



# The Adoption Alliance

## To all our special friends and families...

### Our Staff

#### *Texas Office*

- Tiffany McFaddin  
*Receptionist*
- Chelsy Richardson  
*Office Administrator*
- Nicki Adame  
*Associate Caseworker*
- Shelly Thompson-Lindig  
*Caseworker*
- Justin Johnson  
*Executive Director*
- Geri Womack  
*Foster Mother*

#### *Iowa Office*

- Stacie Wiederin-Schmidt  
*Director*

Hello, we hope everyone had a safe and wonderful 2009! As the year comes to an end and the holiday season approaches, we turn our focus to family, friends and all which is important to us. At The Adoption Alliance, we receive many expressions of gratitude throughout the year from adoptive families and birth families. In return, we would like to say thank you to all of our clients who have allowed us to play a part in building their families and giving us the opportunity to do such meaningful work. We wish all of our clients a wonderful holiday and a joyous New Year!

Everyone at The Adoption Alliance is very excited for 2010! We have recently redesigned our website and have introduced additional marketing options for our adoptive families. Our new website allows our approved families to have their profile added to our website. This has proven to be very successful as several of our families have been matched in this manner! Please check out our new website at [www.adoption-alliance.com](http://www.adoption-alliance.com).

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our adoptive families, their extended family members and contributing employers of our families for their continued generosity. Donations allow us to continue to provide services for adoptive families, birth families and children in need of loving homes. If you or anyone you know would like to make The Adoption Alliance your charity of choice, please remember the Adoption Alliance is a 501 c 3 Non-Profit Corporation, which makes any donation tax deductible. As always, we are grateful for everyone's support.

## The Wait

You rush to complete your application and home study. You supply all of your paperwork to the agency and suddenly you are approved as "Parents in Waiting". It's such an exciting time. You are one step closer to your dream of becoming parents. Now what? You wait. Waiting is the probably the most difficult part of the adoption process. For those of you who have already adopted, you know the wait is worth it. You know the time was necessary for your child to find you.

Based on my conversations with others who have endured "the wait", I will make a few suggestions on things you can do during this time.

- Attend an infant care orientation class.
- Baby proof the house. That way it is already done!
- Buy a few baby things just in case you receive news of a last minute situation. You will need a car seat, a few items of clothing, a couple of blankets and baby bottles for starters. No need to buy diapers and formula. The hospital will get you started with those and you can purchase more at your destination.
- Talk to your employer(s) about maternity/paternity leave arrangements.
- Be certain your adoption funds are available if you need to quickly travel. Possibly set aside the adoption funds in a separate account so you have easy access to them.
- Take a vacation! It may be awhile before you can make time for a get-away.



### *“Good things come to those who wait”*

Good things come to those who wait”, is how the saying goes. This could not be more true for my family. My husband Rob and I always talked about having a family, including adoption. After a three year battle with infertility, we finally began the adoption process.

During the waiting period, which was only 11 months from approval, we were a bit impatient and questioning if our profile was okay. We hoped for an instantaneous response which is extremely unrealistic. When we had rational moments, we realized that the right baby will come when the time was right. Some things are beyond ones control and when we realized that it made it easier. I will say though, the staff at the Adoption Alliance made the waiting easier. Stacie always was extremely helpful and went above and beyond to answer any and all our questions.

My husband and I strongly feel our little princess was sent to us. The realization of another holiday season without a child was heartbreaking. Then, on November 10 at 3:30 in the afternoon we received a phone call from Stacie. I cannot express the excitement we felt, there are no words. The best part was, we didn't have to wait—our daughter was already born and was only six days old. We were shaking and ready to book our trip to Texas to meet our little miracle.

When we arrived at the hospital, we could not wait to meet the baby. We were shaking until we arrived at the nursery. So many questions raced through our mind and then the world stopped when we met our daughter. We scooped her up and the rest is history! Everything just felt right when we held her. There were no more questions. She was the answer. Within a minute we named her “Isabella”; our beautiful baby girl, Belle. We promised her that she would be the most loved baby in the world and could not wait for her to meet her new family and friends back home.

Adoption is a process well worth the effort and wait. Our family wishes success to all who have embarked on this worth-while journey. -RoseAnn

### *Giving Thanks*

As I write, I am sitting with my new daughter, Violet, who came to us just one month ago through the Adoption Alliance. We started looking into adoption seriously about a year and a half ago. By November of 2008, all of our paperwork and home study had been completed, which was the easy part. The hard part was the wait. Throughout that time, I found comfort in a friend at the agency, Nicki Adame. No matter the time, she always welcomed my call and helped as we waited. By September, I got a call from Nicki that there was a birthmother that chose us. I spoke with the birthmother a few times but we would email each other every week and we grew close. We planned to get to Texas for the birth, but the baby made an early appearance. After a long and emotional year, this was it. We flew to Texas and got to the hospital. The birthmother handed me this sweet baby with a whole head of hair and said, “here is your baby.” At that moment, my life had changed. It was very hard to leave the birthmother after the bond we developed, but it was time. I think about her often and hope to see her again when our daughter is grown.

My experience with the agency was positive - even in tough times, they were there every single step. This year, we had a house full of family for Thanksgiving. When we went around the table to give thanks for three things, we all started with Violet. -Erika

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