



July 2004

Adoptive Parents Sharing from the Heart

This month we share two letters of appreciation from new Adoptive Parents written to Birthmother Counselor Kathy Howard. The first couple had previously experienced two disrupted adoptions, but held on to their dreams of parenting and were rewarded with just the right situation. The second letter is from a couple that had been on board with ANLC for just two months when they were chosen by a Birthmom. Read on.

Dear Kathy,

It has been an amazing seven weeks for us! We cannot believe our little Emma is finally home.

You were an amazing angel for us. After our previous struggles, we needed your honesty, sincerity, kindness and professionalism. We greatly appreciated your extra attention and willingness to make our dream of having a child a priority in your busy workload. You assisted us in feeling comfortable and prepared in our final match. Most importantly, you helped us to feel excited instead of fearful.

We do not know all the "hands" that went into making our dream a reality, but please forward our thanks to everyone.

As for the newsletter – YES! We feel like our sharing might help another couple. As we look back, we cannot believe all we endured to get to this amazing point in our lives. I guess that is the lesson for all of us...you never know what you can handle until you do. And, I must admit, I kind of miss the anticipation of Emma's arrival. There is no greater thrill than walking into a hospital waiting to meet your child for the first time. Every day since then has been just as special. We are so lucky!

If you ever have a couple that needs to talk or needs reassurance, I am happy to share our story with them. Lots of folks gave us support

along the way and said all the right things. I know it helped at the time even though sometimes we didn't believe what they were saying could ever be true. Looking back, those words of wisdom were accurate. It was worth the wait. The pain doesn't matter anymore and the timing was perfect because it was God's timing.

Sincerely,

Kim, Ed & Emma McManus

Dear Kathy,

You touched my heart with your kindness. I am thankful for all your help and follow-through! I hope to work with you again someday.

Luke and Derrick are constant reminders to us of how very lucky we are. Brad and Derrick planted a tree in our front yard two years ago this month when we lost our last baby, Hope. We call it our "Hope" tree after her. We

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REMYNDER!

Please be sure to inform ANLC whenever you have modifications in your contact information. It is important that you notify us of new addresses, and of any changes in your home, cell phone, or work telephone numbers (including any area code changes). Having current information will make it easier to reach you when we have that "all important" phone call to make! You may fax or email us with any changes. Thank you!

Adoption Network Law Center

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decided our hearts couldn't take any more losses and we put it in God's hands. Isn't it amazing that Luke was already growing at this time last year? We had no idea that a year ago...or even last August we would have this precious new life. I truly believe that Luke was part of God's plan all along...before he was even conceived, he was meant to be in our family.

I cannot imagine a more delightful addition to our family. I believe everything we went through with our losses was leading us to Luke. We feel truly blessed to have him in our lives and are grateful to you and the ANLC staff for making our dream come true!! May God bless you as you make miracles happen for other couples! When I talk to people wanting to adopt, I enjoy sharing my story, but I wish I could make miracles happen for them too. When I hear their stories, it breaks my heart. I figure the best thing is to pray for them and tell them about Adoption Network Law Center. What you do for people is truly amazing. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Jennifer and Brad Minnick

Things We Learn from Our Dogs



Run, romp and play daily.

Take naps and stretch before rising.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something when you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt and pout...run right back and make friends.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Author Unknown

