



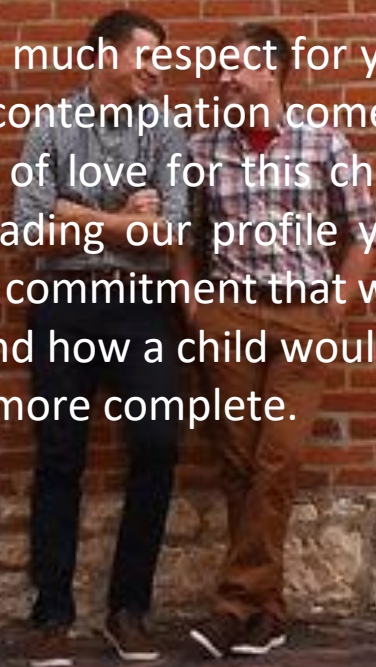
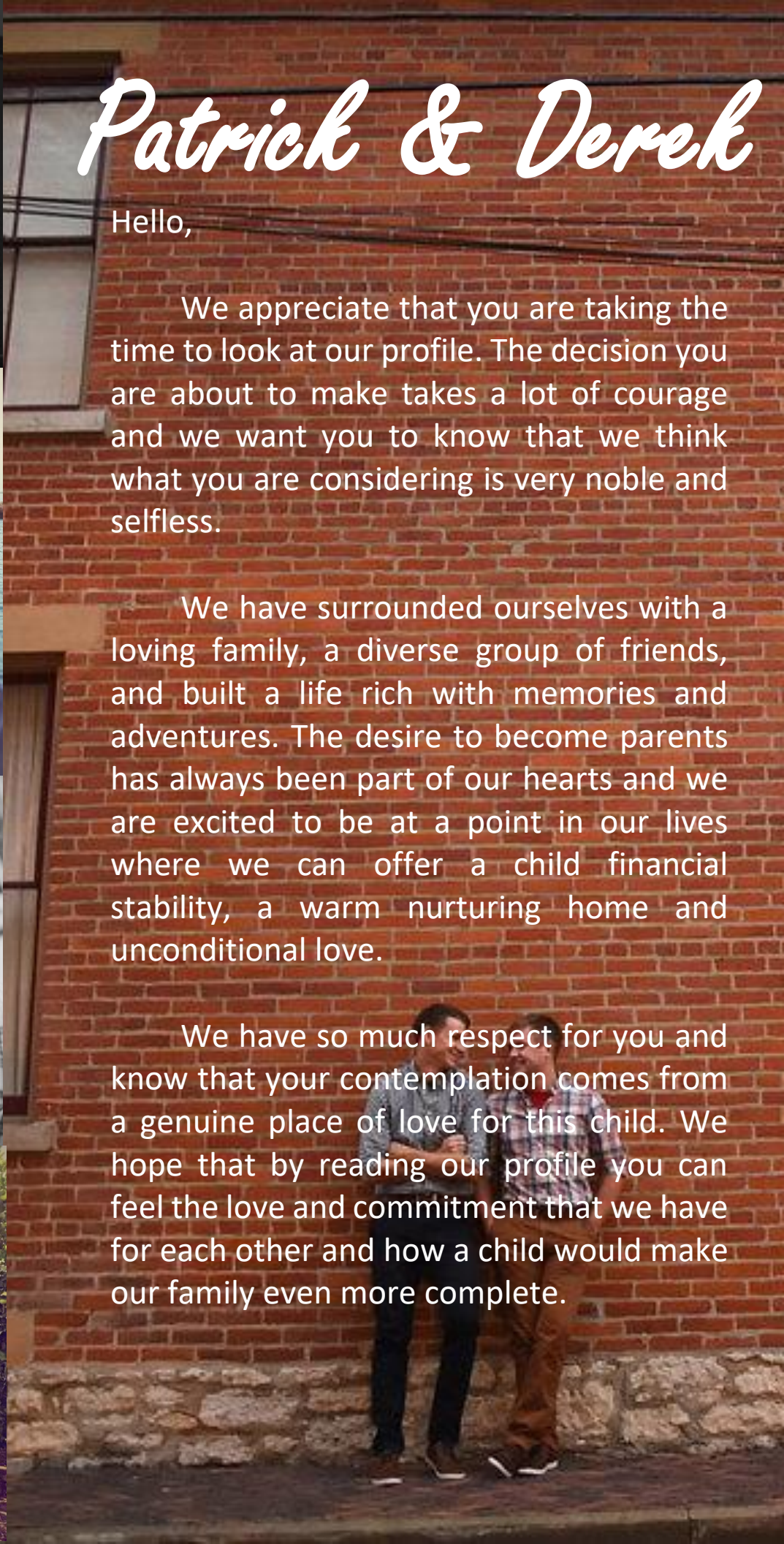
Patrick & Derek

Hello,

We appreciate that you are taking the time to look at our profile. The decision you are about to make takes a lot of courage and we want you to know that we think what you are considering is very noble and selfless.

We have surrounded ourselves with a loving family, a diverse group of friends, and built a life rich with memories and adventures. The desire to become parents has always been part of our hearts and we are excited to be at a point in our lives where we can offer a child financial stability, a warm nurturing home and unconditional love.

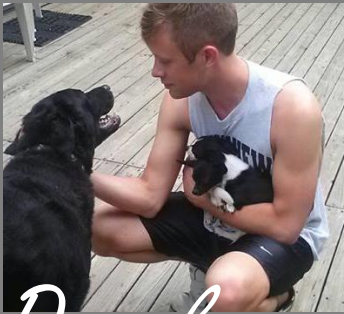
We have so much respect for you and know that your contemplation comes from a genuine place of love for this child. We hope that by reading our profile you can feel the love and commitment that we have for each other and how a child would make our family even more complete.





About Us

We've been together for six years and married three years ago surrounded by family and friends at our home. Our first date was something out of a romance comedy. Patrick made plans to meet only to find that place was closed leading to a quick change of locations, directions over the phone to a totally new part of the city, and finally ending at one of the fanciest spots in town. That night quickly went from a causal first date to fine dining complete with a table for two beside a fountain. Derek walked in worried that he was underdressed but the moment we saw each other for the first time everything stopped and it felt like everything in our lives had been leading to that very spot. I think that sort of set the tone for us and how we have tackled life together. We face whatever the day brings as a team and sometimes the unexpected turns into something extraordinary. Over the years we have experienced so much of life together from first plane trips to supporting each other through the rough parts life throws at us. Each moment showed us more and more why we worked and how we both made the other a better person.



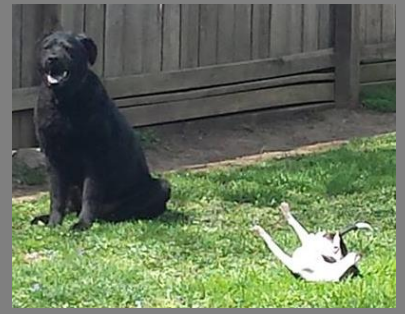
Derek

Is the first to say hello and doesn't know a stranger. He is happiest on a sunny day driving with the windows down listening to the radio. He loves being a Nurse and being able to help people going through some of the hardest times in their lives. He is one of those rare people who would do anything for his friends and that's led to us having an amazing group of great people surrounding us. His favorite thing to do is going to concerts. He always has a song for every situation and I can't wait for him to get to share his love of music. He balances me and reminds me to relax and slow down when I get too stuck in the details. He is my best friend.



Patrick

Pays attention to the details. He is always there to listen to you and really takes the time to hear what you have to say. He is the more organized of the two of us and that shows in his work in Finance as a Controller. He also likes working with his hands fixing things around the house and even built a deck for us by himself. He's always up for an adventure and loves to try new foods or see new places. Friends can always count on him to offer a helping hand and he sings along to the radio on road trips. Always tries to be open minded and adores his niece and nephews making it a point to take them on a trip for their birthdays each year. He completes me.





Our Home

We think a home is something you share with those that you love and on any given weekend you will find us, our four dogs, and two cats entertaining our friends and family as they stop by. Yes, you read that right 4 dogs and 2 cats. We are pretty big animal people and love getting to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon piled on the couch with all of them watching a movie and relaxing. We are excited to get to share our love of animals and offer a home where our child's best friend will have four legs, and a tail. During the summer you can find all of us (dogs included) by the pool relaxing and catching up around the table with Derek playing music into the evening. We have bonfires in the fall plus Derek has taught himself how to cook and won't hesitate to make a meal for anyone who stops by.

Family Traditions

Thanksgiving kicks off the holidays for us and our family gathers with all the cousins and aunts and uncles each year at Derek's grandparents' lake home. Grandma always makes her eggplant parmesan that definitely competes with the turkey for the spotlight. For Christmas, there is the annual Christmas treat day where our friends gather and spend a day making memories as we get to catch up and spend time together. We can't wait to share Aunt Nikki's secret family recipe for ginger snaps with our child and let them carry this tradition on in their own way. Of course there are the required 7 Christmas Trees that must be up and decorated as soon as possible so we can extend the entire season (Never to be taken down before New Year's Day). We have to admit gathering around our fireplace and seeing a 9ft tree lit and ready for Christmas morning makes us both feel like kids again ourselves (Patrick always falls asleep first on Christmas Eve). During summer our favorite week is the annual family trip to the Outer Banks which is currently in its 30th year (most of those in the same house). Also there are fireworks on the lake for the fourth where we all pile in the boat and grandpa takes us down the lake to the best spot so we can see all the colors and feel the sound of the show. There is a certain comfort that comes from repeating something year after year in the memories that it brings back to you and how it keeps stories alive in your heart. We are happy to get the opportunity to add to and share those stories as we add to our family.

Parenting Style

A child raised in our home will grow up knowing that love is not conditional and that they will always have us on their side. We will give them the opportunity to pursue their talents but want to make sure they also feel free to just be themselves. We will always make time for them and will make certain they realize that they are important. We are excited to make sure they know their story and their mother/parents as they grow if they are open to that. They will be surrounded by Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Grandparents, and Great-Grandparents who will help guide them and love them with us. We are happy to be at a place where we can offer our home and hearts to them and will have the privilege of helping them grow. We will get to learn and grow together as a family and can't wait for this new part of our lives.





Thank You

Hopefully this letter has given you a glimpse at our lives. Adoption has already touched us in many ways as we have a close family member who is a birth mother and several friends who have been adopted themselves or whom have adopted. We are looking forward to welcoming our child and surrounding them with that love and family. Both of us have always wanted to be parents and are so excited, happy, and nervous to add to our family.

We are grateful you have taken this time to read our letter and hope it has shown a small part of who we are.

