

Dear Birthparent,

Thank you for choosing life for your baby and for taking the time to get to know us. We hope that we can somehow make this decision less difficult for you, if even in the smallest way, by sharing with you the story of our life and what life may be like for your baby. The adoption of our daughter Alayna has been our greatest blessing. We are now praying for another child to love and are confident that we will provide just as much love, attention, and stability for a new baby as we have for our first child.

Brad and I have been married for eleven years. We are best friends and truly enjoy spending time together. Some of our best memories involve getting together for cook-outs with family and friends, attending LSU games, and traveling. We have fun playing cards and board games. Of course, we also have our own separate interests and hobbies. Brad is very athletic and enjoys golf and basketball. He also likes to cook and do woodworking projects in his shop. I enjoy singing, playing the piano, and gardening. I also bicycle and go running on a regular basis.

Over the years we have worked hard to establish a great environment in which to raise a family. We live in a neighborhood full of young couples with children. We have a spacious home with a large backyard, complete with a swing set and playhouse. Our jobs are stable, flexible, and family-oriented. Religion has had a positive influence on our values and morals. We attend our Catholic church regularly and recognize the importance of faith. Eight years into our marriage and after having grieved, prayed, and struggled with infertility, we realized that God had chosen for us to build our family through adoption.

We adopted our daughter, Alayna, at birth in June 2006. She fit so easily into our little household that until that time consisted of only the two of us, our two cats (Oscar and Sadie), and our dog (Guinness). We were finally able to experience the overwhelming happiness from chubby little arms hugging our necks, sweet little kisses on our cheeks, and hearing the words “Mommy” and “Daddy”.

Alayna is a beautiful little girl, so full of love and energy. She loves the outdoors, so we spend a lot of time on the swing set, taking bike rides, planting flowers, and running in the yard. Her fearless, independent spirit has led her to look forward to our weekly Mommy & Me gym class. We read books, draw, paint, and cook together. Alayna also loves “helping” Brad in his workshop and riding on his shoulders when we go on family outings to the aquarium, museum, and zoo. Brad and I have a great relationship with our daughter. We have a good balance of fun, affection, and discipline. I have often heard people say that Alayna is lucky to have parents like us. But I think those people have it all wrong. Brad and I are the lucky ones.

Our families are very involved in our lives. We frequently get together for dinner, holidays, and birthday parties. One or two days a week, when Brad and I both happen to be working, my mom happily baby-sits Alayna. Alayna enjoys the swimming pool and tractor rides at Grandma and Grandpa’s house. There is a lot of fun at Mimi’s house, too,

playing beauty shop and baby dolls. With nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles nearby there is always so much to do!

Feelings that are simply indescribable arise when we reminisce on Alayna's first smile, first words, and first steps. Our ability to heal bumps and bruises with a simple kiss has been a thrilling experience. We get great satisfaction exchanging stories of Alayna's accomplishments with family and friends, hanging up her recent pictures and artwork at our workplaces, and watching with pride as she masters new things all by herself.

Brad and I are so fortunate to have such a precious gift from God in our lives. Alayna's birthmother, whom we have come to know and be forever thankful for, once said that our faith brought Alayna to life. She said that Alayna and God answered our prayers for a child to love. We hope that our prayers will soon be answered again, as we know in our hearts that our family is not yet complete. May God be with you and give you the peace and strength you need while making an adoption plan for your baby.

Sincerely,

Jenna and Brad