

Dear Birthmother,

We would like to express our gratitude towards you for considering us as adoptive parents for your baby. We are aware of the difficulty of such a decision and the courage you need to take this step. This knowledge fills us with great respect for you.



Moritz & Dylan & Monika

Ever since we met in 2004, we wanted to build a family. We love each other so much and really wanted to share our love with a child.

We wanted to adopt a baby from the USA because we both feel a strong connection to the American culture and lifestyle and we both speak English fluently. We enjoy visiting the country when traveling and visiting family. This year we will be traveling through Florida for four weeks in November/December.

The day we were blessed with the adoption of our son Dylan, our dream came true, and we became a very happy family! Now that Dylan is already a toddler, we strongly wish for him to become a big loving brother to your baby, and we want to give your baby the possibility to grow up with a loving family.

We promise to welcome your baby into our family with all our love and caring and to give them a warm and secure place to grow up and develop as a person.

We live in Switzerland, a small and beautiful country in the heart of Europe with high mountains and many lakes and rivers. Switzerland is a very safe country with high education standards and excellent public schools and colleges. Zurich, our home-city, is a place where people of different cultures and color respect each other, and live, work and go to school together.

Monika is a Physical Therapist working with patients and has her own practice. She helps people to get better every day. Moritz is an Engineer who passionately develops robots.

We like to spend time with Dylan and with friends and family ice-skating, hiking, swimming, dancing, skiing and socializing. We also enjoy traveling to other countries and meeting people from different cultures. Both our families live close by to Zurich. We both have sisters who have young children. We love to spend time with our nephews and nieces and do so very often.

We look forward to talking to you on the phone, by email or by Skype, and sharing stories and hearing about your hopes and dreams for your little one. We are happy to keep the relationship with your child open as they grow and send you photos and updates and visit if this is your wish too.



Hiking in the hills above Zurich - We just love to spend time outdoors!



We love the sea - This year's holidays on the island of Mallorca, Spain

We imagine this is a difficult time for you and that you are about to make an extremely difficult choice. Whatever happens, we will always speak of you with great respect and your child will know of the selfless step you took!

Fondly, Monika & Moritz

Our Story

We met in 2004 at a party and fell in love. This love was so deep, and it grew even deeper with time. After eight years together, we got married in 2012. All our friends and our families celebrated with us.



We share many common interests and values. We are both convinced that all human beings deserve respect and have a right of freedom, regardless of origin, skin-color or religion. We value tolerance, openness and free thinking. Even though we are not members of a church, we both strongly believe in a higher power. Religion and faith are important to us, but we see them as a free choice of every individual.

What we like to do



Rewarded for a tough climb by a great view of the Swiss mountains



The mountains often show us how small we really are. - A wonderful hike in Slovenia.

We enjoy being out in nature. We do a lot of hiking, swimming, and cycling in Switzerland and many other Countries. We enjoy sports. Moritz participates in running competitions and Monika takes yoga lessons. At home, we like to cook together, read or watch a movie. During summer holidays we love to go camping. Last year, Dylan was there with us for the first time, and it was a



The 2018 camping crew



Dylan: "my first camping trip!"

lot of fun for him to be able to directly crawl out of the tent onto the meadow.



Moritz' godchild Coralie joins us for camping every year

We like to travel. Together we have visited most of the countries surrounding Switzerland. We love to visit the very old cities and to experience history.



Ice skating with the nephews



Monika on the city wall above the roofs of Dubrovnik in Croatia

In winter we like to go ice-skating. On our favorite ice rink, a big, beautifully decorated Christmas tree is set up every December and you can skate around it.

Moritz's family owns a holiday home in the Swiss mountains. Almost every winter we go there for a week of skiing, cross-country skiing and tobogganing. Wintertime in the mountains is great. During the day you can enjoy lots of snow and sun, and the evenings are cozy with good food, a fire in the fireplace and sometimes a game of cards.



Cross-country skiing is exhausting but also very rewarding



We love all the winter fun in the Swiss mountains

Traveling to Australia



The kangaroos are indeed funny animals to observe



Getting ready to
"swim with the
dolphins"

For our honeymoon we did a wonderful trip to Australia. There we spent a month with a camper van and got to know many beautiful places and many animals that cannot be found in Europe. Kangaroos, koala bears, special birds like the laughing kookaburra or the emu and aquatic animals like the huge manta rays. We loved snorkeling over coral reefs surrounded by many colorful fish and even some sea-turtles.



Australia is full of funny things: a naturally formed rock where you can go INSIDE, and it even has a window!



GIANT rocks in the sea



... a rock shaped like a DUCK. - however not so easy to climb!



... and sometimes a tiny pebble jammed in the brake of our car – It took Monika quite some time to fiddle it out!

... to Brazil

In 2016 we traveled to Brazil.

We like to learn other languages so we can get to know the locals when we visit other countries.



Visiting Rio de Janeiro was an interesting and wonderful experience. - Here we are standing on the famous "Sugar Loaf" mountain



For us it was a lot of fun to dress up for a truly Brazilian wedding



Visiting the art collection of one of Brazil's most famous artists: Francisco Brennand



Enjoying the beach with the newly married couple



At an outdoor museum. This "park-bench" is actually made from a giant log!

... and to New York!

In spring / summer 2017 we were in the USA. Me, Monika was in New York for two months going to a language school for improving my English. I stayed with an African American host family in Harlem.



The M&M Shop at Times Square - Really a place to go in New York!



What a birthday cake! – With a carrot as candle substitute!

After school I volunteered in various projects by "New York Cares". I helped in food pantries, elderly homes and preschools.

Moritz visited me towards the end of my stay so he could meet my host family and my new friends from the language school.



Birthday Picknick in Bryant park with friends from Brazil, Japan and Singapore



One year later at home. Monika's friend from Japan meets Dylan!

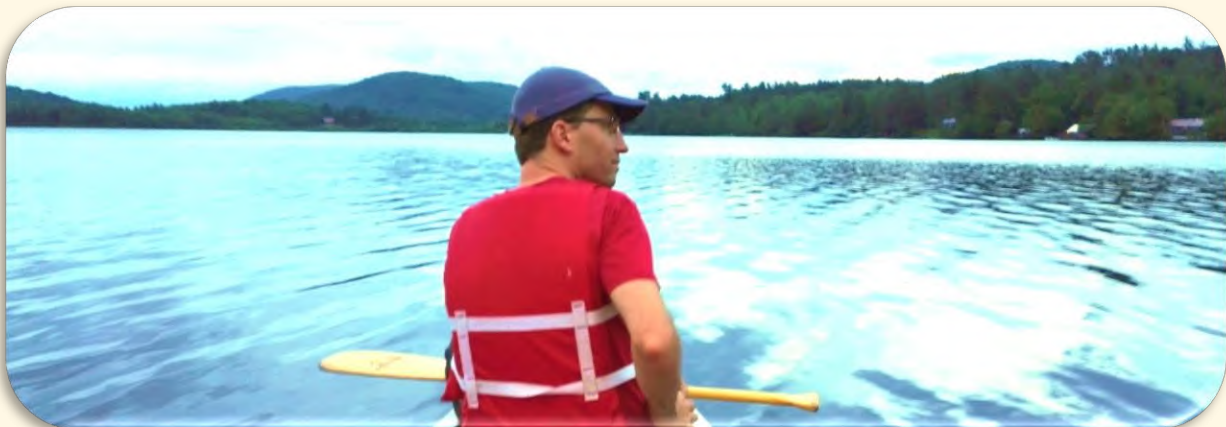
After leaving New York City we went on a road trip to Niagara Falls, to do some canoeing and hiking in the Adirondack Mountains and also to visit one of Moritz's cousins and his family in Boston.



The Niagara Falls - Absolutely impressive!



Lobster in Boston - delicious, tricky to eat and a lot of fun too!



Our canoe trip on one of the many lakes in the Adirondack Mountain wilderness was one of those "pure outdoors" experiences we both love so much

How we became a Family

We experienced a lot together, and we are a very happy couple. We went through difficult times of hope and desperation to become parents, and we decided to try to adopt a child.

We were blessed with the adoption of our son Dylan in November 2017 in Florida. This changed our lives forever. - We feel great respect for Dylan's birthmother and the decision she made for him. We know that she trusts us to do all we can for him, and to give him all the love we have.



Evening walk on the beach with baby boy Dylan



Our first moment with Dylan -
Overwhelming!



Our Life as a Family

We both reduced our workload so that we can spend as much time as possible with Dylan. Moritz looks after him on two afternoons a week. Monika works on these afternoons in her practice. We think it is important for one of us to be with Dylan, and not to hire childcare. We would do the same for your baby.



Out in the woods



At the playground with friends



Bicycle tours near the Lake in Germany



At the pool



Swimming in a pool with ocean AND sunset view!



It is just great to ride down to the beach on Mamas back



Relaxing and enjoying the quiet during this year's vacations on the island of Mallorca, Spain



Playing with the children of Monika's sister

Moritz's mother comes to our home one afternoon a week to support us and to see Dylan.

Dylan has built up a very close relationship with his grandma and is obviously very happy when she visits.

Dylan loves spending time with his cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. We visit them very often.



The cousin shows little Dylan how to play the violoncello



Dylan's grandmother loves to join Moritz and Dylan on the playground



All the kids eating together. Dylan really enjoys being part of the group



The grandparents and Moritz' sister live only 20 minutes away. We often meet them to go for a walk or a short hike.

Our Home

We live in a lovely home with a terrace and a communal garden.



Our terrace and garden

The house consists of six apartments. There are lots of other children in the building. The children often meet in the garden. There is a sandpit and a climbing tower with a slide and swings.



Dylan enjoys our small private playground



Our cat "Pintg"



Playing in the sandbox behind the house with the neighbor kids

Dylan has his own room plus a dedicated corner in the hallway to store his toys and to play.



The family gathered in Dylan's playing corner



Dylan's room



**Dylan does his own cooking
with his birthday present
installed in the "Big" kitchen**

We have a dining room, an extra living room, a bathroom and the master bedroom.

There is a nice and easy way to re-arrange the apartment so that two children can each have their own rooms. When we are lucky enough to adopt again.



**At our dining table with friends
visting for Korean barbeque**



**The "music lover" Dylan: Piano,
Harp AND Headphones!**

Where we Live

We live in a very quiet, green area in the middle of Zurich. There is a kindergarten and schools in close walking distance.

Zurich is an old city, and in the city-center, one can find many churches and buildings created in the middle ages.



The Zurich old town with our beloved lake



Meeting some of Monika's school-friends at the lake of Zurich



Showing the animals to Dylan in the close-by agricultural areas near our home



Enjoying the view over the lake of Zurich

Zurich is an important center of research and innovation, and it is a very safe place with extremely low crime rates.

The lake and rivers are filled with pure mountain water, where you can bathe and swim in. (What we regularly do)

The city is not very large. It takes us only 15 minutes on the bicycles to reach open rural areas from our home and we often take hikes in the hills topping the lake of Zurich.

Monika

I was born in Germany in 1979. When I was 6 years old, I moved with my family to Zurich, Switzerland. I have two sisters. I am the middle child. Both of my sisters have families and are living near our home.



My father is very happy when I visit him with Dylan

I am the godmother to my niece Vera, who is only 4 months younger than Dylan.

My father is a lawyer and my mother a teacher. My father had polio as a child. He has some difficulty walking and using his arms. My parents are now both retired and live very close to our home, and they love when we come to visit them. Both of them enjoy spending time with all of us. My mother sometimes joins me and Dylan on small trips but really loves one on one time with her grandson. They are so thrilled about our plans to adopt again from the USA!



My family at my parent's place



My mother has fun with little Dylan – she clearly likes her role as a grandmother



My big sister Anne's family



My younger sister Ursi's family

I am a physical therapist. I like working with people and helping them to remedy their problems. It is very satisfying when my patients have less pain after the treatments and feel happier.

In Zurich, we have a lot of good bicycle paths, and many people are riding their bikes to work. I like to commute by bike.

I decided to build my own practice in 2015. In 2017, Cornelia, my former co-worker and very good friend began working with me. We are now pleased to lead the successful practice together.



Cornelia and I



I like mountain biking



I love the ocean and to walk on the beaches in Italy

My friends and I meet at the playground, zoo or at home so the children can play together.



My godchild Lionel



Visiting my godchild Noé and his sister



With my godchild Vera and her brother at the zoo

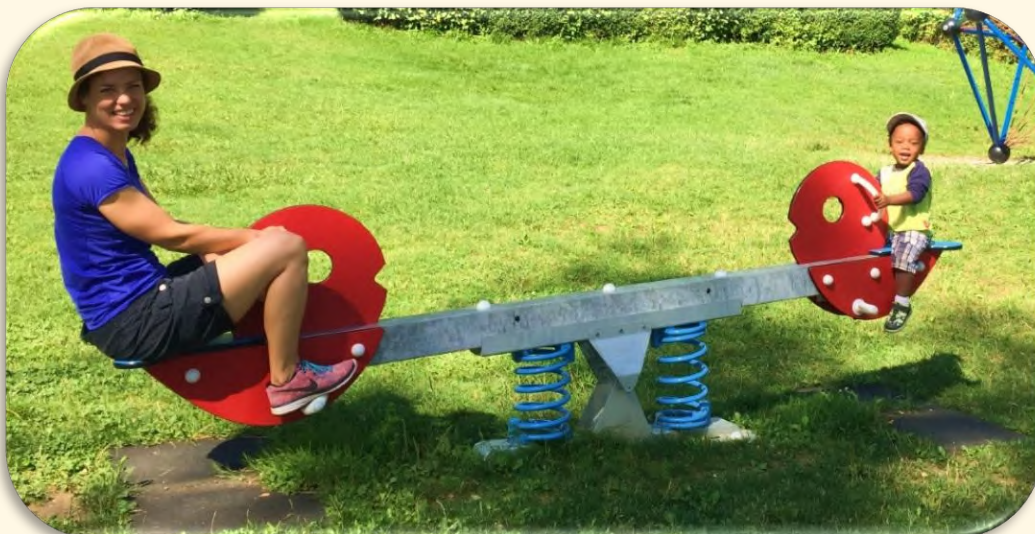


Dylans godmother Cornelia

It is very important to me to spend a lot of time with Dylan. It is incredible how quickly he is growing, developing and learning so much almost every day. It is such a big gift to have him in our family, and we thank his birthmother every day for choosing us to be his parents.



It is just so good to laugh together it makes the food taste good!



what a great ride!

Moritz

I was born in 1977 in Zurich, Switzerland, where we still live, and where all of my close family (Parents, Grandfather, Sister) live. My father is an architect and my mother a psychologist. My younger sister and I grew up in an open-minded family held together by the strong love my parents had for each other and for us children.

I was a very happy child and spent a wonderful childhood filled with play, sports, music and family activities (often outdoors). We had a dog, two cats, several guinea pigs, and for many years even a hen. I am very happy that we now live in an apartment on first floor with a garden where we have a free roaming cat as a true and loved family member.



Balancing on the slack-line...

For ten years I've been working now in a small company where we develop highly specialized robots to inspect dangerous industrial installations. I love my job, and I am very passionate about it, but I also try to keep work in good balance with my family life.

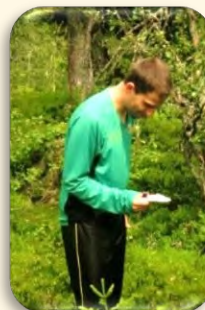
I enjoy being outdoors a lot. Ever since I was eleven years old, I participated in orienteering competitions, where the goal of the runners is to reach a sequence of landmarks as quickly as possible, using only a map and a compass for help. For many years I have trained kids and young people in the orienteering sport.



Wake skating...



I test my robots myself to make them do their job as good as possible



Orienteering in the woods of Sweden, a country in the far north of Europe.

I am glad that Monika shares my love for the outdoors and that together we enjoy many days hiking, skiing or camping.

My personality is probably best described as playful but also very thoughtful. I like games, sports, music, having fun and enjoying life every day. My thoughtful and caring part is always with me and tries to make sure everything and everybody is safe.



After a night hike through the woods: warming up in the cottage



We enjoy the relaxing moments together



... and hiking to beautiful places!

Dylan

Dylan was born near Miami in November 2017. His birth mother is originally from the Bahamas, she and his birth father are African Americans. Dylan's Birthmother gets photos and written updates on Dylan any time she wishes and asks for them.

When Dylan was 6 months old, we organized a welcome celebration for him and invited our closest friends and family. It was a very happy and emotional day.

Dylan received a book in which we tell him the story of how we became a family. He can look at photos of us and his birthparents. It is important to us that he learns about his adoption from the very beginning on and that he can build a positive connection to his birthparents, and to the USA.



"The Welcome Celebration"

Dylan likes listening to music and loves to dance. He likes it when we sing songs with him and plays with Moritz on the piano and the harp. His "friend", a doll we gave him last Christmas, has also become an important companion to Dylan. Sometimes the "friend" really has to sit at the table with the family to make Dylan happy!



The "friend" doll needs food too!



Dylan loves his wooden walking tricycle

Dylan is a bright, cheerful little boy, and he loves our cat "Pintg" very much.

Dylan likes to play in the playground, play with balls, ride his tricycle, loves to climb and jump, and is increasingly interested in looking at picture books, playing with LEGOs and putting together simple puzzles.

Raising Children

We believe that children should be given the opportunity to try out a lot of things to learn and to understand the world step by step and in their own pace and in a loving environment.

It is important to us to involve the children in our daily activities, and to promote them by handing over responsibility to them appropriate to their age. For instance, when we prepare the table for dinner, Dylan "helps" wiping the table and he also gets to carry a plate to place it on the table. He feels respected and important and understands that he should handle the plate with care.



Learning how to dig

also prevent him from doing it. But we would then show him that he can throw them safely into the pond or somewhere else, where nobody can get hurt.

We want our children to become happy and independent, and we will support them on their ways with all our love and energies.

We believe in the power of role models and wish to show our children what behaviors are "good" by behaving "good" ourselves rather than just telling them what to do and what not to do. Of course, there are situations when a child "misbehaves" or simply has a different plan than the parents for just this moment. We think that this is perfectly normal. We try to give clear boundaries of what is acceptable and what not, but we also try to give Dylan a chance to improve the behavior by helping in changing the situation. For instance, if Dylan starts throwing pebbles on the playground towards others, we will tell him not to do so and



Sledding in front of the mountain cottage we yearly go to



Giving support when needed

Switzerland



The Jungfrau Joch, a most famous mountain top in Switzerland, where a train climbs all the way up inside the mountain, and we could step out directly onto the ice of the impressive glaciers.

The public schools in Switzerland are of very good quality and most students at Switzerland's world leading universities started their education in our public schools. Everyone learns several languages and we all learn English too.



Snow and sun, the perfect combination!



Impressive mountain faces tower over many little villages in central Switzerland

Switzerland has a very stable and good social security-system and a healthcare system, which ensures excellent medical treatment for every citizen.

The Swiss are multi-cultural in many aspects. People are very open and respectful towards other cultures.

The beautiful mountain areas are great for skiing in winter, and mountain-biking or hiking in summer. Swimming is nice in most of the many rivers and lakes with their pure waters. The cities are rich with cultural entertainment like theaters, concerts and museums, and there are many places to go out.

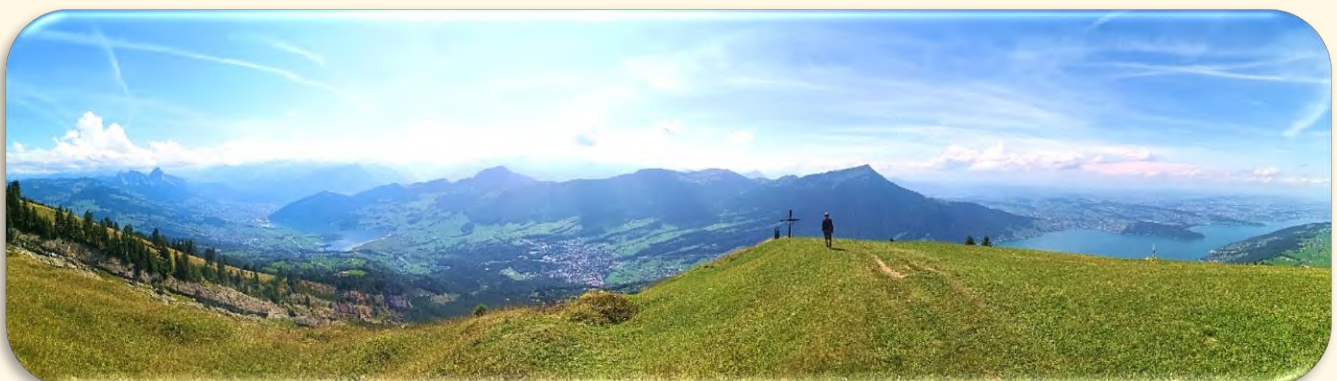


Late summer walk around a mountain lake in central Switzerland



We picked a really nice day for this uphill walk...

Switzerland is a wonderful place to raise a family.



... and were rewarded with a wonderful view from this "small" mountain near our home

How to Contact Us

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our adoption agency Forever Families Through Adoption at 914-939-1180 or toll free at # 866-922-3678

They are very easy to talk to. They will be able to answer your questions about the adoption process or about us. Feel free to ask any questions.

Thank You!

We sincerely thank you for taking the time to read our story and we are honored that you consider us as adoptive parents for your baby. We wish you the best of courage and strength to make the right decision for you and your baby.

Warm wishes,

Monika & Moritz with Dylan



