



**Carolyn and John**

## Our Letter to You...

Hello! We are Carolyn and John. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and are grateful that you are considering us as adoptive parents. Finding you through this process is the most important step we will take in completing our family. We deeply respect your courage and compassion for your desire to find the right family to love, cherish, nurture and celebrate your baby.

We hope in these pages to share with you the love, warmth and heart of our family and what we have to offer a little one. Knowing what it feels like to be in your shoes is impossible, but there's no question you love your baby very much and we will make sure that he or she always knows that. We are truly honored to be considered and to be a part of your plan in making this important life decision.



# Our Journey...

We met in 2002. On our first date, we realized that we had so much in common! We both enjoy spending time with family and friends and have a love for traveling. We knew right away that we shared the same family values and love of children. Carolyn was attracted to John's love of life, his creativity, and his ability to create his own success. John was attracted to Carolyn for her nurturing and playful nature, her intellect and maturity, and for her love of spontaneity. We were married in September 2005.



We have always known that we wanted a family. After our daughter Ananda was born, we faced challenges of getting pregnant with a second child. We have grieved lost pregnancies and continue to hope for another beautiful child for our family. With much effort, we have been unable to conceive another child. These challenges have brought us closer together and have given us a deeper understanding of our family values. We feel blessed to have our daughter and we are excited to have the opportunity to complete our family through adoption.

Our marriage is based on friendship, love, trust, open communication, respect, and belief in the other's higher good. We feel blessed and grateful to have found each other. We celebrate and respect our differences and truly enjoy all the things we share in common. We spend most of our free time together and with our daughter Ananda. We enjoy outdoor projects, such as working in our garden and we love to cook and bake together, especially during holidays throughout the year.



# Carolyn and her family

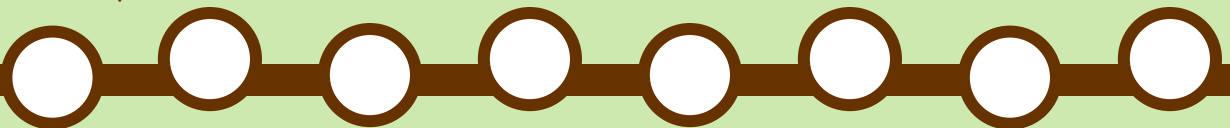
I was born and raised in a small town New York. I had a happy childhood and I always felt loved and nurtured by my parents. They always encouraged me to make the most of myself. Growing up, my sisters and I were taught to contribute to the household with chores, so the value of hard work and earning your way was something I learned early. Family was very important to my parents. The holidays were always spent with our grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The values of family, love, tradition and working hard supported me and my sisters in growing ourselves and in our families.



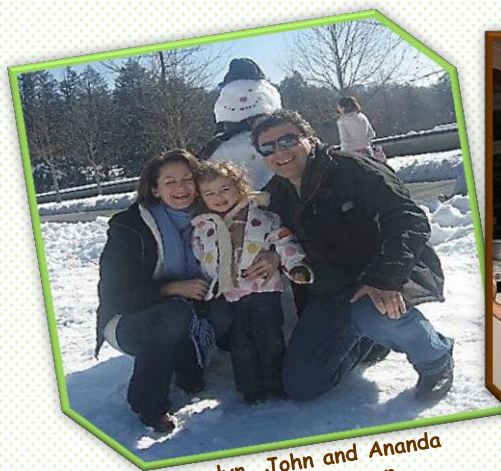
Carolyn with her sister Kathleen and Ananda



I have three older sisters, Laura, Kathleen, and Susan. Growing up, I was very close to my sisters. We played together, enjoyed family meals together and always watched out for each other. Our favorite time of year was summertime because we spent a lot of time at our lake house, where the four of us would play on the beach, swim, go boating, hike, and enjoy nature. My sisters taught me many things like how to spell, read, bake, ride a bike, and braid my hair. To this day, I have a good relationship with my sisters and their families. They all live in New York and we visit them several times a year. I am particularly close to my sister Kathy. We share many of the same interests, values and parenting philosophies. We are a great support system for each other.



I graduated from college with a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. I worked as a nutritionist for a few years before attending graduate school and earning a Master's degree in Nutritional Sciences. Later, I completed my education with a PhD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences. Before having our daughter, I was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at a local University, where I taught and did research on treatment and prevention of diseases through nutrition. Currently, I work part time as a research and curriculum consultant, so I choose the amount of hours I work each week. I spend the majority of my time and focus at home, where I absolutely love being a mom and homemaker for our family.



Carolyn, John and Ananda  
built a snowman



Carolyn's mom Carol  
and Ananda



Carolyn with her sister-in-law Tracy

If you were to ask my family and friends to describe me, they would tell you that I am not only a kind, nurturing, and thoughtful person, but supportive, playful, and adventurous, too. They would tell you that I love to laugh, learn and enjoy working with others. My hobbies include cooking, exercising, gardening, reading, and watching movies. I like going to museums, theatres, concerts, and learning about other cultures through art, theatre and music. Along with being in our neighborhood's Mom's Club, I enjoy volunteering at my daughter's school and being a room parent in her classroom.

I have a large extended family and we see them as often as we can, usually during the holidays throughout the year and during the summer at our lake house. They are excited about our adoption plans. They know how much we love children and how we want to grow our family.



# John and his family

I was born in New York, but raised most of my childhood in New Jersey. I was raised in a close-knit, caring family. I was in boy scouts and played soccer and baseball. I had many friendships at school with kids and teachers. Not only was I actively involved in high school as the class president, but I also played Varsity soccer and acted in the high school theater program.

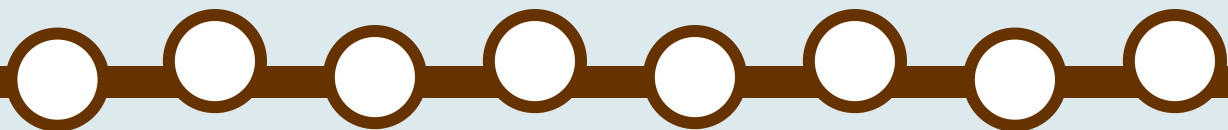


John with his mother Mary Ann and brother Michael



John with Ananda and Carolyn's mom Carol

I have one younger brother named Michael. We have always had a close relationship, even to this day. Growing up, he was my best friend. We played and spent most of our time together. Being the older brother, I taught Michael how to play a variety of sports, helped him through boy scouts, and was very protective of him. I was his best man in his wedding as he was in mine, and I am the godfather to his first son. We are supportive in each other's life and we are always there for each other. Michael and his family live in New Jersey, but we talk frequently. We see each other and our families at least 3 times a year and share holidays and traditions together.



I have an Associate's degree in Business and a Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Communications and Advertising. I am a Senior Vice President for a medical equipment company. I am responsible for the business development and operations of this company. I enjoy working with people, leading teams and mentoring people as they develop themselves.



John coaching soccer



John's soccer team



John with his nephew JP



John helping Ananda in t-ball

I consider myself a warm, passionate, fun-loving, determined, creative person. I am loyal to my family and I love doing "family things." My weekends are filled with family time, whether going to a park festival, visiting friends, going on excursions or working around the house. I am a big New York sports fan. I enjoy going to any New York Yankees baseball or any New York Giants football games. I love sci-fi movies and books, such as Star Trek and Star Wars. I coach youth sports [soccer and t-ball] and enjoy helping support and raise money for organizations, such as March of Dimes and our local sports council.

My extended family is very supportive about our decision to adopt. They know how much Carolyn and I love and enjoy children and how much we want to grow our family.



# Ananda

Ananda is our 5 year old daughter. Not only is she a very thoughtful and lively little girl, but she is also enthusiastic, articulate, sensitive and kind.

She loves to be with others, especially her cousins, and is always very excited when we are going to see her friends or our family. She loves arts and crafts. She is very active in sports, such as gymnastics, soccer, ballet, t-ball and swimming. She enjoys singing, reading, dancing, playing games, and spending time with her friends.

Ananda can't wait to have a little brother or sister. She talks about having a sibling quite often. She loves to play with her friends' younger siblings. We know she will be a great big sister!



Ananda and Grandma Mary Ann



Ananda with her cousin Theresa; they love watching professional soccer together!



Ananda baking with Grandma Carol



Ananda and her cousins



Ananda and her cousin Jonas



Ananda playing with her cousins





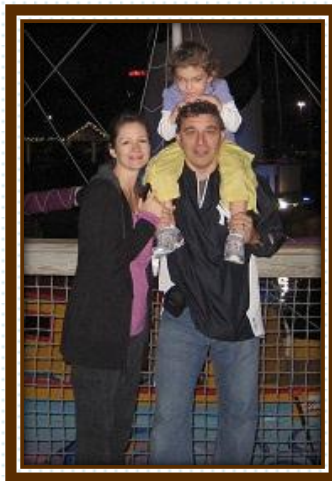
# Family Time

Spending time together as a family is very important to us. We love going to the beach, especially in Florida and North Carolina. We usually share vacation time with our families, whether it is going to Disney world with John's family or going to our lake house in Vermont with Carolyn's family. Our vacations always include fun excursions such as kayaking, boating, treasure hunts, and hay rides in the country. Highlights of our vacations are exploring the town of wherever we are traveling and learning about its people, food and culture.

Holidays are also special times for us filled with festivals and events, like Halloween at the zoo, pumpkin patches and hay rides, Christmas light shows, ice skating in the park, summer live music, and Easter festivals at the park. We especially love our own Christmas traditions that include baking treats, making crafts, decorating our home, wrapping gifts, and volunteering our time as family.



Family vacation in Disney World



Family vacation at Sea World in Orlando, Florida



Pony ride at Christmas Festival of Lights with dad



Decorating the Christmas tree



Carolyn and Ananda tubing at their lake house



Baking in the kitchen- a big favorite with mom



John and Ananda at the beach

# Our Home

We have a safe, comfortable home with 5 bedrooms, a playroom, and lots of living space. We have a big, fenced in backyard with a play set, sandbox and lots of outdoor toys. We live in a family-oriented neighborhood with friendly neighbors, and sidewalks where neighbors are always walking, strolling children, jogging, or riding bikes. Our neighborhood is peaceful, yet active and social. Our neighborhood has a mom's club that has a lot of family activities, like Easter egg hunts and costume parades and plenty of play dates for all the neighborhood children throughout the year. We live near several playgrounds, a ball park for little league baseball, a community pool, and large lake where we love to feed the ducks. We live in a city that offers so much for family fun, such as a zoo, an aquarium, a children's museum, and children's art and music studios. It is easy to get to anywhere in our city and this makes it easy to do many excursions and fun adventures.





# Your Child...

We will provide your child with a safe, nurturing home full of love and support. We will raise your child to feel comfortable about their adoption, respecting you and the difficult decisions you have made.

We will instill values of honesty, love, thoughtfulness, integrity, hard work and the importance of treating others with respect and kindness. We want you to know that your child will be respected, encouraged, and cherished in everything he/she does and we will give your child a life in which he/she will grow, develop and discover who they are from within.



We believe strongly in the value of education. We will provide an education that is well-matched to his/her needs and talents. We have the ability to have our child attend a private or public school, whichever is best for how they grow and learn. Our goal is to provide the best education possible for our children so that they can grow, excel and have the ability and confidence to pursue their dreams.



## In Closing...

We are very grateful that you are considering our family. Your child will be loved and protected in a house full of laughter, adventure and nurturance and will be surrounded by family, friends and a community who loves them. We hope that this book, with all the pictures of our lives and our home, has shown you all our love, joy, nurturance and support that we have to offer your child through our hearts and helps you in your decision to find the best family for your child. Thank you so much for getting to know us and for considering our family for this wonderful blessing!

Sincerely,

*Carolyn and John*

