A Guide for Pregnant Women Considering Adoption

American Adoptions
America's Adoption Agency
What does adoption mean to a child?

Love

Opportunity

The American Dream

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Famous Faces of Adoption

Faith Hill

John Lennon

Jesse Jackson

Malcolm X

Daunte Culpepper

Run D.M.C.

Bill Clinton

McLachlan

Sarah

Nelson Mandela

Melissa Gilbert

Malcolm X

Ray Liotta

Steve Jobs

Tim McGraw

Eleanor Roosevelt

... and many more!
Welcome to American Adoptions

The Adoption Process Step-by-Step

1. Initial Contact
2. Info Packet
3. Explore Adoption with Your Adoption Specialist
4. Create an Adoption Plan
5. Baby is Born
6. Placement
7. Post-Adoption Services
Every Mother’s Choices:
Adoption vs. Parenting

Myths and Facts About Adoption

**Myth: A caring mother would never place her baby for adoption.**
**Fact:** A mother who creates an adoption plan is placing her child’s best interests above her own. Adoption is a caring and responsible choice for women who know in their heart that they aren’t ready to be a parent, yet know abortion isn’t the choice for them, either. Adoption is a very caring, loving choice many women make for their babies.

**Myth: My child will be mad at me for placing him/her for adoption.**
**Fact:** Your child will grow up knowing that they have two sets of parents who love them deeply — the adoptive family that has raised them, and the biological mother and father who loved them so much that they chose to give them a better life and the American Dream. In addition, adoptive families today are very open about their adoption stories and share them with their adopted children. Many of our adoptive families keep scrapbooks for their children that include photos, letters and other items from their birth parents. You child will grow up knowing their adoption story and will know first-hand how special adoption can be.

“My biological mother was in high school when she was pregnant with me. I’m sure she felt she was not capable of providing me with everything she wanted me to have and decided that adoption would be the best choice for us ... My (adoptive) parents are the best thing that has ever happened to me, and I could not imagine my life any other way. I am constantly reminded of the wonderful, selfless choice my birth parents made by choosing adoption for me. I have had an abundant life full of many opportunities that I may not have had otherwise been able to enjoy, including world travel, education, activities and religion. I was raised in a very loving home, and I continue to be extremely close to my parents today. I have never felt any void in my life or felt differently in any way because of being adopted.”  

- Jackie, adopted child

**Myth: No one can love a child as much as their biological parents.**
**Fact:** Love knows no boundaries, including biology. Adoptive parents adopt children because of their desire to be a mom and a dad. Not only will they love your child with their whole heart, but they will also cherish you for the incredible gift you have given them. Regardless of biology, adoptive parents share the same love for their children that other families have for their children. Michelle, a birth mother, states “I was not sure if any adoptive couple could ever love my son as much as I could. However, over the years I have been able to see how happy he is and the true love and dedication they have for him. Ryan’s adoptive family loves him just as much as I do and there is no doubt in my mind that he is and will always be their son no matter what biology says.”

**Myth: Adoption is an irresponsible solution to an unplanned pregnancy.**
**Fact:** Adoption is a very responsible decision for any woman facing an unplanned pregnancy. Not only are you able to continue pursuing your dreams and goals for the future, but you also ensure that your child grows up in a loving, stable home. There is nothing irresponsible about adoption.

**Myth: I will have to say goodbye and will never know how my child is doing.**
**Fact:** All of our families agree, at a minimum, to provide you with pictures and letters yearly until your child turns 18. In addition to being able to see your child grow up through pictures and letters, you will also have the opportunity to send your child pictures, letters and gifts as well. If you prefer to have more contact, your Adoption Specialist will help you find a family that is open to additional contact, such as phone calls, e-mails and even occasional visits. Our agency has worked with women with all kinds of preferences — no matter what kind of adoption you want, American Adoptions will work with you help you find the perfect family that meets all of your desires for your adoption.
Myths and Facts About Parenting

Myth: My family, friends or boyfriend will be there to help me raise this baby.
Fact: You are the only person who can guarantee your child’s health and well being. While your family or friends may help you from time to time, or say that they will be there to help you, the truth is that they cannot be there 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help you. Parenting is no small task — emotionally or financially. While you may have occasional support from your family or friends, you are ultimately responsible for your child.

Myth: A baby could help my relationship with my boyfriend/husband.
Fact: While it is understandable that you may think a baby will bring you and your boyfriend/husband closer, the truth is that a baby cannot guarantee your relationship. If you are experiencing relationship problems you should focus on working out the issues between you and your husband/boyfriend, rather than bringing a third person (your baby) into the relationship dynamic. Saving a relationship is a large responsibility to place on a baby and doesn’t work.

Myth: It is my responsibility to parent my baby, I am the one who got pregnant.
Fact: Family, friends and society can place a large burden on women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. You may feel pressure to parent your baby because you feel it is your responsibility or only option. People may have told you that adoption is an irresponsible solution to your unplanned pregnancy. Lisa, a birth mother, explains how she dealt with pressure from her aunt, Joan: “My aunt told me that it was my responsibility to raise my baby since I was the one who got pregnant. She felt that it was always best for the baby to stay with its mother, no matter the circumstances. She did not know much about adoption and felt that I was trying to take the easy way out by letting someone else raise my baby. I asked her ‘How is choosing adoption irresponsible? I can give my baby an amazing mom and dad and a life I could never give them. It is not going to be easy on me and in fact, I wish I was in a place to provide for my baby, but choosing to parent given my circumstances would be the irresponsible thing to do. Choosing adoption will allow my baby’s dreams to come true.’ Once I explained this to her and showed her more of what I had found about adoption, my aunt Joan supported my adoption plan and is proud of the choice I made.” Adoption is a responsible solution to an unplanned pregnancy. Only you know what is best for you and your baby — do not let family, friends or society pressure you into becoming a parent before you are ready. You have options for your baby and one of them is adoption.

Myth: Parenting is easier than abortion or adoption.
Fact: Being a parent is by far not an easy job. Although it may seem like parenting is the easiest choice for you emotionally, in reality parenting is a much harder job than most realize. While you may think right now that you can juggle school or work and parenting, take a moment and carefully consider what your life would be like as a parent. What will you do with your child while you are at school or work? Is your school or work schedule flexible enough to allow you time off when your child is sick? Carefully consider the financial commitment that comes with parenting. Being a parent is not an easy job, even if you are emotionally and financially prepared.
Charlie Henry (Jackson) adopted me and gave me his name, his love, his encouragement, discipline and high sense of self-respect.

Jesse Jackson is not only a minister, but a proud adopted child.
Adoption Choices:
American Adoptions Answers Your Questions

About Adoption

Q. What are the different types of adoption and what are my choices?

A. Your adoption plan is completely up to you. You will be able to choose an adoptive family for your child that will provide your child with the life you dream for them — whether you imagine a family living in the big city or a rural area in the Midwest, a family that has other children for your child to grow up with or a family with the dream of sharing their life with just one child. In addition, you can choose to meet the adoptive family and receive pictures and letters after the adoptive placement, or you may choose to have no contact with the family. There are many types of adoption and you are able to select which options fit your needs. Below is an explanation of each type of adoption you may choose from:

Open Adoption: You have the option of talking with the family on the phone, meeting them in person and receiving pictures and letters for 18 years, either through American Adoptions or sent directly to you by the adoptive family. In addition, you have the ability to exchange phone numbers and addresses with the family as well as have the opportunity for future visits.

Semi-Open Adoption: You have the option of talking with the family, meeting them in person and receiving pictures and letters for 18 years through American Adoptions. Many times, you will also have the option of communicating with the family through e-mail. With a semi-open adoption, only first names will be shared and no identifying information (last names, direct phone numbers, addresses) is given.

Closed Adoption: With this option you will have no contact with adoptive family prior to, at or after the birth. The only way American Adoptions allows this option is if you select it, as our agency does not allow families to choose this option. All families working with our agency must agree to, at a minimum, a semi-open adoption.

Q. How can I be certain that the family I select for my child is a good family and will provide a safe home?

A. All of the families that our agency works with undergo extensive background checks to ensure they will provide a safe, stable and loving home for your baby. As part of their adoption process, a social worker will visit them in their home to evaluate their home environment, conduct criminal and child abuse record checks on them, collect reference letters from family friends about them and more. You will also have the opportunity to get to know the family through e-mails and phone calls prior to the birth. During these conversations, you will be able to learn more about their lifestyle, values and plans for raising your child.

Meet Michelle – A Proud Birth Mom

After placing her son for adoption her senior year of high school, Michelle now offers peer support to other women just like her who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. If you would like to speak to someone who has been in your shoes and understands the emotions your are experiencing, contact Michelle at 1-800-ADOPTION.
Q: How much information will I know about the adoptive family?
A: You will receive a variety of profiles of adoptive families currently waiting to adopt. These profiles contain photos of the family and descriptions of their lifestyle and interests, their relationship with each other and what their home and extended family are like. Each profile will also include a “Dear Birth Mother” letter, which will explain to you why they are hoping to adopt. Profiles contain first names, the state the family lives in and other information about their lives that they wish to share.

Q: How much information about me will the adoptive family know?
A: You can share as much, or as little, information as you would like with the adoptive family you select. The adoptive family will know your first name and the city and state you live in. The social and medical history forms you fill out will be provided to the family and your baby’s pediatrician, however all identifying information (last name, address, phone number, etc.) will be omitted to ensure your privacy. American Adoptions also collects and provides to the family the medical records from your prenatal appointments and the hospital records from the birth. Your identifying information will also be omitted from these records.

Q: Will I meet the adoptive family?
A: If you would like to meet the adoptive family, you will have the opportunity to do so. Most birth mothers decide to meet the adoptive parents and spend time getting to know them. Many birth mothers say that it helps them feel more comfortable with their adoption decision and visualize better what type of life their child will have with the family. Adoptive families say that they enjoy getting to meet the birth parents also because they are able to tell the child about the birth mother and share how much the birth mother loves them. If you have specific wishes about meeting the family, discuss them with your Adoption Specialist so that she can assist you in finding the perfect family for you and your baby.

Q: Will I have any contact with the family after the adoption?
A: If you would like to have contact with the family after the adoption, you have the opportunity to do so. If you do not wish to have contact after the adoption, you do not have to. The choice is yours. Most birth mothers and adoptive families remain in contact after the adoption through e-mail, phone calls and by exchanging pictures and letters. Some birth mothers and adoptive families choose to have visits with each other after the adoption. Most birth mothers say that it helps them to receive pictures and updates of their child from the adoptive family because they do not have to wonder how their child is doing. By having this contact, they can see that their child has the life they wished for them to have. If you have specific wishes regarding contact with the adoptive family, please discuss them with your Adoption Specialist.

Q: How will the family tell my child about me and the adoption when my child is older?
A: Most families will tell the child that they are adopted from a very early age so the child grows up understanding that they are adopted. Most families say that they share with the child all of the information the birth mother wanted them to know about her and her family. In addition to sharing this information, most families say that they tell the child about the time they got to spend with their birth parents and how special the birth parents are to them and how much the birth parents loved them. If you have special wishes for what you would like the adoptive family to share with your child about you, you should talk with your Adoption Specialist and the adoptive family about this so they can make sure your wishes are met.
Adoption Choices:
American Adoptions Answers Your Questions

About Your Baby and Emotions

Q. Will my child understand my decision?
A: Many birth parents wonder if their child will understand why they were placed for adoption. In today’s adoptions, children grow up knowing their adoption story and how much their birth parents loved them to choose adoption for them. In the past, adoptions were often kept secret and adoptive parents and birth parents were not allowed to meet and get to know each other. This is what was considered best for everyone back then. Now, we know that this is not in fact what is best for everyone. These types of adoption often left birth mothers unable to choose the adoptive family, unable to explain why they chose adoption and ultimately left children to wonder who their birth parents were and why they chose adoption. By working with American Adoptions on your adoption plan, you will be able to choose how you want things to happen and ensure that your child knows why you made this difficult decision. You will be able to choose the adoptive parents that can provide the type of life you want for your child. You will be able to explain to everyone why you are choosing adoption and you will be able to provide your child with answers to their questions so they will understand your decision.

Q: How do I know I am making the right decision?
A: There are many emotions that correspond with adoption. The fear of regret is a very real one for many women considering adoption. Adoption is a very difficult decision and it is normal to question your thoughts and feelings about adoption. Only you know what is best for you and your baby — carefully consider all of the reasons why you are exploring adoption and remind yourself of those reasons. Autumn, an American Adoptions birth mother, explains her fears during her adoption process: “I was scared that I might regret my decision later on when my daughter became older and when I was more financially stable and could have been able to raise her. However, seeing how happy she is with her adoptive family makes me feel good about my decision and I would never want to take all of the wonderful experiences that she has had away from her. I could not give her everything that she deserved and everything that I had always dreamed for my children to have. Now she has all of that and I know it is because of my brave decision that those opportunities are possible for her.”

Q. Will I be able to spend time with my baby at the hospital?
A: Your hospital experience is an important piece of your adoption plan. You will be able to spend as much, or as little, time as you want with your baby in the hospital following the birth. Just as your adoption plan is up to you, so is your hospital plan. If you want the hospital experience to be a special one that includes just you and your baby, then that will be arranged. Or, if you wish to spend as much time as possible with you, your baby and the adoptive family you have selected, that may be arranged as well. You will have the opportunity to specify who you wish to be present at the hospital for the birth, as well how much time you spend with your baby. Sarah, a birth mother, describes her hospital experience: “I chose to see my son after he was born. It was something that I felt I needed to do for myself to help with closure. I knew adoption was right for my situation, although I knew it would be the most difficult decision that I have ever had to make. I said my good-byes to my son and that is a moment that I will treasure until the day that we hopefully meet again.”

Q: What about after the adoption? What can I expect to feel?
A: The adoption experience is different for each woman. Your Adoption Specialist will work with you throughout your pregnancy to emotionally prepare you for the adoption. We will also be here to support you after the adoptive placement. The important thing is to be as open and as honest as possible with your Adoption Specialist so that she can provide you any support you may need before, during and after the adoption.
Adoption Choices:
American Adoptions Answers Your Questions

Q: I'm so confused, is that normal?
A: Yes, many women often describe feeling a rollercoaster of emotions during this time — one minute you may be feeling confident and sure that you know the right choice for you, while the next you may be questioning everything all over again, feeling overwhelmed and unsure. It is important to remember that you are not alone — you are not the first women to experience an unplanned pregnancy and you won’t be the last. Millions of women have stood in your shoes, wondering what path to take. You may find it helpful to keep a journal during this time. Not only is this a good way to express your feelings, but it may also help you explore your options by serving as a record for any thoughts, questions, feelings or concerns you may have about your choices.

Q: I want to speak to a birth mother about her adoption experience. Is there someone I can speak to?
A: Yes, Michelle Downard is a proud birth mother who now provides birth mother support for American Adoptions. Michelle placed her son for adoption her senior year of high school. Today, Michelle shares her adoption story with other women considering adoption and supports birth mothers as they begin their own adoption journey. Your Adoption Specialist may also be able to provide you with names of other birth mothers who have placed with our agency that live in your state. If you have access to the Internet, there are also many birth mother stories available in the Pregnancy section of our website, www.americanadoptions.com. If you would like to speak to a birth mother, feel free to contact Michelle at 1-800-ADOPTION. Read Michelle’s adoption story on page 15.

About Your Family and Friends

Q: If my child is less than 6 months old, can my parents, grandparents, etc. stop me from choosing adoption for my baby?
A: Adoption is your choice. Your parents cannot stop you from choosing adoption. Your Adoption Specialist can help you tell your parents (if you choose to) about your adoption plan and will help you and your family through the process. If you feel that it is best to not involve your family in your decision, that is OK as well. American Adoptions will support your privacy.

Q: How do I tell my family or friends about my adoption plan?
A: If you are wondering how to tell those close to you about your adoption plan, talk with your Adoption Specialist - she will be able to assist you.

Q: How will my other children react to adoption? How do I tell my children about my adoption decision?
A: Your Adoption Specialist will provide you with resources to help you explain the adoption to your children, including lists of children’s books or movies that can help them to understand adoption. If you have older children, they may also write a letter to the baby or draw a picture for the adoptive family to save for the baby. Your Adoption Specialist can provide you with age-appropriate ways to explain adoption to your children, as well as ways for you to ensure that their emotional needs are also addressed during the adoption process.

Q: What do I tell other people about my adoption plan?
A: The decision about what to tell people — or not tell people — about your adoption plan is up to you. Some women share their adoption plan with just a few close friends or family, while others are comfortable sharing it with anyone who asks. You also don’t have to tell anyone about your adoption plan, if that is your choice. Your Adoption Specialist can help you prepare for any questions or discussions that your may have with others regarding your adoption.
About the Father

Q: What if I do not know who the father is, or there is more than one possible father?
A: This is not uncommon. Many women we work with do not know exactly who the father of their baby is or how to locate him — and that is OK. Each court system has specific procedures our agency will follow to terminate his parental rights. We handle these procedures for you. Your Adoption Specialist will share with you how this part of the process works.

Q: What if the father of my baby does not agree with my adoption decision?
A: We have worked with many women in cases where the birth father does not support the adoption plan. Please share your thoughts about the birth father with your Adoption Specialist so that she can help you proceed with your adoption plan.

Q: Is it uncommon that the father is my boyfriend, fiancé or husband and we still want to place our baby for adoption?
A: No, not at all. We have worked with many couples — married and unmarried — who have chosen together to place their baby for adoption. Having your boyfriend or spouse involved in the adoption plan can provide extra support and guidance to you during the adoption process and can be very beneficial for everyone involved. If your boyfriend, fiancé or husband is supportive of your adoption plan and wants to be involved in the adoption process, we would welcome his involvement. Just as your Adoption Specialist will be here to support you during the adoption process, she will also provide any support your boyfriend, fiancé or husband needs as well. Our agency fully supports couples who choose adoption together.

Q: I have not told the father yet about my pregnancy or my thoughts about choosing adoption - what should I do?
A: If you are wondering how and what you should say to the father regarding your pregnancy and/or adoption consideration, then you are not alone. Our Adoption Specialists can help you find the right words to say and assist you with any discussions with the father of your baby, whether you are still a couple or not. Our Adoption Specialists have helped women through each step of the way. Share your thoughts and concerns with your Adoption Specialist so that she provide you advice and insight into how to approach this conversation.
Meg Ryan is not only a famous actress, but an adoptive mother.

“I am convinced, completely convinced, that there was nothing random about [the adoption], she is the daughter I should have.”
My name is Lona and this is my story ...

I am 22 years old and have two children, both under the age of five. You could imagine my shock when I found out that I was pregnant again. I was afraid to tell my boyfriend. I was afraid that he was going to run out on me just like the others had. I knew his reaction was going to be bad, but nothing prepared me for what would happen next. I had been researching different adoption agencies and reading everyone’s profiles. I didn’t tell him this was what I thought would be best until we were finally able to sit down and talk about it without fighting. After discussing the issue, we both agreed that adoption was our best option. Picking a family was hard. I mean, how do you sit down and choose two complete strangers to raise your child? It is the second hardest decision that you will make. He and I sat down with our paperwork, picked three families and went from there.

Needless to say, my first choice family didn’t work out. In some ways, I thought that maybe God was trying to tell me something. I knew deep down that I could not take care of another child ... not now ... not ever. After going through another set of profiles, I finally chose Jerry and Lisa. In the beginning, I mainly chose them because they had no children at all and I wanted to be their miracle. I will never forget the first time that I talked to them on the phone. It was amazing. I was so nervous, but after that first “Hello,” everything was fine. They were great. We talked on a regular basis and it wasn’t required of me, but I wanted to because it gave me the opportunity to know them as people so that I felt comfortable when it came time to give them their little Luke. I gave them pictures of my kids, things that had belonged to my other two when they were babies and even a copy of the ultrasound. Things couldn’t have been better, so we decided to meet.

Almost six hours of labor brought the most precious joy into the room ... weighing 9 lbs. 8.6 ozs and 21 in long ... he was perfect. We sat there for about 30 minutes holding him, looking at him and talking to him. I lay there in bed just amazed at how I brought this wonderful little boy into the world and had the strength to give him a better life. When he got hungry, I had the nurse go and get Jerry and Lisa. I held him for a bit after they came in, they hugged me and we all cried together. After I handed him to Lisa, I lost it, but it was OK because I knew what I was doing was the hardest thing I had ever done, but it was also the greatest thing I had ever done. The next day it was time for everyone to leave the hospital. I wasn’t sure how I was going to handle it or my emotions. Before I left, I went over and Jerry, Lisa, Luke and I had pictures taken together. It was harder towards the end because I knew that it was almost over. I declined the option to receive pictures and letters throughout the years, but in my situation, the option will always be there. Jerry and Lisa are going to send them to the agency and I can always change my mind and have them sent to me.

There isn’t a day that has gone by that I haven’t thought about Jerry and Lisa, but about being able to give the baby up. I didn’t know if I was strong enough or if I would be able to live with myself later. After a lot of thought and support from my ex-boyfriend (who also happens to be my best friend) and friends, I realized that I am one of the strongest people in the world. God chose me for them and them for Luke.
and that he will always know who I am and that I love him so much that I chose a better life for him.

My thoughts for all of you are this ... It isn’t the easiest thing to do and you will be sad, but you have been chosen by a higher power and he will help match you with the right family for your baby. You are making another family extremely happy and you may not even realize it. I knew it, but it wasn’t until I saw the three of them together that I realized all their dreams had come true, and it was thanks to me and my sacrifice for them. Keep that in mind when you make your choice. If you can’t give the baby the love or life that you wish you could, there is a family here that can.

All my love and the best of luck to you,
Lona

Lona’s Story: The Adoptive Family
Meet Jerry, Lisa and Luke

W e had always wanted a family. When we began our journey we had no idea what lied ahead. After four years of infertility heartache we decided to stop the emotional pain and adopt, we would be guaranteed a family.

It was a huge decision choosing an agency. We were emotionally exhausted and just wanted a baby and an agency that would handle all the paperwork and legal issues for us. Our friends, who adopted a beautiful little girl, recommended American Adoptions.

We filled out all the paperwork and had our home study completed. This seemed like an overwhelming task at first but went very well once we got into it. We were quickly active and began our wait.

We received calls immediately but declined them due to situations that did not match our APQ. We were matched with a birthmother six months later. We were so thrilled! The baby was due in three months. We told all our family and friends and began to get everything ready. Our dream was about to become reality. We had hoped to meet her but she did not want any contact, we respected that.

As the date drew closer we could not believe how excited we were. Unfortunately, that dream was shattered as the birthmother decided to keep the baby when it was born. We were devastated and thought our dreams of becoming a family were over.

The agency immediately began showing our profile again, at our request. We did not want any healing time we just wanted to move forward again. Just two months later we received a call that a birthmother and birthfather in Wyoming had chosen us. They matched our APQ perfectly, we were happy but did not allow ourselves to get excited. She wanted conference calls right away and wanted to meet us during the five months before the baby was due.

We were unbelievably nervous for the first call. But the moment she answered we talked like long time friends. It was a wonderful phone call. We had several calls with her and flew to meet her in Wyoming. We were so nervous again, we will never forget the first time we met her. We can still see her standing there smiling, a nervous smile. But, again, we felt comfortable instantly. It was a very special visit as we also met her two children. We looked at several pictures with her and she gave us the sonogram tape and some special items for us to save for the baby. She also gave us a card and letters for both us and the baby. We all went out to eat and had a wonderful evening. This time flew by and we will treasure it forever.

We continued to have calls until the due date and created a very special bond with Lona. We were feeling very comfortable about this situation but remained cautious due to our prior experience. We felt guilty for this -- felt that we were cheating Lona and the baby by not letting ourselves become excited. We just had to protect our own emotions. We even felt comfortable enough with Lona to share this with her. We did not tell any family or friends this time -- we were tired of having to give them bad news and wanted our next news to them to be happy.

We had wonderful calls with Lona over the five months and will forever cherish all that was shared. This will be wonderful to share when the baby is older. Lona is a remarkable young lady, very motivated, very compassionate, very thoughtful, and we love her so much. She made us feel very comfortable and did all she could to make it a good experience for us. We were very sure that she was going to bless us with our first child. She had even told us she wanted to give us our first miracle.

A week and a half before the due date, Lona asked that we call her. She told us we may want to begin to travel to Wyoming because the baby could come any day. 

Continued next page...
And if not, she would be induced the following Monday. We were so excited! We packed the car that night and took off first thing the next morning. The drive out was so nice, we spent a lot of time talking and reflecting.

We arrived in her town on a Friday and took her to lunch. We spent the afternoon with her. We think this was a very crucial time for all of us to be together. It helped us so much and we hope it helped to reassure her of her decision. She shared the gender of the baby with us that day. We were having a boy! Lona was reassuring us at this point that we would be parents.

He did not want to enter the world any too soon so we spent the weekend there and went to the hospital at 7 am Monday morning. We talked to Lona and met the birthfather for the first time. It was so nice to be able to meet him.

The hospital made us feel very comfortable, all thanks to Lona. She had told them all about us and even arranged for us to have our own room. Lona felt the bonding period was crucial, as did we. She had originally wanted Lisa in the delivery room but decided on that day that she and the birthfather needed that final time together alone. We were sad but respected their wishes.

After a long day for all of us, our baby boy was born at 5:54 p.m. In less than an hour Lona let us have our little boy. We will forever thank her for this. We will never forget the moment in that room as she and the birthfather kissed him goodbye and we welcomed him into our lives we were a family! He was beautiful. We were able to be with Luke Alexander from that moment on, thanks again to Lona arranging this all with the hospital. This time with Luke was so very precious and we hope she knows how greatly it is appreciated. We visited Lona and she visited us while we were all in the hospital. We took a picture of the four of us for Luke to see some day. These last times together were so touching. We will forever cherish them.

After a few days at home, the agency asked if we would be willing to have one last call with Lona. We immediately said yes. And we are so glad we did. We spent this phone call listening to her read her letter she wrote for the agency. We all cried once again she told the story so beautifully. It is truly a beautiful story. We will never forget the last words she said to us....“give your baby a kiss for me.”

Our letter ends here but our deep love and respect for Lona will go on forever. We hope she realizes that she filled a tremendous void in our lives and we will thank her for the rest of our lives. Our entire family and all of our friends only wish they could have had the chance to personally tell her thank you. We want her to know that she is loved and respected by so many people. She is truly a remarkable lady and will forever be a member of our family.

We know that each one of you have been through a remarkable amount of heartache to get to this point. We wanted to share our story with you to give you hope. We had many moments where we wanted to just give up. We thought we weren’t supposed to be parents. When our first match fell through, we didn’t know if we could go through it all again. But every time we look at Luke, we know why we did. Being a parent is truly an overwhelming emotional experience and so worth fighting for. We did not know we could love so deeply. The few months we have shared with him have been the best months of our lives and, for this, we thank Lona.

Love,
Jerry, Lisa and Luke

“We took a picture of the four of us for Luke to see some day. These last times together were so touching. We will forever cherish them.”

Read more birth mother stories at www.americanadoptions.com
Faith Hill is not only a famous country singer, but is also an adopted child.

“I have a lot of respect for my birth mother ... I know she must have had a lot of love for me to want to give me what she felt was a better chance.”
A Birth Mother’s Story
Meet Michelle: A Teen Mom

I met Shawn my sophomore year. He would always sit right next to me in World Studies class. All I noticed was that he played hockey and would occasionally have something to say about practice or his game. He was a nice guy, but I wasn’t really interested in him. The following summer, he started hanging out with the group of friends that I had hung out with. Eventually it turned into an every day event and by fall Shawn and I were officially dating. Every night during the school year we would find a way to be together, even if that meant I would lie to my parents about where I was going. I felt as if we would be together forever.

After Prom we made the decision to start having sex. I reflect back on it now and realize that I was trying to hold on to someone who was not going to hold on to me. We thought we were ready for it, little did we know that what the future held was not what we had expected, or planned. We continued dating throughout the summer, and after many rough nights of arguing and jealousy, Shawn decided he did not want to be together anymore.

One September night I went to a high school football game when I got home I noticed that I was short of breath and swollen underneath my ribs. When I showed my parents they immediately rushed me to the emergency room. After many tests, the doctor walked into the room with the results. As my mom stood beside me and my dad sat in the chair directly in front of the bed, I heard the doctor say, “I’m sorry to tell you this, but we got the test results back and have come to find that Michelle is pregnant.” I was in shock. I have never cried so hard and felt so ashamed, embarrassed, and destroyed inside as I did the morning of September 25, 1997. I was quickly in denial telling the doctor that they had made a mistake, it couldn't be. But in reality it was true.

I gathered my thoughts and knew what I had to do. Adoption was the only option for me.

Bradley Tyson was born February 24, 1998 at 2:50 a.m. The next two days our room was filled with friends and family and Shawn and I spent all the time that we could with Bradley. Finally the time had come and we had to leave the hospital. Shawn and I went to my house and spent the last hour with Bradley. The attorney arrived shortly after and as soon as the legal papers were signed, stating that we relinquished our rights to the adoptive parents, than they were called and came over to pick up their new little baby boy. I, with the help of my mom, handed my 5 lb. 15 ounce little boy to the adoptive mom and we all cried and hugged. They thanked Shawn and me continuously and promised to always keep in touch and send pictures and letters as often as possible. It was the hardest thing I have ever had to do, but at the same time I knew it was the right thing for me to do. As they walked out the door I just stood motionless and watched as they drove out of sight. All I could do was whisper, “Good-bye, I will always love you.”
The next few months and years have all gone by so fast and Bradley, now known as Ryan, is always with me in my heart. I have kept in touch with the family and they have kept their promise to send pictures and letters with updates of all the activities he is involved in. Over the years I have been able to see all the wonderful things he has been able to do. He has all these opportunities because of adoption. Seeing his smiling face in the pictures makes all my fears and doubts go away.

I want to encourage people to always do what is right for them and understand that adoption is a positive alternative. I am confident that I will one day get to meet Ryan again. Since I first found out I was pregnant, I began keeping a journal in which I write letters to my son. I continue to write in my journal so that when that day comes for us to meet again he will know that every moment we were apart I loved him and was waiting for the moment when we would be together again! The adoptive family and I have a wonderful relationship and I am grateful to them every day for giving their son and my little boy everything in life that I had always dreamed of giving to him.

Update to my personal experience with adoption

Today Ryan is 12 years old. Time has gone by so fast and so much has happened. In November of 2008 I got married and this past June my husband and I had our first child, Callie. When I first found out I was pregnant, I was nervous, excited, scared, and constantly wondered how this pregnancy would be similar or different to my pregnancy with Ryan. As it turns out both pregnancies were very different and this time we were having a girl. A lot of my emotions and feelings surrounded my adoption experience. A lot of thoughts and feelings resurfaced and I was unsure how things would be once I delivered our baby girl. Being a new mom and parenting this child has brought about a new perspective and appreciation for adoption. I used to tell other birthmothers that I could have raised Ryan and he would have been just fine. As much as I still believe he would have been fine if I had to parent him, I am now reassured more than ever that I made the right decision with choosing adoption for him. He would have had all the love in the world but I could not have done it on my own. I never realized that I still needed closure for my adoption decision until I had my daughter. Parenting her has been an absolute dream but also the hardest job I have ever had. I know at 17 years old I would not have been able to give Ryan the life he deserved. I would not have been able to provide for him financially, emotionally, and physically without another full time partner and also the help of my parents. Choosing adoption for Ryan was the most difficult decision I have ever made in my life but now that I have my daughter I am even more positive than ever before that I made the best decision for him. I know that he has the family he was meant to be with and that everything truly did happen for a reason. I love both Ryan and Callie equally and Callie will grow up knowing about her half-brother Ryan. I hope that they will one day be able to meet, whenever Ryan is ready or wants to. My children mean the world to me and I never knew it could feel so good to have the experience of adoption and the experience of parenting. I have closure and I am at peace with the decision to place Ryan when I was 17 years old and now, as a 30 year old, be able to provide my second child with what she deserves.

Sincerely,
Michelle

A 17-year-old high school senior I was given the biggest shock of my life one day when my ex-girlfriend told me that she was five months pregnant and I was the father. My first reaction was “how could this happen?” Although it was fairly obvious how it happened, I thought I was one of those guys that thought something like this would never happen to me. These things and many others raced through my mind in the seconds between her telling me she was pregnant and that I had no responsibility for anything because she had already taken care of it. She told me that she was putting the child up for adoption and that she and her family had already found a couple for the baby. All I had to do was sign a few pieces of paper. Being the guy that I was, a big sense of relief fell upon me at that time.

After I had time to think about what was going on I became pretty upset that I had no say in the decision that had already been made. After I got through this phase I knew that the right decision had been made. Both of us were still in high school and already had plans to attend college. From what the mother had told me, the adoptive family was very nice and would take great care of Ryan. I trusted her judgment and thought that this would be the best thing for us to do at this point in our lives.

After hearing about how she chose the adoptive parents

Continued next page...
Shawn’s Birth Father Story (continued)

and all the things that they must go through in order to qualify to adopt a child, I knew that this couple would be able to give Ryan a life ten times better than we would have been able to. Now that I was confident in our decision and I thought there would be no worries I went on with my normal life and tried to spend as much time with the mother as possible. This led me to become pretty attached to Ryan and began to rethink the decision that she had made. But, I was always reminded of how much better off he would be with the adoptive family. I wish I had the chance to meet the parents earlier than when I had met them at the hospital.

“I also think of how much different my life would be if we had raised the child ourselves. I am sure that we made the right decision especially now that I know what it takes to raise a child.”

When the time came when Ryan was born I saw the whole thing and was even able to hold him. I spent all of my time at the hospital with mom and Ryan; I did not go home once while they were there so I could spend as much time as possible with the two of them. Then the time came when the adoptive parents showed up and was ready to take him home. This was by far the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my life. I still knew that we had done the right thing for us and for Ryan.

The thing that made it easier was that the adoptive parents agreed to send us pictures of Ryan every once in awhile and keep in touch with the mother to let her know how he was doing. To this day I love to open the mail and see those pictures and a letter telling us how everything is going. I have a picture of Ryan on my wall to this day. When the month of February, the month he was born, comes around I think about Ryan and his birth mother.

I am now married and have a daughter and a son and I love them more that anything. After raising these two up to now, I know that we made the right decision. I look forward to the day when Ryan is old enough to come meet us if he decides to.

As I look back on it now there are a few things that I wish could have been different, but overall I am happy the way things turned out. I really wish that I could have been involved with the decision from day one when she found out she was pregnant instead of waiting awhile to tell me.

Pictures and letters are just one of the many options available for you to choose when making an adoption plan. Our Adoption Specialists can explain to you all of your options and can help you find the right family to fit your needs. Contact us today at 1.800.ADOPTION to learn more about creating your unique adoption plan.
Daunte Culpepper is not only a professional football player, but is also an adopted child.

“I am a living testament you can be adopted and successful.”
Hi, My name is Teka. I'm 26 and I have two children. Here's how my story goes.

It all started on the birth father's birthday. We met at my job. That was when we started dating. A few days later, we conceived a child. At this point, being pregnant was the last thing on my mind. He said something about it (that I might be pregnant), but I just ignored it. After a month of dating, our relationship ended on a sour note.

Time passed and I started to show. I still ignored it. I thought it would go away. Once I realized that it would not go away, I started to weigh my options. I don't believe in abortion so that was out. It was, either deal with it and raise the baby or adoption.

I thought about how my mother struggled with three kids as a single mother and I didn't want to struggle like she did. I also thought about the children I already have, and the lack of a father, not knowing how the birth father would deal. I thought he would blow me off. So, I chose adoption. I knew that was the only way to give my baby what I couldn't. Not at this point, not like this.

At this point, no one knew that I was pregnant, not even the birth father. It was February and I was at the beginning of my 3rd trimester.

I called American Adoptions and they mailed over tons of useful information. I felt at ease by the fact that they cared so much. That was when I got a call from Megan, who is my counselor for the adoption. We went through all the technical stuff, and then finally it was time to select parents.

At this point, I finally told the birth father. His reaction was expected, he was shocked. I gave him a few days to let the news sink in. When I called back, he said to go ahead with my decision. That was when I felt blown off. I knew now that I was doing the right thing. I had never planned to tell him, but my mother made me realize that I had to tell him regardless of how I thought he would take it. At first I wished I never said anything to him, but I did feel better once I told him.

Now it was March and we were getting so close to the end of my pregnancy. Megan sent me lots of profiles and choosing one family was really hard. So, I read them all and decided the ones that caught me emotionally were the ones I should look at closer. Megan reassured me that things happen for a reason. Then she told me about Sarah and Milton. They sounded perfect. But I didn't get my hopes up. Once Megan told me how excited Sarah was, I knew it was okay to get excited. I couldn't wait to talk to her. When we did talk, I felt as if I'd known her all my life. We talked about my kids and she told me stuff about her family. We were able to get in a few phone calls before "the one" most important phone call.

At 1:30 a.m., I called my sister to take me to the hospital, and then I called Megan. The whole way to the hospital, all I could think was, “This is it. Am I really ready for what’s ahead?” I probably wasn’t, and I didn’t want to face it.

Here it was, 5:56 a.m. on April 16 and I had just brought into the world a beautiful baby girl. Sarah was unable to be there at the delivery because of her flight. I couldn’t wait to meet her. I knew how excited she was, and that felt good. I spent time with my baby before Sarah arrived. I fed her and held her and I talked to her. My sister, her boyfriend and my kids came to see me. Everyone got the chance to hold her and we took pictures. Finally, at about 10 or 11 a.m. Sarah was here. We all sat and talked and took pictures. Then my family left Sarah and me to bond. Sarah named her Erin. And to see her with Erin and how happy she was made me smile.

As it came time to say good-bye, Sarah left me for a few moments alone with Erin. Having to let go of a life that has grown inside me was the hardest thing that I will ever have to do. And for a while, I didn't want to face the fact.

Then, Sarah and I gave each other a hug. I will never forget—she thanked me for blessing her with Erin.

A week later, I met with Sarah and her friend before their flight home. We took more pictures and my kids were able to say good-bye to Erin.

A week later, I met with Sarah and her friend before their flight home. We took more pictures and my kids were able to say good-bye to Erin.

That was my final good-bye. And as Sarah and I hugged each other, I told her she was family now, and she was “stuck” with me. And she made me realize how much of a blessing I was. Knowing that made this easier on me. Deep down I know that Erin's Mom and Dad will give her the life I couldn’t. I know that everything happens for a reason. I was placed in this situation for someone to be
blessed with the miracle of a child.

For those who are reading my story... keep in mind that God has put you in your situation for someone to receive a blessing, and he will give you the strength you need.

**Part II of Teka’s Adoption Story (Two Years Later)**

It’s been two years, and I have to say that the way that I feel about the adoption has changed. At first I felt alone, and confused, and hurt. Now that time has passed, and I see pictures every six months or so, I have to say that it is something that I am content with. Everyday I am more comfortable with my decision, and glad that I selected the parents that I did. Not only that, but to include my children, they send a birthday card to them. And we always discuss the situation, just so that they are aware of what is going on. Also, we all know that humor can be the best medicine, well we call Erin’s mom, our “Baby Mamma.” You can’t help but smile at that. That just goes to show, that time will heal all wounds. You just have to trust and believe, and never lose faith. Knowing that is awesome! I know that this is a healing process that will last for a long time. I still have my moments. But I am doing a lot better emotionally!

Talking about it definitely helped me. And it still does. I display pictures all over the place as I do with my older children. Now when I have friends ask, “who’s that?” I have no issues telling them. They sometimes don’t get a chance to ask, and then the conversation usually goes into how it happened, and how I dealt with all the many emotions. I can’t say that it was at all easy. But the more that I discuss it; the better it is for me.

Since then I have run into her birthfather. And of course it didn’t go over well. At first he tried to show empathy for me, but I didn’t buy it. The conversation was not at all a benefit to me. So at that point I made the choice to let him go. I know that when it is time to answer questions about him, they will be short answers. That is the only part of this that upsets me. But I realize that not everyone is as selfless as I was and we all have our own way of letting go.

This has since then humbled me in ways. It has also been a learning experience. I have learned to let go emotionally, and it also makes you think about life in a whole new light. I am happy with my decision because I know that Erin and her family are happy!

My advice to any birthmother, FAITH!!! Don’t let it go.

And as Megan would put it, “Everything happens for a reason!” You are a miracle for someone!

**Part III of Teka’s Adoption Story (Four Years Later)**

It’s been a little over four years and there have definitely been a lot of changes in how I deal with the Adoption. I have had some wonderful people in my corner that has also been in a situation that is similar to mine, in some fashion. I have now gotten to the point where it’s not as hard to receive the pictures and letters that I get from Erin’s mom. As a matter of fact I look forward to getting them. Of course this is something that never really goes away so I still have my moments. But they are more healing than anything.

I have also been able to speak with other birthmothers that are in the same situation, and with that it has not only been rewarding to know that I am helping someone, but it is also healing in its own sense. Knowing that this is not something that will ever go away ... I’m always looking for something to make it feel better. And it did! Just as I thought that everything was going to fall apart ... low and behold ... it got BETTER.

I am now at the point where Erin’s pictures are on the wall with the rest of my family, as well as her adoptive mother, Sarah. I also have no issues answering any questions that I may be asked. At first, that was not the case. I wouldn’t be completely up front about the adoption and I did my very best to avoid the topic all together. Of course the reason for that at the time was that I was not into the judgment that you would expect to hear from those who either don’t know or don’t understand, or both.

Having other children did make it a little hard. Not only do I try to find a healthy way the deal with my emotions, but I have to also educate my children on what and why adoption is all about, while trying to stay strong in the process. I had to find and hold on to my strength so that my children did not feel the same emotions that I was feeling. I have my own little ways that I remind myself that keep me strong. Talking to others in my situation is one of them. And the one thing that I say that is the most effective is that I realize that I am not going to be placed in a situation that I am not strong enough to get through.

Everything happens for a reason, and I truly believe that I was chosen to be the miracle for Sarah’s blessing.

My advice to any birthmother, FAITH!!! Don’t let it go.

**Love, Teka**
Nicole Kidman is not only a famous actress, but an adoptive mother.

“Somehow destiny comes into play. These children end up with you and you end up with them. It’s something quite magical.”
My husband and I both had faced infertility issues and had come to accept that we could not have children. We had gone on with our lives, making a wonderful life for ourselves with no worries or regrets -- until we hit our 30’s and everything changed.

Despite being told that I most likely could not conceive a child, there was a moment where it appeared that I could actually be pregnant. However, to our disappointment that was not the case. My husband and I were both very sad -- to our surprise we both realized we actually had wanted a baby! That’s when we realized that there was something else planned for us.

Deciding to adopt was not a difficult decision for us. In fact we made it in less than 24 hours. Adoption has been a very large part of my family as my brother had adopted three beautiful children. We researched our options, and before choosing American Adoptions, I volunteered at the agency to determine if this really was the agency for us. Not only did I love my time as a volunteer, but I was so impressed that we decided to begin our own adoption journey with them. I later found out that American Adoptions had already touched my life, as it was the agency that my brother had used to adopt his second child!

We started the paperwork process and were taking things slowly -- my husband wanted the same nine months everyone else gets to prepare for a baby! I very much wanted to meet our potential birth mother, who ever she may be, at the hospital so that one day I could share with my child what a wonderful and beautiful woman she was. I was also open to conference calls before birth. We became active with the agency the first week of August, 2005. Not quite two months later we received the phone call that we had been chosen! From the first moment we spoke to the birth mother, we knew that it was meant to be. We were not planning on an open relationship, but one month before the baby was due, our birth mother invited us to her home state of South Dakota to meet her. I immediately accepted the invitation. Although not every birth mother wants to meet face-to-face, we were excited to have this opportunity. Our personal relationship among the three of us began there. We exchanged phone numbers and visited the hospital and she introduced us to her family. After we visited her, she let us know our visit confirmed to her that she had picked the right couple. We wanted her to know everything about and be comfortable with us. I knew we had accomplished that when she started to refer to the baby as “Your Son.”

Our birth mother had a scheduled induction, which allowed my husband and I to be at the hospital for the delivery. At first she had wanted her space and we waited out in the hall, but during delivery, she changed her mind and wanted us in the room for the birth – What an incredible moment that was! On December 17, 2005, my beautiful son, AJ, entered this world. All emotions were felt at the hospital that day for my family and for hers. We had grown very close to our birth mother and although she knew she was making a wonderful choice for her son, it was still very hard. We will be forever grateful for her decision. She is a part of our lives and a part of our family. We will always have a connection.

We were able to see her a few more times before we returned home, which helped her confirm that she made the right choice to place her baby with us. We were even able to spend time together on Christmas day with her and our extended family! We haven’t seen each other since the adoption, but we send pictures and letters every few months through the agency to let her know what is going on with our lives. She also calls me on his birthday and we talk about how he is growing so fast. We also connect via e-mails and more recently, Facebook. This is more contact then some birth mothers want, but this is what we are all comfortable with doing.

Every night we say prayers with our son before he goes to bed, and we include his birth mother. My son is now five years old, he may not understand everything we talk about, but it will never be a surprise that he is adopted. We feel it is important to make it an everyday topic and let him know that he is where God intended him to be.

A year after adopting my son I took a full-time position at American Adoptions. I worked for two years as an Adoptive Family Coordinator at the agency, helping other families just like mine fulfill their dreams of becoming a family. I then felt another path calling me and chose to leave the agency to become a stay-at-home mom and have now for two years. These days I work part time with the agency when I am needed – I love to share my story and help others know the joy and happiness that a child can bring. Adoption has touched my live in many, many ways and I will forever be thankful for my son’s birth mother and the choice she made.

Sincerely, Jenny
Sandra Bullock is not only a famous actress, but also a proud adoptive mother.

“He’s just perfect, I can’t even describe him any other way ... It’s like he’s always been a part of our lives.”
An Adoptee’s Story:

Meet Jennifer

Thirty years ago I was given the most awesome gift, my family. I had an amazing childhood, full of family, fun and opportunity. I still can’t imagine all that my birth mother went through to come to the selfless decision to place me for adoption, but I am grateful for the life she gave to me.

My mom was at work that evening as a nurse at a local hospital and my dad was home with my brother. He received a call stating that they could come meet their baby girl the next day (that was me). They were so excited and frantic. They had been waiting 3 years for that call. My brother, who was 9 years old at the time, was pretty excited too. My brother was biologically my parents’, but my mom had complications from his birth so they were unable to have anymore children.

When they came to the agency to meet me, I had been in foster care for a couple of days. They unfortunately did not get to meet my birth parents. After all the paperwork was completed, the fun began. Within 4 months, I actually became really sick and had to go to the hospital. They found out that I was born with a congenital heart defect, 2 different anomalies actually. How ironic is it that I was adopted by a nurse! I truly believe it was divine intervention and that I was where God had intended me to be. My family went through so much with me that first year. But it was all worth it.

People often ask if there is a difference between the way my parents treated my brother and I, since he was biologically their child. I always tell them the same thing, NO! We were honestly treated the same, I was daddy’s little girl and he was a momma’s boy. He treated me just like any other annoying younger sister. Now that we are older we are very close and I have enjoyed being a part of his new family!

I have an amazing letter from my biological mother. She explained to me in detail our 9 months together, how she said good bye to me and all the hopes she had for me. I can only imagine she would be proud of me as I currently am an Adoption Specialist helping other women just like her. I do admit that I had lots of questions growing up, but my parents have always made me feel that I am special because I was adopted. I would like to have more information about her, know what she looks like, and who she is. Most of all I want her to know that I am doing great and she made one of the best decisions of my life.

I, myself am now a mother to my first child, a son. I now understand what it means to be a mother and how difficult it must have been for my birth mother to say good-bye to me. She has truly given me the gift of life, and for that, I will always be thankful.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

Wondering how your baby will feel growing up adopted? Contact Jennifer at 1.800.ADOPTION to learn more about what it is like to grow up adopted.
Looking Toward the Future:  
Meet Autumn

Anger, sorrow, frustration, confusion, pain, and humiliation were just a few of the emotions I felt when I found out that I was pregnant. Everyone around me offered advice, and yet I still felt alone. Nobody told me what to do, and yet I still felt pressured. For an 18-year-old girl, fresh out of high school, with a collegiate athletic scholarship on the table, pregnancy was the last issue on my mind. Yet still I was there, in shoes that I never imagined I would fill. My options were clear, but there was not one that seemed good. I knew that abortion was not an option for me, but I also wanted my child to have the best life possible. For these reasons I chose adoption. Nine months later, as I placed my baby girl into the hands of her new mother, all those feelings rushed back in. It was one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make, yet I would do it again a thousand times over. They always say every rose has its thorn, but I am thankful that every thorn bush has a rose. Out of a heartbreaking situation came hope.

Getting a college degree was always at the top of my priority list, I just wasn’t sure what degree I wanted and what I wanted to do with one. After working through the whole adoption process, I knew that I wanted to help other girls dealing with pregnancy and other hardships. I was able to attend a university where I played volleyball and majored in Sociology. In the future, I hope to use my story to make adoption a more prevalent choice among women.

I am really proud of myself for the accomplishments I have made so far and can’t wait to see where my life leads. By choosing adoption, I was able to continue my life and accomplish the goals that I have always had and also give my baby the life that I was not able to provide. Adoption is a win-win situation for everyone and it is the most selfless decision to make. To any birthmother considering adoption, I’d say there is no better choice available. Yeah, it’s not easy, but it’s the most rewarding decision you can make. You are making an important decision that will change lives—that of your child and a family that wants a child more than anything in the world—but are unable to conceive.

Thanks to American Adoptions and the scholarship they provided for me, I was able to continue my education and follow through on the dreams I’ve had for so long. Every birth mother should apply for this scholarship; it is a great opportunity to help with school and to accomplish your dreams. Adoption is not about giving your baby away; it’s about giving your baby a loving family and a great life they deserve.

Sincerely,
Autumn

“I am really proud of myself for the accomplishments I have made so far and can’t wait to see where my life leads. By choosing adoption, I was able to continue my life and accomplish the goals that I have always had and also give my baby the life that I was not able to provide.”

Autumn is just one of the many birth mothers who have been able to complete their educational goals through the American Adoptions Birth Mother Scholarship Program. Learn more at www.americanadoptions.com
Do You Want to Continue Your Education?  
The American Adoptions Birth Mother Scholarship Program

American Adoptions has a scholarship program for birth mothers because we want you to be able to fulfill your educational goals and dreams. Every birth mother who goes through the adoption process with American Adoptions will receive a scholarship application and be considered for a financial scholarship to assist with the costs of education.

The American Adoptions Scholarship Committee meets two times a year to review scholarship applications and award birth mothers who are chosen. The number of scholarships and the amount of each scholarship awarded vary depending on the number of applicants and tuition amounts.

Numerous women have gone to college since American Adoptions’ inception of the Scholarship program in 2001. Autumn (see related story, left) was the first recipient to ever receive a birth mother scholarship. She has now graduated from college with a degree in Sociology.

After briefly working for American Adoptions after graduation, Autumn continued her education and now has a successful career.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Birth Mother Scholarship Program, please contact your Adoption Specialist for more information.

Past Scholarship Recipients

Haley

Katie

Donna

Angela
American Adoptions
America’s Adoption Agency

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