we both enjoy downhill and cross country skiing, as well as snow shoeing in the winter.

Our Extended Families

Of **Marty's** 6 siblings, 4 of them live in our area. His brother Pat and his family live in Massachusetts and Kate and her family live in New York City, both great places for vacations! We get together regularly to celebrate birthdays and holidays. Another brother and his wife adopted 2 girls, so adoption is something familiar to our family. His parents, Helen and Tom, are very active and love to travel. Retired now, Helen takes classes at the local college and Tom works one day a week appraising houses. Tom has cousins in Ireland and in 2002 the whole family went over to visit and vacation! There were 26 of us in total, from age 2 to 72! In addition, they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and the whole family was able to get together for a vacation in Emerald Isle, NC for the event.

Mary's siblings also live in the area, except for her youngest brother Danny who lives and skis in Idaho. Her parents, Jack and Marianne, recently celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. Marianne recently retired from her job as a part-time secretary at a local grade school and Jack has his own recruiting business and also works part time at the Museum of Natural History. That is why our Jack knows the museum like the back of his hand! Brendan was recently married and he and his wife recently welcomed their first child, a little girl!



The Grandchildren on Marty's Side



Mary's Family Celebrates Mimi's Birthday

Our Pet



Finn Carrying Elfie On Her Back

Written by Mary: When I adopted my first pup, Paddy, about 20 years ago, my friends thought I was crazy. "A dog is too much responsibility. Why do you want to do that to yourself?" is what they would ask. Why indeed! If only they understood how much he gave me in terms of love, they would never have asked! I adopted Fionnula about 10 years ago, to give Paddy some company. It was at this time that I met Marty. He quickly grew to love my pups as I did, and when Paddy died, we grieved together.

Finn is the sweetest, most gentle pup. To this day, she lets Jack ride her like a pony. And one time I found him sitting next to her, with his toy planes lined up on her back, like a runway! She just sits and lets him play with her. When she has had enough, she will simply start to lick you and you generally move away! She is always a constant source of comfort. You can always tell her anything and it makes you feel better. Why indeed! Isn't it obvious!



Building the Tree Fort at the Farm



St. Patrick's Day Parade with Friends

Marty & Mary



At a Baptismal Party



On Vacation in New York City



Safety Town Graduation



First Day of Kindergarten

Dear Friend,

Writing this letter has been one of the hardest things we have ever done in our lives. How do you express to someone who is going through probably the hardest time in her own life, how our hearts are bursting with such a love and yearning for a child? I wish I were a poet, so I could find the words to tell you about this feeling. And we imagine that what you are feeling now, you cannot put into words either. Some emotions can only be felt inside. But in this letter and profile, we are going to try and tell you a bit about us and the life we will provide for your child. We are going to write it from our hearts, because that is where your baby will always be, in our hearts.

Although we cannot fully understand what you are going through emotionally right now, we believe that people come into each others lives for a reason. We hope your baby is what brings us all together. If you choose us as the adoptive family, please know that your child will be loved with all our hearts. We want our children to feel safe and loved and happy. We want them to know they can be anything they set their minds to, and that dreams do come true.

A typical day at our house when Jack is not at school is to get up, have breakfast and make our plan for the day. If it is sunny, we may head to the zoo, where we can get our exercise walking and he loves to see all the animals. We usually bring a friend and pack our lunch. Raining? Maybe we head to a museum, like the dinosaur museum, as he calls it! And maybe we stay at home with a friend and work on projects with Play-Doh. He and Marty love to work on projects around the house together and they play hockey and basketball outside. Jack loves to watch the Noggin channel, which is great because they are age appropriate shows. On the other hand, he also loves Pokemon. All in all, we are basically just a regular family with a lot of love to give.

We feel truly blessed with all God has given us. We pray we are blessed yet again with another child to add to our family. We will love and cherish your child and raise him or her to be the best person they are able. With the love and support from our families and friends, we will welcome your child into our family.

Your child is a most precious gift and we will be honored if you choose us to raise your baby. We want your baby growing up knowing all about you and your family, if that is what you want. He or she will have questions as they get older, and we hope that together with you we can answer them. Adoption will be an open subject in our home and we want your child to be proud of us and of you.

We promise to love your child with all our hearts, just as we love each other and Jack. We will send pictures of your child as they grow up, playing, laughing, sleeping. We would like to plant a tree in our yard when your baby joins our family, and send you pictures of him or her each year growing up next to the tree. And they will know it will be your special bond with them. They will be raised to love and respect you for the sacrifice you made for them.

We cannot imagine a more important decision than the one you are now making. We pray you find a family that you feel is right for you and your child. If you feel we might be that family or if there is anything else you would like to know about us, please let us know.

Whatever your decision, you remain in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Marty and Mary

Letter from Jack: *Hi! My name is Jack and I am 5 years old. I am going to be a big brother one day. I say a prayer to Jesus to please bring us a baby. It takes a long time to get a baby. I will teach my baby brother or sister all about Pokemon, Curious George, playing hockey and making things with Tinker Toys. I will show him or her my favorite animal at the zoo, JoJo the elephant, and we will say "hello" to David, the crossing guard. I have my toys from when I was little and I will give these to our baby. I love my stuffed animal friends and Elphie is my favorite and I already picked one out for the baby! I will share my toys and all my books. We love books and read stories everyday at bedtime and I will let my baby brother or sister pick one out too! My favorites are Owl Moon and The Magic Treehouse stories. I will do things to make the baby laugh, because that makes a happy family. I can't wait until I am big brother! Big hugs, Jack*

