

# Lisa & Greg



Dear Birthmother,

We know this may be one of the most difficult times of your life as you search your heart for what you want for your child. We hope that by learning about us, you will feel reassurance that your child will be welcomed into a loving and caring family, who respects your place in your child's life. If chosen, we would cherish your child with all our heart, and we would always reaffirm your courage and love in making an adoption plan. We share your wish for a beautiful life for your child and look forward to having the chance to provide this. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for considering us.





**Lisa, Greg and Rebecca visiting the Seattle Space Needle**

Both of us have always deeply wanted a second child but we took a number of years to focus on establishing our careers and raising our daughter, Rebecca. We take delight in being parents and are both highly energetic people; we would love to raise a second child. We have a very loving, active and financially stable family life to share with a child. Rebecca is extremely excited to be a big sister and can't wait to teach a younger brother or sister all about our fun family traditions. Having children spaced far apart is not uncommon in our family; Greg's next eldest brother, Doug, is 12 years older and they have always been, and continue to be close. Lisa's mom shares a loving, close relationship with her older sister, who is also 12 years older than her.

We have talked about adoption for several years and have spent time educating ourselves. We know in our hearts that this is the right path. Many of Lisa's friends and co-workers have adopted, and Lisa's employer is actively supportive of adoptive families. In addition, two children in our neighborhood joined their family through adoption; and our pediatrician is an adoptive parent to two children as well. We are excited about growing our family through adoption, and can't wait to be parents again.

When we recall the delightful early years of raising Rebecca we understand what is meant by those who say life goes too fast. We long to experience again all the heartfelt moments and milestones that a new baby brings. Your child will feel the love of devoted parents who know how to raise a child with love, and who also know how to cherish each moment.

**LISA:** Our marriage has withstood the tests of a baby with colic, the ups and downs of early career building and the day to day challenges that everyday life brings. I have learned what a rock my husband is. He has done everything to help - late night feedings, diapers, middle of the night visits to the ER, cooking, household chores, etc. Throughout it all, Greg loves being a dad and eagerly anticipates the joys and challenges of parenting the child that we welcome into our family through adoption; he is just as excited as I am.

Out of everything in our 18 years of married life, one of the most defining moments in our relationship came when my husband supported my wish to relocate back to the east coast. Our daughter, Rebecca, was turning 3, and I didn't want to raise her away from our families; nor did I want to live away from family. Greg felt the same way, but he also had a great career as a tenured professor in electrical engineering, and was headed toward a promotion to full professor. This meant that if he continued his excellent teaching, he would have a job for "life". Leaving California meant he would give up tenure at a world renowned university. Our friends and colleagues were in shock when we shared our plans. No one could believe that Greg would disrupt his career so that we could move back East for family. To this day, I am still in awe of the decision he made for our family. Shortly after moving back to Massachusetts, I received a big award from my



**Lisa with her friend's baby**





**Enjoying a boat cruise in the San Juan Islands**



**Mountain biking with Lisa's brother, Adam, in Maine**



**Dining at our favorite Asian restaurant**

company. I had to stand up in front of 1000 people and give a short speech. I talked about the sacrifice my husband made and broke down in grateful tears on the podium.

We are blessed with the gift of knowing what both our priorities are (family) and that we can count on each other. Our greatest pleasure is in sharing our roles as parents. We have enormous love in our hearts for another child and are overwhelmed with the yearning to parent a second child. Rebecca, now age 14, is already talking about the big sister she plans to be and what joys (as well as toys!) she will share with a younger sister or brother. All three of us would be delighted to welcome either a girl or a boy into our family.

**GREG:** I can't wait to be a dad to a second baby. I love being a dad and am equally excited about a daughter or a son. I thoroughly enjoy spending time with our daughter, and look forward to doing the same with our new child. Some of my fondest memories of Rebecca's early childhood are showing her how to do certain things. I used to bike with her in the toddler bike seat on the back of my bike, and eventually, showed her how to ride a bike. These days, I help Rebecca practice softball, work with her on algebra homework, or show her how to make homemade bread (something I learned from my mom). However, I haven't yet been successful at getting her, or Lisa, interested in some of my other interests like magic, scuba diving, or playing the violin! But every summer, we have a great time splashing in the water at the beach, or tubing and sledding together in the snow during wintertime.

I can only imagine how wonderful it will be to have a new baby join our family! I am looking forward to raising the child, and sharing all that I can with him or her. I think I've learned a lot over the years, and realize just how precious family can be. I hope we have this opportunity to provide for and care for your baby with all our heart.

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

We love our community and the schools. We moved into our house 9 years ago, which is located on a cul-de-sac street in a family-friendly suburb of Boston. The original homeowners had 5 children, and we always felt this would be a happy home to raise our family. We were drawn to our community because of the quality of schools and the picturesque, historic setting. Our schools have received numerous awards: in 2006, the High School was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School by the federal government for achieving in the top 10% of state scores. This year, our High School was listed by Newsweek as one of just 20 Massachusetts schools in their ranking of top public high schools in the United States.



**Our home**

Our town is home to 3 public golf courses, including one that is accessible from our home via a short walk through nearby woods. During the winter, we enjoy sledding on this golf course and running with our dog. Because of all the wooded areas, we've been visited by deer, wild turkeys, birds of all types (including a recent owl), and rabbits. Our town sponsors all kinds of family festivals throughout the year, including a Pumpkin Festival, Geranium Festival, and a yearly Gingerbread House contest. Although there is a rural feel to the town, there are extensive sidewalks so we can go for long walks and family bike rides. Our 5 bedroom home is full of light, and is located on 3/4 of an acre, surrounded

by lots of greenery and beautiful oak trees which change colors in the fall. I (Greg) love to landscape and fix things, and Lisa enjoys decorating and designing.



**Walking Sammy on a nearby beach**

We take our Black Lab, Sammy, on hikes and long walks on the beach, and around a lake where we live. Lisa has taken knitting lessons and aerobics offered by our town. Our healthy lifestyle motivated Rebecca to stay active as well. She decided to join a nearby YMCA a few years ago, where we now exercise together. After doing several individual sports as a young child (skating, dancing, swimming), Rebecca transitioned to team sports, including softball, basketball, and volleyball, depending on the season. We spend family time going to her games, and helping her practice.



**Rebecca pitching in our town league**

We all enjoy doing craft projects, and this has been another fun family activity. When Rebecca was very

little, Greg built a puppet theater (which we kept) and we put on puppet shows. Another year, Greg bought a sewing pattern, and using his mother's sewing machine, made Rebecca a costume for Halloween (the other moms couldn't believe it). After Greg's mother gave us boxes of lovely antique buttons, we spent 2 years creating pins made from the buttons and selling them at local fairs.

We have lots of family traditions that we've established over the years, surrounding holidays and special occasions. Each year, we buy a fresh Christmas tree and decorate it with lots of homemade decorations. Greg is a fan of model trains, and has an extensive collection. He recently started showing Rebecca how to set up the trains at the holidays, so that they run throughout our living room and around our tree. We go to the White Mountains in New Hampshire each winter, and do lots of winter sports. Rebecca takes snowboarding lessons and we go tubing, skating, and skiing as a family. In the summers, we pick a fun family destination with outdoor activities. Since we enjoy mountain biking and being near the ocean, we have made several trips to Maine, Cape Cod, California, Mexico, Hawaii, and this past summer, Seattle and the San Juan Islands. We love ethnic food, and always explore new places to eat these foods whenever we travel.



Rebecca is in high demand as a babysitter, due to her skill and compassion with young children. She is always mindful of staying safe, something that has been reinforced during several Red Cross CPR and first aid classes she has taken. She recently was a counselor-in-training at a summer camp, and looks forward to doing it again. She is excited to welcome a new baby sister or brother into our family. She will be a loving big sister.

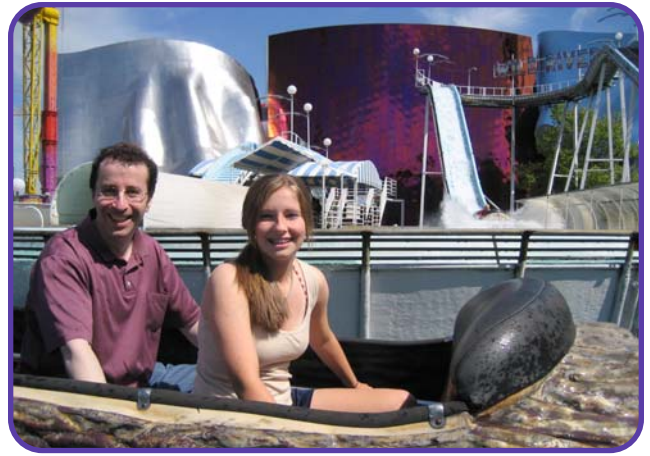
We have enjoyed working on our home to make it inviting and warm. Our backyard is wooded and private. Greg has landscaped the outside, and planted lots of flowers. We love looking at everything blooming. We sit outside on our new deck and patio, all 3 of us with our dog Sammy, eating under the stars, or just sit out and talk. We eat our meals as a family and enjoy making special brunches on the weekends. Rebecca makes pancakes and French toast.

## OUR FAMILIES

**LISA:** Growing up, people always said I had an "apple pie" family. My brothers and I still feel that way. We have 2 parents, who still love each other and just celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. My brothers and I are genuinely close and really enjoy each other's company. We had several dogs growing up, and as a result, all love dogs. My parents always found a way (through scrimping on other things) to make sure we had lessons for art, music, and sports, ate well, and were loved. They never put pressure on us, and raised all 3 of us to be happy, well-adjusted people.

We have a very close relationship with my family, which includes my parents (in NY), two brothers, a sister-in-law, 2 twin nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. One brother, Ira, lives in New Jersey with his wife and twin 7 year-old boys, and the other brother, Adam, lives in California. My brothers are very witty, and family gatherings are always filled with lots of laughter. My brothers are both in the computer technology field, and they are a frequent source of advice for maintaining our ever-expanding home office. They helped us set up a dedicated computer workstation for our daughter and our new child, and we have been accumulating lots of child-centered educational games for our new little one.

My parents relish their role as grandparents and build their entire schedule around seeing their grandkids. My dad is retired, and my mom will be retiring from teaching in a few short months - perfect for both of them visiting on an extended basis. My parents are looking forward to embracing their new grandchild once he or she arrives. Most of my family resides within a few hours drive of our home, with the exception of my brother Adam in California. Having lived in California as well, we plan to visit him and introduce our new child to their uncle and the beautiful Pacific coast, not to mention all the fun theme parks and attractions there.



**Rebecca having fun with her Uncle Adam**



**Lisa's family: her parents, two brothers and nephews**





**With Lisa's brother, Ira, and sister-in-law, Lydia**



**Rebecca reading a bedtime story to her cousins**



**Celebrating a birthday with Lisa's dad and her brother Adam**

My nephews enjoy a special relationship with our daughter, and look up to her more as a big sister than a cousin. Whenever we're together, Rebecca is always reading stories to them, helping them in the kitchen, playing ball in the backyard, and doing craft projects with them. They are excited about a new cousin joining our family.

**GREG:** Both Lisa and I grew up with siblings, and very much want Rebecca to have a sibling. I have a brother Doug who is 12 years older than me, and is an important person in my life. We don't get to visit as much since he lives in Phoenix, but we speak regularly on the phone. Growing up as a kid, I learned a lot from my brother, and cultivated many of the same interests such as photography, baseball, reading, and building model airplanes. We still share these common interests today. Our parents are now deceased, which has only increased the bond between us.

Some of my favorite times were spent with my Dad, since he loved deep-sea fishing, and was an avid stamp collector. As I watched him organize and catalog his collection, he always had a story to tell me about the history and events that the stamp celebrated. I also enjoyed the times my Mom let me join her in the kitchen to help her bake breads and cookies, especially around the Holidays. And then there were the annual family picnics we had with my aunt and uncle, going apple picking, picnicking, and lake swimming. These experiences made me want to share such times with my own children once I was married and raising a family.

Our extended family eagerly awaits the arrival of another child whom they can love and hold forever in their hearts. We look forward to witnessing first steps, first words, birthday parties, drawings to hang on our refrigerator door, playing ball and teaching them what love and kindness are all about, just as we are doing with Rebecca.

### **OUR WORK**

When we adopt, we plan to adjust our work schedules around our new child. Both of us are fortunate to have established ourselves in our careers. Our careers allow sufficient flexibility to spend a lot of time with our children, participating in activities, traveling, and just spending time together. Greg has been a university professor in electrical engineering for about fifteen years and his schedule allows him substantial time at home as a dad, including summers off. Lisa is a sales manager for a major software company and works from home; she's also able to flex her hours so that doctor's appointments, parent teacher meetings, and milk and cookies after school are part of the normal routine of our lives.



The child we are blessed to adopt will have one of us with him or her, full time, for a number of months after they first arrive. After that time, we'll be flexing our schedules so that we combine some part time child care, where she or he can play and socialize with other children, with focused love and care with one of us. Because we're already parents, we know how to make time to focus on home life, how to adapt our schedules to prioritize our child and how to give our child the gift of our attention as well as opportunities to spend time with other children.

### **REBECCA**

She delights us every day, and is incredibly nurturing and compassionate. She is focused on achieving well in school and has nice friends. This past year, we've had teachers and moms of her friends go out of their way to tell us what a wonderful person our daughter is. One teacher told us that "Rebecca is a beautiful person, inside and out" and that she expected her to make significant contributions one day. Rebecca is a source of great happiness for us, and one of the main reasons we want to add another baby to our family. We have actively involved Rebecca in learning about adoption, and she is thrilled to welcome her new sibling through adoption. Rebecca is quite artistic and has already leant her creative flare to helping decorate the nursery.



*With our beloved black lab,  
Sammy*



*Rebecca enjoying our new deck*

### **OUR RELATIONSHIP**

**LISA:** I was first attracted to Greg because of his gentle and compassionate nature, and incredible sense of humor. He was very aware of the importance of doing fun things together as a couple, and would often plan special events and getaways for us. One year, he booked us a surprise trip to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico and told me only to bring my passport. Another time he bought me a full length evening gown and surprised me with a romantic dinner on a boat. He is a romantic at heart, and will often cook wonderful, unique meals. Greg also appreciates many of life's simple pleasures, including spending time with family, cooking hot dogs on the grill, and eating ice cream.

As the years have passed, my love for Greg has only grown. He is a great listener and is always there to comfort me. These same traits have also made him a devoted and loving father to our daughter. Greg has a playful enthusiasm about him, and is like a big kid whenever he walks into a toy store or plays games with our young nephews. Because of his teaching background, he has instilled a love of learning and exploration in Rebecca. I know that Greg will be a wonderful father to our next child as well.

We feel blessed to have each other, a loving and compassionate daughter, a beautiful home, and a healthy life. The only thing missing is another child. We have held onto our handmade baby blankets, toys, crib, baby clothes, and strollers. These items constantly tug at us and remind us of our intense desire to have a baby. We can't wait to experience the joy that raising another child would provide.





**Greg stealing a kiss**

We have much love and wisdom to share with our new child. We value family above all else, and want very much to experience babyhood and raising a child again.

**GREG:** Lisa is my college sweetheart. We met while we were both attending Cornell University. Lisa was pursuing her undergraduate degree in pre-law/business, while I was finishing up my Ph.D. in electrical engineering. I knew she was the one for me immediately. Lisa's compassion for children and those less fortunate is what drew me to her. She has been a wonderful role model for our daughter Rebecca and will be the same for our new child. When Rebecca was quite little, Lisa and Rebecca made dolls to give to sick

children. More recently, Lisa has taken Rebecca to a soup kitchen to feed the homeless over the holidays, and has purchased new clothes and toys for children in foster care.

Lisa is in her element when planning fun family activities, from vacations, to family outings, to experiencing new cultural events. She has already started to collect the local "BabyTalk" magazines (with infant focused activities) for when our new little one arrives. Lisa maintains a close connection with the teachers at our daughter's school, and has volunteered in the classroom when Rebecca was very young. Lisa has a warm, engaging personality and I know that she will be a tremendous mom to our new child.

If you choose us to be parents for your child, we would give your son or daughter every opportunity for a happy, healthy, and full life. This includes the same type of advanced educational opportunities we have had. We are fortunate to have the financial resources to provide our children with the support they'll need to attend college and graduate school if they'd like to. We have already set aside college funds for Rebecca so this will not affect resources for our new child. We will be happy to provide photos and letter updates, or to listen to other ideas you have for keeping in touch.

We understand that this is one of the hardest and most important decisions that you will ever make. We can only imagine how concerned you are that the people you choose are the very best to raise your child. In this letter, we have tried to provide you with the information that will help reassure you that we can and will provide the love and security that you want for your child. Should you choose us, we will always convey to your child the wonderful opportunity you have given them. Our goal is to honor your child's past and preserve a connection with you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We would welcome a chance to talk with you and meet with you if you would like. To learn more about us or to speak with us directly please call Full Circle Adoptions at 1-800-45-ADOPT (1-800-452-3678).

With Heartfelt Respect and Admiration,

*Lisa and Greg*

