## Dear Birth Parents,

We are so pleased that you are taking the time to read this letter which is a glimpse into our lives, our family and the things we like to do. It is our hope that you enjoy reading and getting to know our family. After getting to know us better, we hope you will consider us as the perfect family for your soon to be born baby.



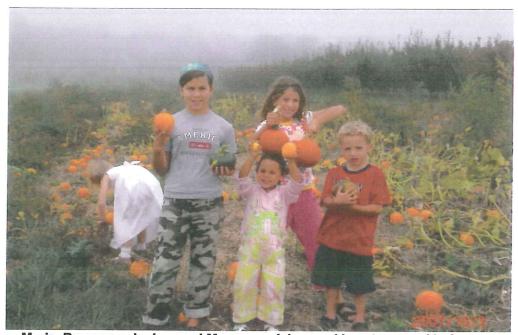
Thea and Bill

We are Thea and Bill and want to, first and foremost, thank you for considering us as the adoptive parents for your child. We hope this letter gives you an idea of who we are, as individuals, as a couple and as a family. Please know that we are very committed to being wonderful parents and we have much to offer your child; a life of happiness, love, and opportunity. We are impressed by your desire to make the best decision for your child and we do know that this decision is made out of love.

Our marriage is a close one based on trust, love, open communication, and mutual respect. Bill and I were friends in college and started dating once we graduated. We have remained best friends throughout our twenty four years of marriage. Our wedding day was an extremely joyful event with lots of mutual friends from college and many family members. The next day, we traveled to Mexico for our honeymoon where there was a mixture of many fun vacation type of activities and also exposure to many people living in extreme poverty. We spent a great deal of time giving money to the poor, especially women and children in the streets. This honeymoon was an amazing experience that we talk about even to this day.

We are both easy going, friendly, and cheerful individuals. Bill is a comical person who loves to laugh and I tend to be an optimistic and hopeful person. Our marriage is strong, close and harmonious because we share the same values, goals in life, and most of all we have a deep love for our family which we value deeply.

Bill has a secure position as an occupational therapist working in private practice and I am a pediatric occupational therapist who specializes in developmental disabilities. Bill's private practice is a big advantage because it allows him a great deal of flexibility to be home with the children. Presently, I am a stay at home mom raising four wonderful children: Maria Age 13, Breeanna age 9, Joshua age 6, and Maryrose age 3. In addition, we have older children who do not live at home.



Maria, Breeanna, Joshua and Maryrose pick pumpkins at a pumpkin farm



Joshua and Breeanna play in front of our home.



Joshua and Breeanna play with a friend in the yard.

We live in a very large, spacious seven bedroom home that has a den and a finished basement. We also have a wonderful backyard with a tree house and swing set. We can't wait to add more smiles and love to our family. We absolutely look forward to another baby to complete our family.



The kitchen in our home

In our suburban neighborhood, we have two pools that are less then ten minute drive from our home. In addition, we have many beautiful beaches that are about fifteen minutes drive. We enjoy being outdoors with the children and there are many parks a short distance away.

Adoption is familiar to both of our families. My mother was adopted at birth and raised by a wonderful family and Bill has two adopted cousins. Adoption is something that I have thought about doing since my high school years. I have always dreamed of adopting and want it to play an important part in my life. Presently, two of the four children at home were adopted, Maria and Maryrose.

Maria (known as Masha) is an absolutely wonderful 13 year old girl who was adopted from the Ukraine in 2005. She is kind, loving, thoughtful and cheerful. She is a treasure and a wonderful addition to our family. Maria does very well in school and receives an A in most of her subjects.



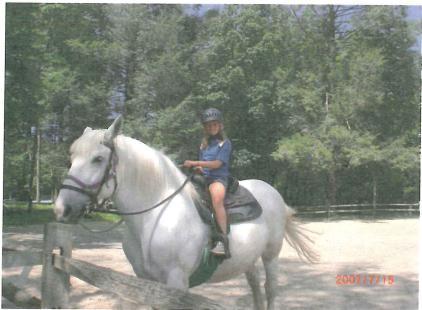
Maria and Maryrose at a fair

Maryrose was adopted in 2004, as a newborn, from Pennsylvania. She is comical, loves to laugh, sing and dance. She is very gentle and loves to wear pretty dresses and have her hair done. Maryrose loves to play with dolls, her tea set and draw pictures.



Breeanna, Joshua and Maryrose build a play house in the living room.

At the age of 9, Breeanna, who was born to us, is outgoing, adventurous and a gifted student. She loves to play the piano, enjoys writing short stories and loves to ride horses. Breeanna is a wonderful older sister who enjoys playing with her little brother and sister.



Breeanna rides her favorite horse

Joshua (another birth child) is 6 years old. He loves to play with cars and seems to be a natural athlete who loves sports. Joshua loves to read about castles and knights and he has a very large collection of these items which he frequently plays with. He also loves to sing and dance with his sisters.



Joshua practices baseball

We are a very close family who share a great deal of time together and enjoy each others company. There is much laughter in our home and a feeling of unity. Forming many wonderful happy childhood memories together is very important to us. The importance is not in how a family is formed, but the love they share.



Joshua, Breeanna and Maria pretend to fish in a pond in Pennsylvania

We love the outdoors and the children enjoy taking lessons and becoming proficient in many outdoor activities. The children take horse ridding lessons, ski lessons, and swimming lessons. Maria and Breeanna take piano lessons, and dance classes.



Maria, Joshua and I on a hiking trail in Pennsylvania

We have a very nice vacation home in the Pocono (Pennsylvania) which has several pools, tennis courts, horseback riding, boating, hiking, and ski slopes nearby. We enjoy spending as much time as possible in the Poconos throughout the year. With children love is not divided, it is multiplied! We have lots of love to share and in addition all the material comforts and possessions.

In addition, we love to travel as a family and enjoy visiting different places in the USA and overseas. We have spent two summers in, a rented apartment, in Canada. We also spent four weeks traveling to different areas on Prince Edward Island. One summer, we exchanged homes with a family in Israel and spent 6 weeks in that country. We have visited and spent time in many of the states along the eastern coast of the United States. We hope to exchange homes with a family in France either this summer or the next and would love to bring with us our newest addition if we are blessed with another adoption by then.

## The Dead Sea in Israel



Bill takes a dip in the extreme salty water with the children, but the water is at first difficult to tolerate because every tiny little cut or scratch initially stings. To our amazement we are unable to sink into the water. A large number of people cover their skin with dead sea mud and we do likewise. The dead sea mud is very good for the skin and is helpful in keeping us

cool and prevents sunburns. As pictured below, the children love rubbing mud all over themselves and do it repeatedly that day. What an amazing experience for the children and us as well. This was a wonderful exciting experience that we will never forget!

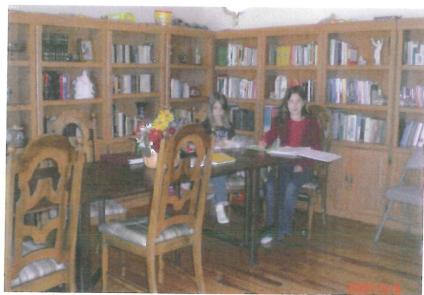


We have been to Disney world several times and have visited all of the theme parks many times. The children love these types of vacations.



Breeanna and Joshua-mid center (Disney Land vacation)

Getting a great education is extremely important to us; therefore, our children attend a private Christian school in our community. Our home has many books and we enjoy reading to the children and they have developed a great love for reading.



Maria and Breeanna do homework in the dinning room.

Our lives are centered around our children and giving each and everyone of them the very best that life has to offer. But most of all they know that they are deeply loved because they are our number one priority.

In terms of religion, we are a Catholic family of strong faith in God. Our family attends church every Sunday and we are active in our church. The children sing in the church choir and participate in bake sales, and the Christmas fair. Maria also participates in the service club and is active in doing good deeds for those in need in the community. One Saturday per month, Bill, Maria, Breeanna and Joshua spend several hours putting together food packages for the poor.

Our children are blessed to have a very large extended family of six aunts, two uncles, Grandparents, and many cousins who live a short drive from our home. Holidays are very festive and joyful as the extended families gather to celebrate. We all have incredible fond memories of these many events. Not only do we all get together during the holidays, but we get together socially as well.



Family Christmas gathering (picture taken in our living room).



Our family gathers outside of church

Present in the above picture, are three of our older children who are away at school the majority of the year. Starting from the left back, Alex who is 17 (adopted from Romania), is currently attending a private school in Pennsylvania. He is an exceptionally gifted student especially in the area of mathematics. Alex will graduate from high school this spring and plans to attend college and become an Engineer. William is 19 (a birth child), attends college, and currently takes classes that will lead to a degree in teaching. He is very talented in the area of athletics and loves to play rugby, soccer, basketball and particularly football. Irina is16 (adopted from the Ukraine) and attends a private school in Massachusetts. She is an excellent artist and plans to one day be an art teacher. My husband Bill is in the back right and I am wearing a blue jacket. Breeanna is directly in front of me wearing a white sweater. Maria (also adopted from the Ukraine) is on the right wearing a pink/black shirt. Joshua is in the front wearing a blue and yellow jacket. Maryrose, who was adopted from Pennsylvania as a newborn, is in the front right. Our eldest daughter, Shannon who is 21 years old (not in the above picture), lives in Morristown, NJ and presently is very busy working as a missionary to the poor.

Bill and I were raised in a large family and it has always been our hope to also raise a large family in order to have our children experience all the many joys that we experienced during our childhood. As adults, Bill and I now have the joy, friendship and support of our brothers and sisters whom we love dearly.



Breeanna plays dress up with a friend

Our children are the joy of our lives, but we continuously feel that our family is not complete. We have been especially blessed because the children, by God's grace, they are all turning out beautifully. It is clear to see that they are in the process of becoming responsible and competent in whatever field they choose.

Words alone cannot express how much we love being parents and the many joys that this brings to our hearts. Your child will be exposed to much love, security and an adoring family. There is nothing more wonderful than for us to be able to expand our family with the gift of a precious child. We see each of the children developing a close, loving, caring bond with each other that is going to last a lifetime. This is such a pleasure to watch.



Top left: Breeanna and Maryrose at a fair

Top right: Maryrose and Marsha play with friends at the park

Bottom left: Marsha and Breeanna at nature club

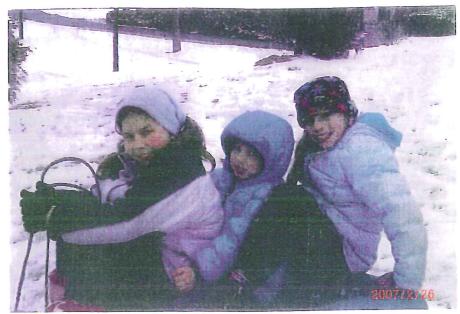
Bottom right: Maryrose has a picnic with friends at the park



Breeanna and Joshua walk along a waterfall



Breeanna and Maryrose spend time together in Breeanna's bedroom



Maria, Joshua, and Breeanna sledding in the Poconos

We promise you that we will love your baby with all of our hearts! Your baby will have the very best of everything in life and will be a part of a very happy and loving family. The baby will have a wonderful childhood and will grow up with the security of a loving, and caring family. Your strength and courage for having chosen to give life to the baby is admirable. It is such a loving and courageous thing to do. We realize that this may be a turbulent time for you, with may concerns and fears. We thank you for considering our family, and we wish you an easy pregnancy and a peaceful decision.

Thea, Bill, Maria Brelanno, JOShu and Maryrose

Please Contact our agency toll free at (866) 922-3678

We look forward to speaking with you and answering any additional questions you may have. Thank you!



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