



*Heather
and Mark*

Hello,

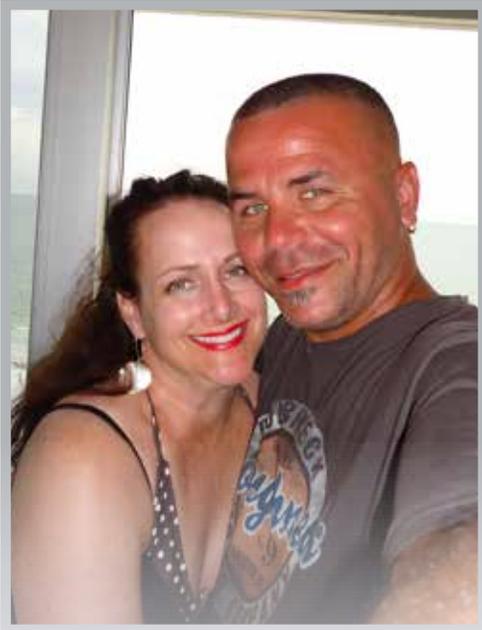
Thank you for reading our letter. We are truly appreciative that you are taking the time to learn more about us, and our desire to become parents. We have longed to welcome a baby into our family for many years. We admire the courage to consider placing a baby for adoption, and we respect the strength it must take. We hope this letter gives you a glimpse into our lives and the life we hope to offer your child.

About Us

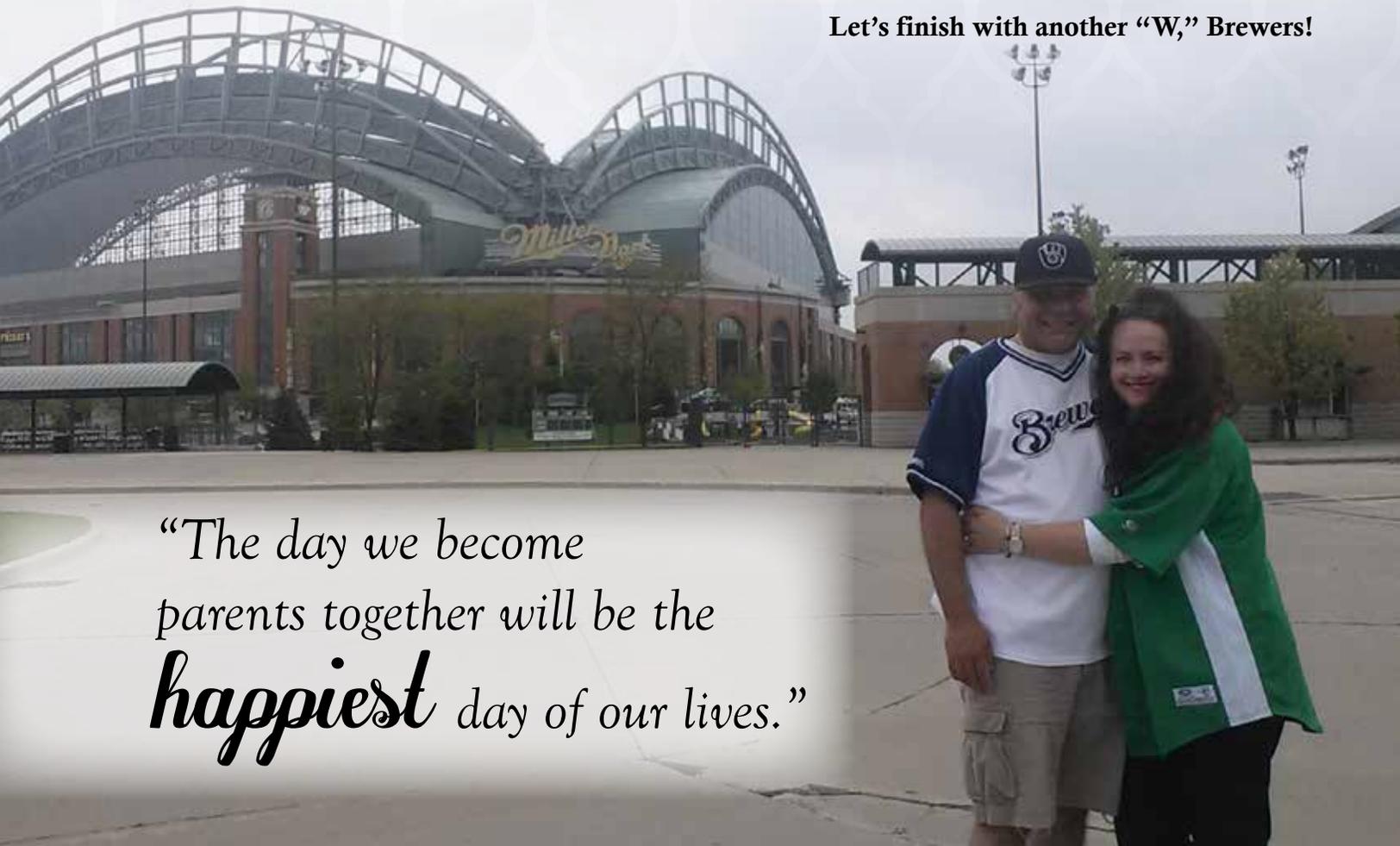
We met at a local Irish pub and have been together ever since. We couldn't take our eyes off of each other and wound up talking the entire night. It was definitely love at first sight. We dated for a few years, were engaged for a few more, and got married last year. It is the first marriage for both of us, and we are so glad we waited to find "the right one!" After work, we still look forward to seeing each other just as much as we did when we first met. Enjoying each other's company, offering mutual support and laughing often are what keep us so close. We are best friends, and rely on one another to get through life's ups and downs.

A typical weeknight includes preparing dinner to grill. We look forward to enjoying a delicious meal and long conversations on the patio. On nights like these we take time to notice the little things like bats dancing in the sky at dusk. In the mornings we love sharing coffee outside as the sun comes up.

We live in the outskirts of a major metropolitan area. Our home is on a calm street in a quiet neighborhood near many parks. We purchased our home with the intention of raising a family in a child-friendly environment while providing all that a large city on a lake has to offer. Even though we live in an urban area, we have enjoyed watching turkeys, hawks and rabbits raise their young in our back yard! We dream about discovering, exploring and creating new memories and life experiences together as a family. It sounds so fun to play games, ride bikes, go for walks and play outside with our child! Lots of neighborhood children and families are waiting anxiously for us to bring home a baby, and they are excited to welcome him or her.



Let's finish with another "W," Brewers!



"The day we become parents together will be the *happiest* day of our lives."



Siesta Key at sunset

**Time to feel the burn
in our home gym**

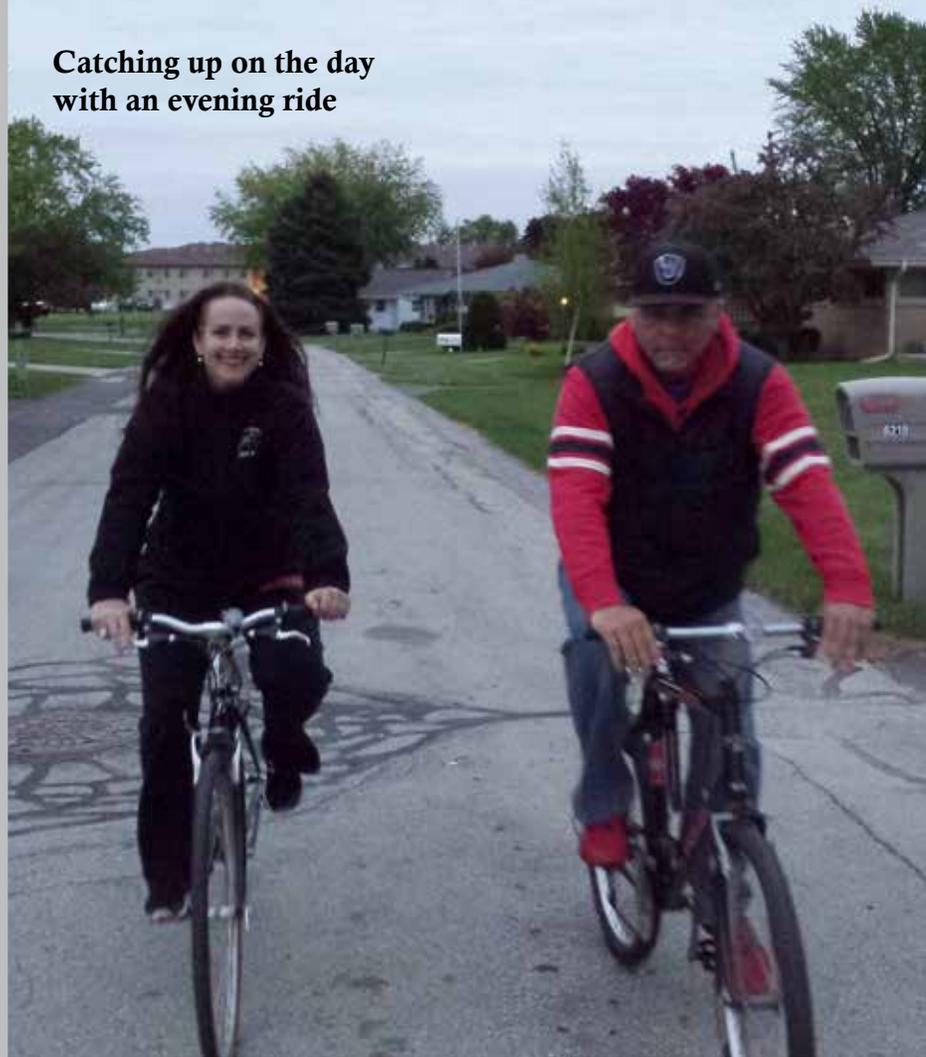


We put a priority on maintaining a close connection and spending some unplugged time together on the weekends helps us do this. We often enjoy everything our local college and professional sports teams have to offer. Traveling to warm destinations such as Florida, Arizona and New Mexico is one of our favorite things to do in the winter. We also like to work out, watch movies, entertain friends and their children and work in the yard together.

During holidays and vacations we like to spend lots of time with family and friends cooking, baking and watching a big game on TV. When Heather has time off we like to travel to beach destinations and other cities where our family and friends live. Time in the water, shelling, and trying new foods are usually on our to-do list. Mark likes to take in what the locals enjoy, and Heather hunts for bargains. Exposing our child to such experiences will make each trip all the more memorable.

The day we become parents together will be the happiest day of our lives. Our journey to become parents has been a long one, and we know that being loving parents is meant to be for us. We can't wait to start a life together that includes a little one.

**Catching up on the day
with an evening ride**



About Heather



**Grandma Flossie's
Scottish shortbread,
shhh, it's a secret!**



Heather is a beautiful person inside and out and her sense of giving defines her. I was drawn to her infectious smile and sense of humor the first night we met. She loves puns and tries to insert them (however cheesy) into conversations. I remember thinking I hit the jackpot with such a pretty woman who is funny, too!

She puts others first, and her relationships are solid because of it. Heather is never one to miss sending a birthday or get-well card or to check in on her family and friends. Knowing when people are in need comes naturally to her, and it is a part of her routine to initiate contacts the way she does.

Heather's caring nature has followed her all the way to the profession she chose. Her love of teaching is apparent each and every day. She loves her students and works hard to ensure their success. Heather spends time developing relationships with them through coaching volleyball and track and extracurricular activities such as Student Council. I know her students and student-athletes see what a fun spirit she has. Years pass and they will come to visit her in her classroom. She gets a kick out of that!

Maintaining long-term friendships is important to Heather, and she still has friends from elementary and middle school. When together, they spend time shopping, having coffee, exercising and spending time with their children. She makes crafts with the kids, reads with them, and has some Chutes and Ladders skills. Heather loves being around children, and I know she will be a very dedicated mother. Her friends' children run to her and tackle her with hugs when they see her.

A driven and motivated person, Heather sees hoops through which to jump as opportunities. She'll provide our children with varied experiences and education supplemented with all of her reading and writing know-how. Building relationships based on open communication and trust is something she's good at and will do with

our child as well. She views motherhood as the most important job in the world and will be great at it.

Lucky for me, Heather is a great cook who tries new Pinterest recipes all the time and I get to be the taste-tester! She takes good care of our home and loves to entertain in it.

I can picture Heather and our child playing in the backyard, reading stories, and cuddling by the fire at night. The same smile I mentioned previously is the smile I can see on her face enjoying such family time together.

The Indian subcontinent is a favorite 8th grade topic.



**Left:
Athletes
should jump
how high?**

“Heather is a beautiful person inside and out and her sense of giving defines her.”



**Only a few weeks
until the garden
bursts with beauty**



**In Madison at the Capitol
for a teaching conference**





Enjoying some downtime at dusk

About Mark

When Mark and I first met, our mutual attraction was so obvious to both of us, and as I got to know him better, his kindness and attentiveness were what drew me toward him even more. I knew there was something special about him and us. I remember thinking that he had the whole rough on the outside look with a soft, teddy bear on the inside thing going on.

He is very witty and charming. Hearing him laughing in the other room as he is watching something on TV or on a YouTube video makes my heart smile. He's got the best belly laugh. I know I laugh more now than I ever have because of him.

Mark has fostered many of his current friendships since childhood. He and his friends spend time working on cars, going to games and visiting with all of our families. He's a great friend and nurtures these relationships by helping his friends and always being willing to support them.

Full of charisma and a magnetic personality, he always makes a positive first impression. Making people feel special and heard is what he does best. Very knowledgeable about world events and passionate about social justice, I often kid that he should have gone into news reporting! I know Mark will use this information to teach our child about fairness and equality.

“Making people feel special and heard is what he does best.”

At Venice Beach, known for its shark teeth

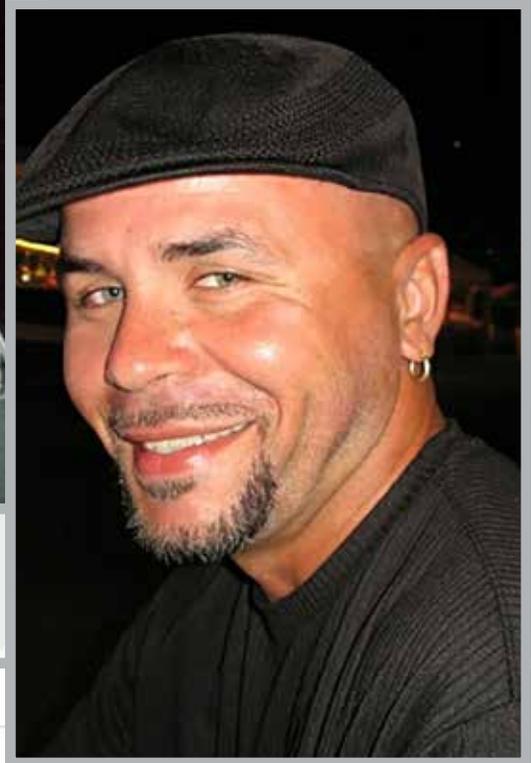




Car repairs are all in a night's work.

Mark is an avid Milwaukee Brewers, Wisconsin Badgers, Milwaukee Bucks and Green Bay Packers fan. He is never at a loss for conversation regarding the current season highlights. I know a basketball hoop will adorn our driveway for nightly sessions, and his love of sports will surely transfer into teaching about teamwork and leading an active lifestyle.

Movies and music are two of Mark's passions, which are fueled by fond childhood memories and happy times with siblings and parents that revolved around music and movies. I have never seen a movie collection as vast as the one he has. I love this creative side of Mark and how wide his interests are in both areas. I find the connections these have to his childhood very touching. Mark's strong work ethic says so much about his character and desire to provide for his family. I heard this loudly the first night we met. He understands that dedication, and striving to succeed is such a powerful life skill. Mark applies these attributes as an electrical worker. Working for the city in this position for over 15 years offers much stability and possibility. He is looked up to by his co-workers and administrators and takes pride in doing his job well. I know Mark will instill this value system in our child.



Backyard bocce ball, anyone?



Our Hopes

We hope to raise a child with love, support, opportunities and stability. We will instill values and traditions and foster faith and beliefs. We will offer them our guidance based on our experiences, while they pursue their own dreams. Our child will enjoy a lifetime of happiness with opportunities to experience different cultures and receive a great education. The stability of our careers will allow us to have a college fund set up as well.

With the support of our families and friends, our child will be loved and accepted unconditionally. Everybody we know is just as excited as we are to welcome our baby home. We look forward to all of the “firsts” such as first words, and first steps along with all of life’s rites of passage. Planning birthday parties, going to school functions, helping with homework and watching a child grow will be so fulfilling and exciting. Holding and supporting our child each and every day will be such a reward. We are so looking forward to transitioning from a couple to a family!

Thoughts on Adoption



**Throwback
time with
cat's cradle**



All smiles for an outlet mall adventure



**Above: Lake
country lunch**



**Family
fun -n- laughs**

Through the years of trying to conceive, our thoughts on adoption have always been positive. The idea of welcoming a baby into our family is what's most important and we've always been open to adoption. Heather's mom was adopted, which has given us the chance to experience the unwavering love and joyous family bond that adoption can provide. We are very comfortable with our decision to adopt and are looking forward to being a family.

Our adoption story will be shared with our child early on. Your story and the decision you made out of love and thoughtfulness will certainly be fostered and shared.

We are open to sharing letters and pictures with you over the years if that is something you are comfortable with. We will be honored if you consider us as possible parents for your child.

If you would like to learn more about us, please contact Cindy Simonson at A Loving Alternative, 1.800.556.5635.

With thanks,
Heather and Mark