



MONICA & TOM

Dear Expectant Parent,

WE ARE TOM & MONICA. One of our favorite quotes is by John Lennon; "Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans". You may never have expected this moment; making an adoption plan for your baby, looking for a family to meet. We may never have anticipated this moment; making an adoption wish for a family of our own, looking for an

expectant mom to connect with. Could we be looking for each other? We share your deepest hope of unconditional love for your baby and honor your soul searching and courage that has brought you to this moment. This is our chance to share a little of our lives and our hearts with you in hopes of a connection. We believe love will find a way and we hope you do too.

Monica and Tom

about US

We met fourteen years ago in Massage Therapy School. Tom was Monica's teacher. There was an instant connection and we quickly became friends. Monica loved Tom's red hair and his intelligence. Tom loved Monica's natural talent as a healer and her quirky sense of humor. After a few years it became clear to us both that we never wanted to live without hearing the other laugh so we got married. We've just celebrated our 10-year anniversary and love the life we've built together supporting each other's dreams and passions.

We love the city we live in and our cozy home. *We are blessed with long time friends and supportive family, but most importantly, we still make each other laugh!* We feel fortunate with the blessings we have but we feel sad that our attempts to have a baby have not been successful. Our infertility has been heartbreaking, but we honestly feel that the test of that struggle has deepened our love for one another. *We know kids bring joys and challenges. We are ready for all of it!*

FUN FACT ➤ Our favorite room in the house is the living room... where family time happens!



WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME A NEW CHILD INTO OUR FAMILY



FUN WITH UNCLE TOMMY!



WE LOVE CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS

JUST FOR FUN!

WE LOVE ROAD TRIPS! We often get out a map and decide our next adventure. *We both grew up going on family road trips every summer and plan on continuing the tradition.* We are lucky that Tom has summers off so the timing for family fun is perfect. We cant wait to make more memories with our child!

WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE HUNT FOR VINTAGE AND ANTIQUE TREASURE. Tom loves music and Collects Vinyl records. Monica loves all things old and vintage from old teacups & books to vintage artwork. She collects for fun and for her eBay business.

Tom was a childhood actor and appeared in a few movies and commercials. He still has his Screen Actors Guild Card and **WE LOVE ACADEMY AWARD SEASON WHEN WE ARE GIVEN ALL THE MOVIES THAT HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO PREVIEW.**



NOW & FOREVER



CHEERING ON THE HOME TEAM



SUMMER CONCERT ON CHICAGO'S LAKEFRONT



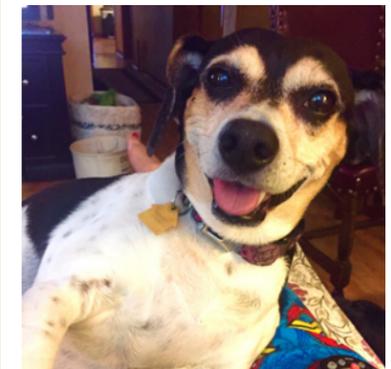
COSTUME PARTY WITH FRIENDS



VISITING OUR NEPHEWS IN FLORIDA

our PUPS

We have a home filled with love and the pitter patter of little feet, 12 little feet to be exact! *We are blessed to have adopted three rescue dogs.* Millie & Molly are sisters and are a Beagle mix. Merlin is our little boy. He is a Welsh Corgi. *All three of our fur babies are super gentle and love kids.* They have all had professional training; they are current with all their vaccinations and even have full medical insurance! These three sweethearts bring love and light to our household the way only dogs can and we cant wait to share this with our child.



THAT SMILE!

MONICA (BY TOM)

Monica, my sweetheart, is the light of my life. *There are many attributes that I admire about my wife but above all she is a caregiver.* She has made our humble house a home. She loves to garden & cook. *She will be the mom that has a warm meal waiting for family dinner time and cupcakes baked for the school fundraiser.* She will be the mom who massages tummies and makes homemade chicken noodle soup when our child is sick. Her creative talents decorate our home for every season. There are always fun art projects going on in the house and *her creativity has built a successful eBay business which will allow her to be a stay-at-home mom.* I love the way we balance each other out. She is my best friend and forever life companion and I know she will make a wonderful mother.

TOM (BY MONICA)

Tom is a Middle School Teacher. Tom's face lights up when he talks about the things that happen in the classroom on any given day. Tom's students often ask him about his own children. *When he explains that we are hoping to adopt there are always students volunteering to be our kids and come live with us. It's an honest testament as to how much kids love him.* I fell in love with Tom because of his great sense of humor. Sometimes he turns off the volume on the TV and will make up different voices for the characters. *Building family memories is very important to Tom.* He's always planning a family road trip or an outing to a baseball or football game. I am lucky to know Tom's heart and can say without hesitation that his deepest dream is to be a dad.

LOVE MAKES A *family*

We are blessed that Tom's parents recently moved from New Jersey to the Chicago suburbs. They can't wait for the new addition to our family making them grandparents for the third time. Tom has two brothers, both out of state. One brother lives in Florida with our two nephews. We visit them once a year or more and there are many fun trips to Disneyland, which we can't wait to share with our baby. *We love our nephews and have loved watching them grow; they are 7 & 9 years old.*

We are fortunate to have Monica's mom and sister right upstairs and are able to share daily family time that is so important. This will be the first grandchild in Monica's family and everyone is beyond excited! The holidays are a super fun crazy time. We have multiple get togethers and tons of food and laughter! Christmas Eve is celebrating the Italian Feast of the Seven Fishes, a Mackie Family tradition.

Everyone from parents to siblings to aunts and uncles are supportive and excited to go on this adoption journey with us. Know that our baby will be a member of a very fun, active and loving family.

our VALUES

We are committed to sharing with our child their adoption story, their life story. We are looking forward to sharing with them all we get to know about you. We are committed to finding a level of openness that feels right to both of us.



PUMPKIN PICKING A FAMILY TRADITION



DECKED OUT FOR HALLOWEEN!



TRICK OR TREATING WITH FAMILY



A KISS FOR MONICA'S MOM

HOME *sweet* HOME

We live in a modest brick two flat in a *diverse neighborhood on the Northwest side of Chicago*. We have lived in this home for 20 years and are confident in the comfort of our neighborhood. *We have a small fenced backyard* with an herb garden, which Monica loves to tend growing everything from peppermint for tea to basil & cilantro. *During the summer we have many family BBQ's* and Tom is the Grill Master making the best burgers and steaks. Monica's mom and sister live in the first floor apartment of the house. We live in the sunny lower level apartment.

There are many families in our neighborhood and we see kids riding bikes and playing outside all summer long. There's a big beautiful park a short walk from our house with a great *playground* and even a *sledding hill* for those snow days. We are close to Chicago's beautiful lakefront and zoo. We love our beautiful city and can't wait to explore it through our child's eyes.



in CLOSING

Thank you for reading this and considering us for the greatest gift we could ever receive. We hope that we've conveyed how happy we are to think that we could be blessed to share our life with your child and be parents. *We feel that life is beautiful, fun, precious and scary all at once, it's perfectly imperfect and we love every minute of it. We hope you feel a connection and that there's a reason that our paths crossed today.* We thank you for your courage & love you have for your baby in considering adoption.

Love, Monica and Tom