



ROEL & IRENE

Dear Birthparent(s)

It is not easy to find the right words to convey our respect for the love and courage you have as you consider adoption for your child. We believe that such a decision can only be made out of love. We are honored that you are considering us as you think about choosing the right adoptive parents and home for your child.



IN OUR HOUSE...

WE ARE **REAL** WE MAKE MISTAKES
WE SAY I'M SORRY WE FORGIVE
WE GIVE HUGS WE ARE PATIENT
WE HAVE **FUN** WE ARE FAMILY

For us, so far, it has been a difficult but very meaningful path. For four years, due to unknown reasons, we struggled with not being able to carry a child to full term. Along the way, adoption started as a thought in our minds, then a topic in our conversations and eventually a desire in our hearts. We have chosen adoption with all of our hearts and we cannot wait to share all the love we have with your precious child.

We want to raise a child in a home full of love, with the freedom to become the person that it chooses to be, and with our support and unconditional love every day, forever. We promise to do everything in our power to protect your child. With patience and warmth, we will guide and help create opportunities. We will provide a safe and comfortable home, a place to play, to have fun, to learn, to listen to music, and to enjoy meals together. All surrounded by family and friends.

We want your child to understand your love, and to admire your strength and selflessness. We want to ensure that your child knows not only our story, but yours as well. We are committed to an open adoption in a way that is comfortable for all. We would be happy to keep you informed about your child's growth, sharing the milestones and smiles.

From the bottom of our hearts, we wish you all the strength and courage in the world making a choice for your child that feels comfortable for you.

lots of love,

Roel & Irene

OUR STORY



We met at a mutual friend's party



We bought our house



We got married



Waiting parents for adoption



We started dating



Our dog Ziva joined the family



No biological child

2006

2008

2010

2011

2012

2016

2019



1st X-MAS



SUNSET IN SWEDEN



X-MAS '18



GOING FOR A WALK IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



VUELTA A ESPAÑA '17



AFTER A MEETING AT THE DUTCH ADOPTION AGENCY



FESTIVAL PINKPOP WITH ANKE



BARCELONA

Koel about Irene

- * She is caring, easygoing, and funny
- * Good listener, sets people at ease
- * Great cook, she knows how to cook a perfect steak
- * Sometimes she's five steps ahead of me in a conversation
- * Kids love her, and so do I

About me I grew up with my mother and my two older brothers in the same city we live today. I love to read and I love music. Since I was little, I have played instruments and especially enjoy singing. Just like my brothers, and my brother's children, I love to cook. It is not hard to spend a day in the kitchen, cooking dinner for family or friends. The thing most dear to me is my relationship with family and friends. I have been close to a group of beautiful and smart women for over 20 years. I enjoy my work as a clinical psychologist. I work mainly with adults with personality disorders and adults with early childhood complex trauma. Sometimes it is a tough job, but it can also be very rewarding.

Becoming a mommy would mean the world to me. Providing a safe and supporting environment for your child to grow up to be the most positive and happy person possible.

Caring,
easygoing
& funny

Clinical
psychologist

My favorite food

On my bucket list



Steak and fries,
spaghetti and clams,
chocolate mousse... yummy

Traveling to Africa,
roadtrip in the USA,
swimming pool in our garden



Irene about Koel

- * He is smart, creative, calm and caring
- * Trustworthy
- * Hard worker, a nerd at heart
- * Unconditional love
- * He stole my family's heart, and mine

About me I grew up in a small village with three sisters. I had a good childhood and enjoyed school, sports, and getting together with friends. After high school I studied econometrics. I have a close group of loyal friends whom I met during my years at university. After university I started working for a company as a data scientist. Today I am co-owner and managing director of this company. This gives me the freedom to do what I like but also gives me the responsibility for my employees. It suits me well.

I'm really excited to be a father, to take care of a child, to provide guidance and love, and to experience all the fun and challenges that go along with this precious life.



Smart,
creative, calm
& caring

Business owner
& data scientist

My favorite food

On my bucket list

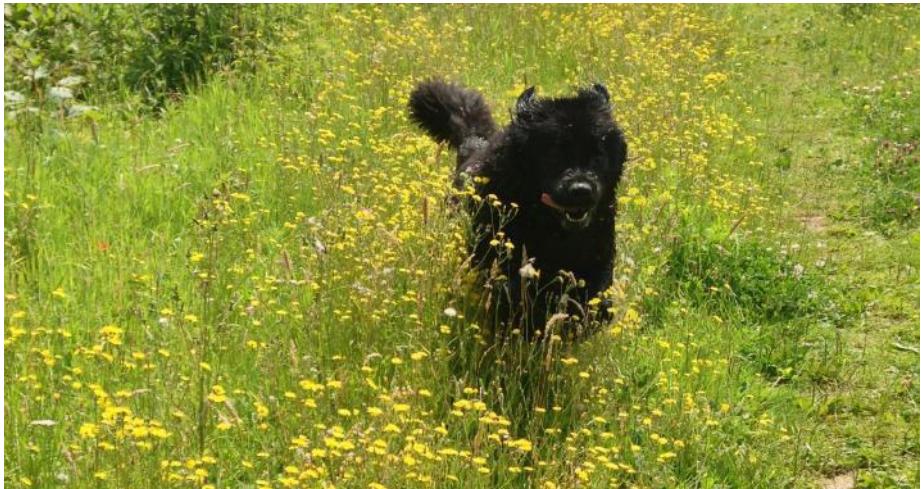
Asian food, hotdogs,
mac and cheese,
Hungarian goulash

Traveling to Australia,
roadtrip in the USA,
owning an Aston Martin

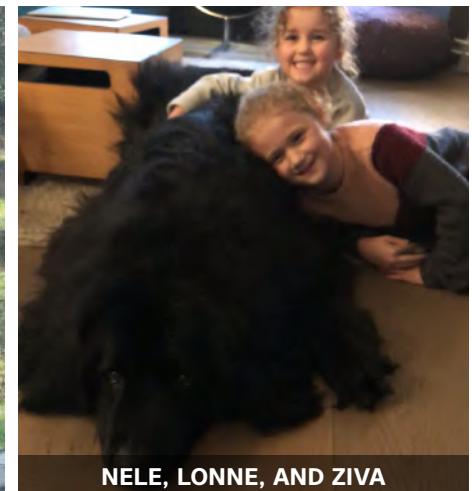
OUR DOG ZIVA

Together with our dog Ziva, a big, friendly and very cuddly Newfoundland, we live in a nice house with a good-sized yard.

Sweetness of temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland. They get along fabulously with children. Remaining patient when kids want to climb all over them, whether at play or simply to snuggle up to relax in the evening. Perhaps the most famous Newfoundland was Nana, the dog from Peter Pan, who watched over the children.



At least twice a day we take her for a walk either through our neighborhood or the park. On weekends we often take her for longer hikes through nature.



NELE, LONNE, AND ZIVA



ROEL'S FAMILY AT OUR WEDDING



ROEL'S MOTHER



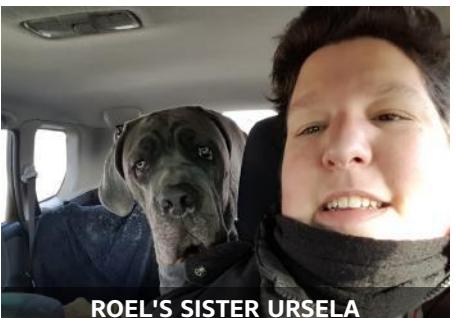
ROEL'S SISTER
VERONIQUE AND HER FAMILY



ROEL'S FATHER, NEPHEW RIK, AND NIECE FRONI



ROEL'S SISTER HYLKE
AND HER FAMILY



ROEL'S SISTER URSELA



AUTO SHOW WITH MY NEPHEW RIK



ROEL'S NEPHEW JENS AND NIECE LIZ

ROEL'S FAMILY

I have two nieces and two nephews on my side of the family. The youngest is four years old. My parents and my three sisters live an hour's drive away.

We are always together for birthdays and holidays and occasionally for a cup of coffee. We talk often on the phone.

IRENE'S FAMILY

On my side of the family, I have one niece and three nephews, whom I love dearly. When they were small, they often stayed over. I took them to the fair, musicals, the Lego museum, and the zoo. As they grew older, we talked about school, girlfriends and boyfriends, and what to do after high school. I love spending time with them and with my two brothers. We all live in the same neighborhood, so we meet very often.

Since both my parents sadly passed away, my uncle Henk and my aunt Fiény (my mother's sister) are very important to me.



IRENE'S BROTHER EDWARD AND HIS GIRLFRIEND LISETTE



IRENE'S BROTHER ANTOINE AND NIECE LONNEKE



FAMILY DINNER WITH MY BROTHERS, NIECE, NEPHEWS, UNCLE & AUNT



IRENE'S FAMILY AT OUR WEDDING



IRENE'S BROTHER EDWARD LANDSCAPING



HELPING MY BROTHER



UNCLE HENK AND AUNT FIÉNY



MADAME TUSSAUDS WITH LONNEKE

In our families, we help each other out when needed. Gardening, doing home improvements, getting ready for exams, needing someone to talk to, or taking care of each other's dogs during holidays. Since we live close to each other, someone is always near to lend a hand.



FUN WITH FRIENDS



Irene

My friends live close by. We meet for dinner or drinks, for birthdays and kids' birthdays, for our yearly trip to Amsterdam and each year at Christmas dinner.

Koel

I met most of my friends during university. They are spread across the country, but still we meet regularly for drinks or dinner. We go skiing and cycling, and every year we go on a city break somewhere in Europe.





WATCHING THE PARADE WITH NELE



BREAKFAST WITH
HEARTSHAPED FRIED EGGS



FENNA'S JIGSAW PUZZLE



NOA

KIDS IN OUR LIFE



POOL PARTY



GARDENING WITH LOTTE



ROASTING MARSHMALLOWS

Our family and friends know all about our desire to become parents and about our wish to adopt. They are excited we are expanding our family. Your child will be so welcome, not just by us, but by our family and our friends.

Our nieces and nephews are looking forward to welcoming another member to our family. The oldest niece can't wait to show off her babysitting skills. Besides this there are a lot of little friends who want to play with their new friend.

A FEW OF OUR TRADITIONS

We celebrate the Dutch holidays and traditions. This varies from King's Day in April (everyone wears orange), to Christmas or Easter. We always celebrate holidays together with family and friends. Christmas is an important holiday to us and to our families. Every year we have a dinner party with Roel's family and with Irene's family. Christmas dinner at our house, isn't complete without loads of presents. Irene just loves buying presents for everyone. Last year we all went ice-skating before Christmas dinner. Each year, we also have a big Christmas dinner with friends. Last time when we hosted, we had a big winter BBQ outside.



▲
Christmas dinner &
Easter brunch ▶
with Irene's family

MORE TRADITIONS

In the southern part of the country at the end of the winter, we celebrate Carnival. We watch the parade together and after the parade we always end up at our house for snacks and drinks with family and friends. A more recent tradition that Irene's brother Edward started, is a family holiday. We spend a long weekend together and cook and dine, play games, go hiking, and just enjoy ourselves and each other's company.



X-mas '18 ice skating with my niece & nephew

We are part of the "A New Way Family", families that have adopted from the USA. There will always be a connection with other children coming from the USA. Our families and friends are open to, and looking forward to new traditions. Two more days to celebrate together: 4th of July and Thanksgiving. Celebrations in honor of your child and the USA.



WATCHING THE PARADE



X-MAX WINTER BBQ



FAMILY WEEKEND

IRENE LOVES

Singing, spending time with friends and family, cooking, swimming, tennis



HIGHTEA WITH KRISTEL AND SARA



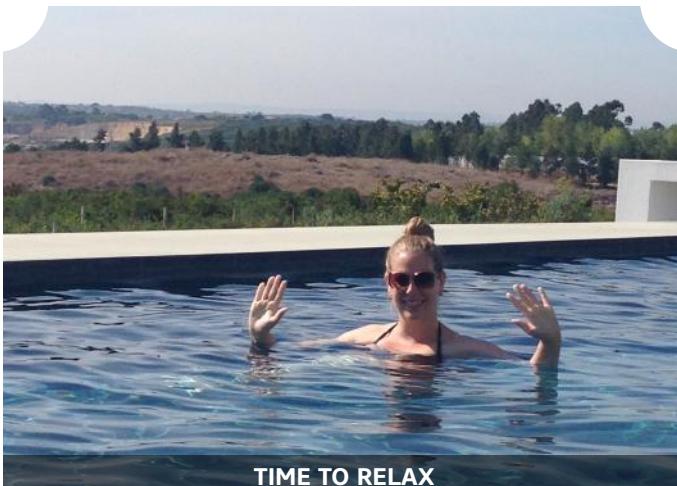
PLAYING IN A MUSICAL



TENNIS WITH COLLEAGUES



LUNCH WITH MY NIECE LONNEKE



TIME TO RELAX



AT THE THEATER WITH ANKE

ROEL LOVES

Skiing, spending time with friends and family, cycling, graphic design



SKIING IN AUSTRIA WITH BART



CYCLING WITH KYRILL AND SANDER IN FRANCE



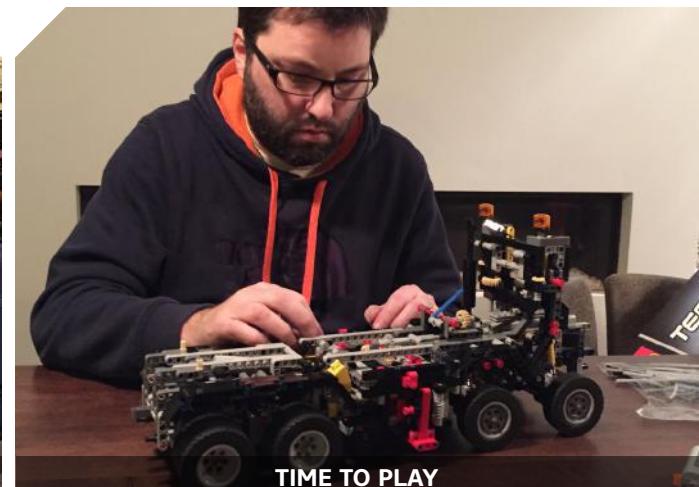
VOLUNTEER WORK WITH COLLEAGUES



ON TOP OF MONT VENTOUX, FRANCE



CITY BREAK BERLIN WITH KASPER, SANDER, AND MARK



TIME TO PLAY

TRAVELING

Like many people, we love our summer holidays. We have traveled to many countries all over Europe. We have also been to Indonesia and the USA together. Before we met, Roel went to Thailand and Africa and Irene went to Australia.

We love to travel to Northern Europe. During university, Irene lived in Sweden for half a year. To us, Sweden feels a bit like home, with its relaxed living and being very family-friendly.

We like to take city breaks, strolls through the neighborhoods of Paris, Rome, and London; experiencing different cultures, tasting different food, and enjoying our time together. We would love to take your child on our adventures, experiencing the world with us.

Irene has always had a connection with the USA. Her grandparents went there to visit family and her brother stayed in San Diego for half a year. Irene has traveled to the USA several times, from Florida to Kansas, from South Carolina to New York; on vacation, but also visiting friends. In 2013, both of us traveled to Washington, D.C. for a friend's wedding. After the wedding we also spent a few days in New York City, a great city we both love, and we will definitely visit again. Last year one of Irene's cousins moved to Georgia with his family. This familiarity is part of the reason we thought of the USA when adoption became a desire in our hearts.



WASHINGTON DC



GEORGETOWN



CENTRAL PARK NYC



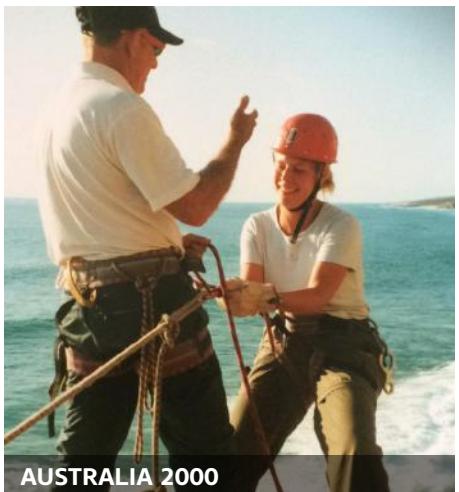
WASHINGTON DC



BROOKLYN BRIDGE



BOAT TO LIBERTY ISLAND



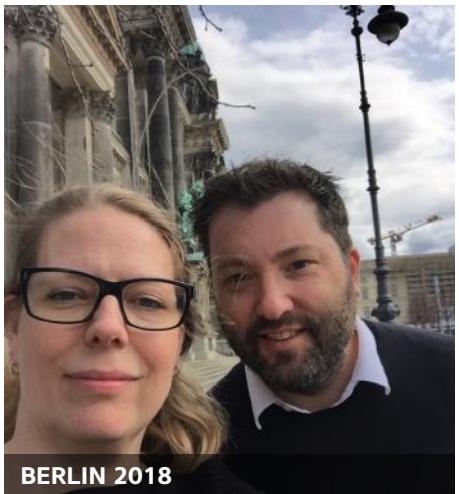
AUSTRALIA 2000



LONDON 2014



BALI - INDONESIA 2011



BERLIN 2018



PORTUGAL 2015



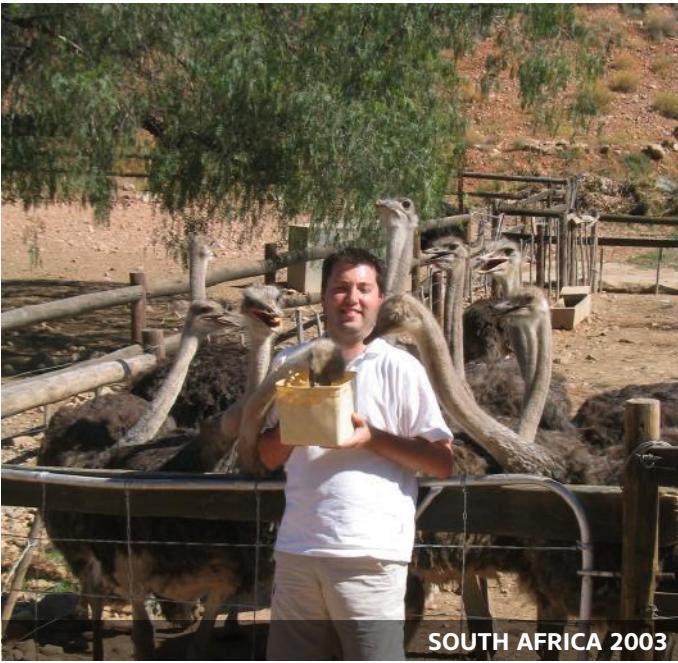
ITALY 2012



COPENHAGEN 2009



PARIS 2009



SOUTH AFRICA 2003



SWEDEN 2016

OUR HOME & NEIGHBORHOOD

We live in the Netherlands, a country located in Northwestern Europe, between Germany and the UK. We live in the southern part of the Netherlands, a two-hour drive from our capital Amsterdam. The Netherlands is known for its safety and tolerance, and it has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. It's a wonderful place to grow up with friendly people, good education, and high quality healthcare, accessible to everyone.

Our house is in a quiet, safe, pretty and green part of the city, a ten-minute's walk from downtown. In our neighborhood there are several private daycares, elementary schools, and Irene's old high school is within walking distance. At the daycares and schools there is some cultural diversity. In the area there are several amenities, such as sport clubs, a hospital, theaters, the cinema, and a music school. Our favorite place is a small animal park, behind our house. Our dog loves to

go there for a walk and when they stay over, we take our friend's children to the playground next to it.

Our house is over one hundred years old but modern and comfortable inside, and comes with a nice garden to play in. Right next to our bedroom, we made a comfortable nursery. We also have an extra floor with a bathroom, great for a child in his or her early teens, with a need for more space and privacy.



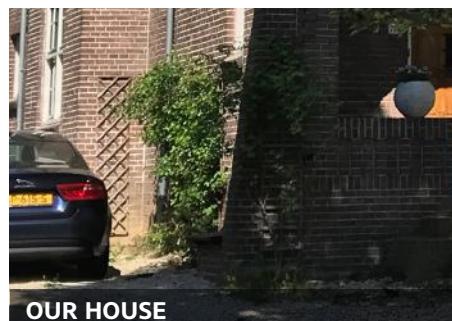
OUR HOME



NURSERY



PREPARING THE



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read about us. We, and all of our loved ones, are ready to welcome your child into our lives and our hearts. A child of any race or ethnicity would be welcome in our home and our community.

We can't wait becoming a family. During the first few weeks, the three of us will be at home together, settling in and getting to know each other. In the months hereafter, Irene will be at home and Roel will gradually start working again. With close attention to what your child needs and what your child benefits, we will both combine work and family, together with one or two days at a private daycare. In our neighborhood we have a wonderful private daycare with a homely atmosphere, petting zoo and a fruit and vegetable garden. An amazing opportunity, special for babies.

Your child will have the support of dedicated and loving parents, the opportunity to be curious and will grow up in a safe community. We will encourage your child's dreams and provide the best possible education. More than anything we want you to know that we will love your child unconditionally and will nurture your child to grow up to be the best person they can be. Your child will be loved beyond words by us, by our family, by our friends, and your child will always know the great love you have for them as well.

You will always be an integral part of his or her life, and we plan to raise your child with an understanding and appreciation for you and the sacrifice you are making for him or her. Through adoption we will always be connected with you and therefore we see you as extended family. We are open to meeting you and staying in contact, sharing pictures and updates with you throughout your child's life.

We want you to know how courageous we think you are for trying to make the best decisions you can. Our greatest hope is that you find happiness and peace of mind with the decision you make. Best of luck for a smooth and healthy pregnancy.

Roel & Irene



YEARLY ADOPTIVE FAMILIES REUNION IN THE NETHERLANDS

If you have any questions you can call our adoption agency
Forever Families Through Adoption at their Toll-Free Number:
1-866-922-3678 or directly at 1-914-939-1180.



Forever Families Through Adoption