

*Hi!* We are Sue, Tracy and Clara. We hope this will give you a sense of our family and the love we share. We know you are considering a difficult decision, and we respect your courage, care and wisdom. We hope you have all the support you deserve at this time.

Thank you for taking some time to read through our family album. We have always wanted to be parents, so we were thrilled when we adopted Clara at birth. Becoming parents has been an incredible blessing in our lives, and we are very excited to welcome another child into our family. We want nothing more than to parent and love another little one, and for Clara to have a sibling to cherish.

**Please call Friends in Adoption toll-free anytime 1-800-844-3630**

# SUE, TRACY AND CLARA



# sue and tracy



Visiting with friends on a summer's day.



Our family at 8 months.



At a parade downtown.

We met at our workplace seventeen years ago and began dating one year later. Six years after that, we held two wedding ceremonies celebrating our commitment. The first was a family wedding on Tracy's family's farm in the Northwest. We had a second gathering two months later at home so that our co-workers and friends could attend with their families. The children squealed at the magician and finished their pizza dinners, while the adults ate "grown-up food," sang songs and danced long into the night. We still talk about both ceremonies and the love and goodwill we felt from our families and community.

A few years later, we became legally married, something we weren't sure would ever be possible for us. We are glad to have this legal support for ourselves and our children. For our civil marriage, we had a brief, family celebration in our home. It is a day we will always remember.

We are best friends and a great support to one another. We make time to listen to each other and share about our days. We like to laugh and be silly. Being Clara's parents has strengthened our relationship, as we have been challenged to grow individually and together.

Clara is a sweet, friendly, curious child. From a very young age, she has shown great love and affection—toward us, her friends, and her baby dolls. We marveled as we watched her at 15 months old, rocking her baby in her arms. We practiced baby massage with Clara every night before her bath when she was an infant. She loved this routine, which included the same background music each night. One time when she was about a year old, she lined up her three dolls on the floor and started massaging them, humming the same background music. Now that she is a toddler, she still loves this activity, though sometimes she is more interested in playing with the bottle of lotion or doing the massage “by my own self!”

Clara has many interests. In addition to taking care of her “babies,” she loves to read books, make art and create with clay. She has a wonderful sense of humor and imagination, making up fun stories and games. She enjoys music, dancing, climbing and jumping. In the early morning, before she gets up, we often hear her singing songs to her stuffed animals. She attends a nearby children’s center during the week, and loves “school,” her teachers and her classmates.

# clara



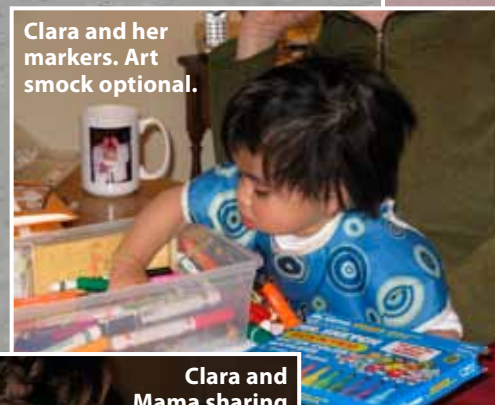
Tucking her baby into her sweater to keep it warm.



Bubbles on the deck!



Hearing a silly story!



Clara and her markers. Art smock optional.



Clara and Mama sharing infant massage.



Our house is a 3-bedroom cottage, with large trees in the backyard.

## We live in a cozy, sun-filled 3-bedroom house.

Our New England neighborhood feels like both suburb and city, a diverse place, with a lot of activity. We use our car occasionally. Mostly we get around on foot, by bus and by bicycle because things are close by.

There's a large park a couple of blocks from our house. There are several fields for baseball, soccer, kite-flying or frisbee and great sledding in winter. "Tot lots" are in two other directions with shade trees, water gardens and nice play equipment. A public library with a large children's collection is a two-block walk from our house. We have friendly neighbors with children, including several alternative families like ours within walking distance.

We attend Quaker Meeting on Sunday mornings. We enjoy this chance for quiet meditation and reflection at the end of a busy week. Clara has learned to sit in silence and appreciate the peace, too. There are many families with young children who attend, including several adoptive families. We are glad to have a spiritual community that will allow our children to develop reverence and gratitude for our many blessings.

Clara at 7 months.



Sue, Clara, and our friends Nina and Ruby.

Clara loves our neighbor Eli.



# our home and community

# family fun



Look up in that tree!



On vacation in Vermont.



Summer vacation at the coast.



Sue and Clara coming home from the grocery store.



Making pancakes on the weekend.

We are an active family that enjoys being outdoors. One of our favorite activities is bicycle riding. There is a wonderful bike path near our home, which goes on for miles through suburbs, woods, and along conservation land. We have a cargo bicycle, or "box bike" which has a "cab" in the front with seatbelts and a bench where Clara sits and watches the sights go by. In the warmer months, we sometimes ride up the bike path in the early evening and stop at a nearby pond for a picnic supper. Clara loves it, and likes sharing the "cab" with our groceries after we've been to the market.

We spend lots of time at the parks in our neighborhood and see the same families there regularly. Clara has fun climbing on the structures, playing in the sandbox, and running through the sprinklers in the summertime. We also enjoy being at the beach and going hiking. Clara is very proud of herself when she hikes up to a mile by herself! She then enjoys being in the pack on Mama's back. At home we sing a lot, listen to all kinds of music, play the piano, and cook for fun.



# our extended family and friends



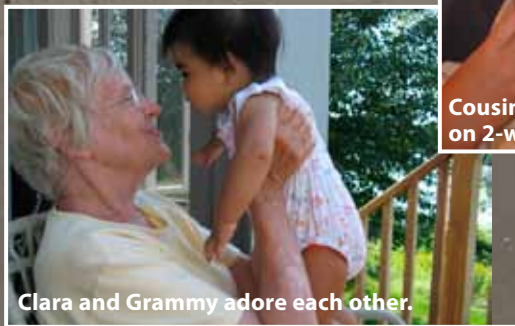
Clara and Mama with Cousin Kiegan and Uncle Keith.



Happy in Gramps's arms.



Cousin Will dotes on 2-week-old Clara.



Clara and Grammy adore each other.



A book and our friend Susan's loving lap.



Some of Clara's awesome cousins.

Our extended family includes our brothers and their families. The children range in age from 4 to 30 years, and we are close to all of them. Sue's parents, Gail and Bill, live nearby and are devoted grandparents who see Clara regularly. "Grammy" and "Gramps" are two of Clara's favorite people! We have a large community of different kinds of friends—single, families, gay and straight, male and female. Many are artists or musicians, social workers, alternative health practitioners, and teachers. Several are full-time parents. Our friendships are deep and lasting, and we look after each other during tough times. Like our extended family, our friends adore Clara and can't wait to have another little one to love.

Back from a bicycle ride.



Mama working on the Halloween costume.



A family of horses singing "neigh!"



Clara gets absorbed in music.



Coloring eggs at Easter.



Reading at snack time.

Our work focuses on education and alternative health care.

We have worked as teachers and administrators at the school where we met. Sue is a social worker, who has specialized in work with children and families. She now does non-profit work in this area, along with her continuing work with students. Tracy has her own business in a home office, teaching, writing, and doing research. We enjoy flexible schedules which allow us the freedom to parent. We both love our work because of the strong, family-friendly communities it has provided, the wonderful people we work with, and the chance to support the physical and emotional well-being of others.

Music is a big part of our lives and one of the things that brought us together. We have enjoyed singing to and dancing with Clara since she was an infant. In addition to music, we like to read, create interesting meals to share with our friends, travel, and spend time in nature.

# our work and interests





# our hopes for your child



*We hope* that your child will know who you are, and that s/he will know that your adoption plan was made with love.

Each person has their own unique qualities, interests and talents. We are curious about yours so we could look for them and nurture them in your child. We would make a wide range of experiences available to your child, including educational opportunities. We would love your baby so much and want the best for him or her as you do. We would want to raise your child to grow up proud of you, with a good sense of self, and with solid values and education. We would do our best to help your child be strong and loving, and to find his or her own special place in the world.

Thank you for taking the time to read about us. We hope that someday our paths will cross with yours, and we wish you the best on your journey.

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