



Maribel &
Stephen

Dear Mom,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time. You have made a courageous and beautiful choice, whether you choose us to help raise your child or another family. It is clear to us how much you love your child, which we know makes the decision you have made that much more difficult. Our hearts go out to yours.

As a mother, your story is vitally important in your child's life. We will tell your child their adoption story often, and you and your decision will play an important role in that story each and every time we tell it. We want your children to have a positive relationship with you, one which can include periodic, scheduled visits, and regular updates from us. It all depends on your own comfort level, and we will respect your wishes.

Traditions connect people to their pasts, rooting them to the soil of their birth and strengthening them as they move through life. Meals are especially important to forging these connections, and we would love to incorporate any of your traditions, family recipes, and stories that you'd like to share.

We want you to know that our love and support are with you in this challenging time. We will continue to pray for you as you move through the rest of your journey.



With Love!
Stephen and Maribel



Our Story



Stephen and I are high school sweethearts who have built a longlasting, loving relationship! What started as a friendship has blossomed into a partnership filled with love, laughs, and music. We've been together for over 16 years and have been married for 11. We are both so lucky to have found a loving, supportive partner in each other! Building our family has always been a passion that we've shared, and we are so thankful and excited to be starting the adoption journey!



A note about Maribel from Stephen



Maribel has boundless love, which she extends to people, animals, plants, and even inanimate objects. Maribel has intense determination – she once mowed the lawn in defiance of what we later discovered was Covid. Maribel, you might say, is determined to love, and determined that you should be swept up in that love. She’s a High School teacher and treats each student like her own child, defending them, laughing with them, and crying with them when they need it.

Maribel is a supportive partner and she makes me better every day by challenging me to be a better partner. I know that she will be an incredible mother and I can’t wait to see her in action with our children.



A note about Stephen from Maribel

The two attributes that stand out the most to me when thinking of Stephen are his kindness and his intelligence. Stephen will stop everything to help when someone is in need. He will also talk your ear off about the cultural implications of Shakespeare and Beowulf. He is truly the perfect partner for me. I admire his commitment to our family and to his education. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D in English and teaching at a university. Stephen has always been passionate about becoming a parent. He even has the dad jokes to prove it! I know that Stephen will make an amazing father. Stephen has made every bit of my life better, and I can't wait to see him do the same for our children!








Stephen's Family

I grew up with a close-knit family. I'm the oldest of 4, and am 11 years older than my youngest brother, so I have plenty of experience changing diapers! We also read lots of books, too, and sang and did math and played video games and all kinds of other fun stuff. My parents are absolutely thrilled at the prospect of grandparenthood, and my brothers and sister are excited to become aunts and uncles!



Maribel's Family



I am so blessed to live close to my family! We grew up as a family of laughing, loving sisters with two parents who guided and supported us as we grew. Mercy and Melody are definitely Aunt material and my parents are so excited to be grandparents for the first time! We are also very close to my extended family, and we get together to celebrate throughout the year.



We share a love for animals!
Our cat, Cleo, and dog, Daisy,
add so much to our lives! We
also work with our local animal
shelter to foster animals in
need.



We can't wait to introduce pets
to our new little family
member(s)! Daisy and Cleo
love spending time with small
children!

Our Friends

We have a set of very close friends who add so much to our lives! We love getting together at church, making music, and supporting one another through wonderful and tough times alike! They can't wait to act as extended family to our little one!



Adventures!

We love going on adventures together! Whether it is hiking on the weekend or planning a family trip to New York in the summer, we really enjoy exploring the cultures and natural surroundings of our world. We can't wait to bring our little one with us on all of these adventures!





Scotland



California



California



Wisconsin



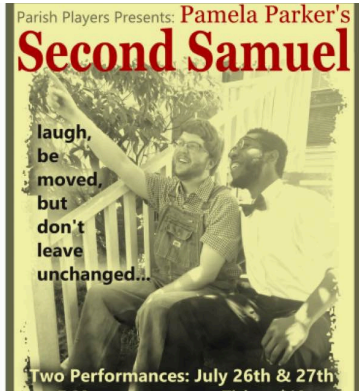
Cuba

Creativity!

We are both very creative people! Maribel crochets, paints, sings, and loves baking goodies with her family for Christmas. Stephen loves singing, writing songs, and reading. We have both acted in local plays. We can't wait to see how our little one will express their creativity!

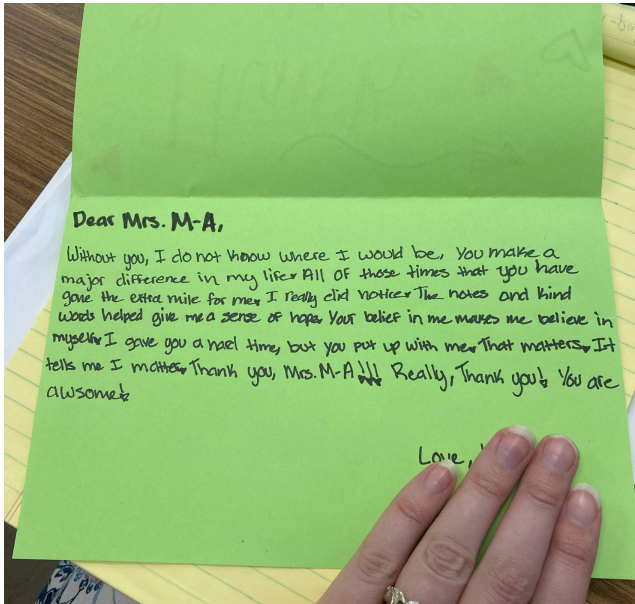


Music is a very important part of our life! Maribel grew up singing the blues with her father (right), and Stephen grew up performing in classical choirs and bands with his father and siblings.



LEARNING AND GROWING

Our home is filled with a love of learning! We are both proud nerds with a passion for knowledge and are excited to pass this love on to our children!



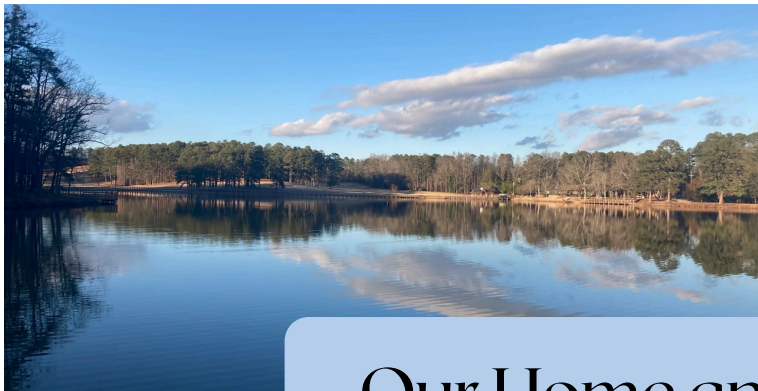
Dear Mrs. M-A,

Without you, I do not know where I would be. You make a major difference in my life. All of those times that you have gone the extra mile for me. I really did notice. The notes and kind words helped give me a sense of hope. Your belief in me makes me believe in myself. I gave you a hard time, but you put up with me. That matters. It tells me I matter. Thank you, Mrs. M-A!!! Really, Thank you! You are awesome!

Love,



We live in a beautiful, small-town community surrounded by mountains and waterfalls, making it perfect for outdoor adventures! We are also less than two hours away from multiple, larger cities, giving us all of the comfort of a hometown community and the advantages of a big city. Our home has plenty of room for our growing family to play and live with a great fenced backyard and open and airy rooms. We look forward to continuing to fill our home with laughter and love and filling our lives with adventure and fun!



Our Home and Community



Our Community

We have a love and dedication for our wonderful community. Maribel has worked with others to organize and revitalize the African American History Program at our school. We also love participating in lots of local festivals and activities like the music festival pictured on this page. We look forward to continuing to build community ties with our little one!



Stephen and Maribel were both born and raised in Georgia. Maribel is a kind, thoughtful, and generous person. She looks out for her friends and family, often giving of her time and energy to help them out. She thinks deeply about the problems that she encounters, confronting them head-on, but also gently and carefully. She follows her projects all of the way through, even when it's hard. She loves to laugh and contains an incredible amount of empathy. In other words, she not only thinks deeply, but feels deeply, too.

Stephen is quiet and thoughtful as well. He's funny, or at least he thinks he is! Though some might see him as serious initially, Stephen is someone who feels deeply and loves to laugh. He is devoted to his friends and family as well as to his passions, including making music and learning. Stephen is wonderful with kids and loves to make people laugh and smile. He is a very kind and intelligent person who cares about others.

We are both Christian and attend an Episcopal church. Maribel helps in the nursery and Stephen sings in the choir, which means that he is at church on both Wednesdays and Sundays. Our church has helped us to build lifelong friendships and we often get together to make music and memories with our fellow churchgoers and friends.

Maribel and Stephen both value education. Maribel has a Masters degree in Teaching and Stephen has a Masters in English and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in English. They both teach, Maribel at a local High School and Stephen at the University level. Maribel enjoys podcasts, reading, hiking, singing with her Dad (and sometimes Stephen too!), and crocheting stuffed animals. Stephen is a multi-instrumentalist who loves playing music as well as singing in the choir, running, and watching sports. We both enjoy participating in community events, such as our local music festivals and craft fairs.


We live in a rural community, one which has the small town feel with access to big cities. We are surrounded by natural beauty, with lakes and mountains and waterfalls all around us. Several state parks are within half an hour or so, as well as local community parks. We are part of a community which values its diversity and work to make sure that our broader area is aware of those values.

We are excited to start a family and have always known that we would build it in many different ways. However, it is not something that has happened naturally for us. When Maribel talked with a colleague about the adoption of her child, she finally saw a path to parenthood. We are devoted to connections with many others, such as our students, our community members, and our church members. We want to build that connection with you, too. Keeping your comfort level in mind, we want to keep you as a part of our child's story and life with updates, pictures, and visits. We would love to incorporate some of your family traditions and history into our own, so that we can all stay connected.





Thank you for considering us!
Love, Maribel and Stephen

A young man and woman are smiling together at a formal event. The woman has blonde hair and is wearing glasses and a black dress with yellow floral patterns. The man has a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and patterned tie. They are seated at a table with a white tablecloth and a glass of water. The background is blurred, showing other people and a warm, indoor setting.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
TAKING THE TIME TO GET TO
KNOW US! WE WILL CONTINUE
TO PRAY FOR YOU AS YOU
MAKE THIS IMPORTANT
DECISION.