

INTRODUCING

# SHERI





--HELLO.

I'm **SHERI**,  
and I'm so excited  
to grow my family  
through the gift  
of **ADOPTION**.

I can't imagine what you are going through right now. I've never met you and I am already impressed by your courage as this is probably one of the most difficult decisions you will ever make. I am extremely thankful that there are people like you. If not for people with your courage and strength, I would be unable to have a child. You are helping me achieve a lifelong dream and for that I will always be grateful.

As you read these pages, I hope this offers a snapshot of my life and an understanding of who I am.





# ABOUT ME



My name is Sheryl, but I've been called "Sheri" for as long as I remember! I grew up in Ohio, raised by an amazing mom and dad. My happy childhood, surrounded by love, was a huge inspiration to me as I decided to begin a family of my own through adoption.

My childhood was full of activity as I played multiple sports: basketball, softball, gymnastics and swimming. Being involved in all of these activities gave me so many great memories and life lessons that would have been hard to learn elsewhere!

As I grew up, I knew I wanted a career that allowed me to help others, so I decided to become an educator. Currently, I teach at a middle school, working with students who have learning disabilities and behavior disorders. My job doesn't seem like "work" since I love going in every day, striving to make sure that my students know that I care about them and want to see them succeed! The most rewarding part of my job is when a student who is struggling to understand a concept finally gets it.



I started swimming as a young child and never stopped. Even today I still enjoy swimming.



Working with one of my students



# INTERESTS

I consider myself an artistic person. At a young age, I realized I loved the arts! My parents supported and encouraged this passion as a child. I was in my first play in middle school, and I continued to participate in school and community theatre throughout high school and college. Although, I'm no longer involved in the theatre, my passion for it has not left as I still love attending plays and concerts.

I also play two instruments: the trumpet and flute. Being in high school bands enabled me to have many incredible experiences as I was able to travel throughout the United States and Europe.



**Painting class! Still learning.**

As an adult, I am trying to learn how to paint! At the moment, I'm not very good at it, but that's okay because I'm enjoying it and having a great time learning! I've also found there are Mommy and Me painting classes that I would allow me to share this interest with a child.

I keep active walking, swimming and biking. I try to bike five to ten miles a couple of times a week, a journey I look forward to sharing with a child when he or she is old enough to add a seat to my bike. Until then, we can share long walks and enjoy other activities together.

I am also an avid reader and hope to instill the love of books in my child.



**Feeling adventurous on a zip line!**



**Holidays, with my dad and sister**



**I love living in Florida so I can visit the beach often.**



# THOUGHTS ON PARENTING



Feeding a friendly giraffe while exploring a zoo

I'm happy that my job allows a schedule where I will be home with my child after school to help with homework, make a healthy dinner, take them to their after school activities and even enjoy the same days off as my child. We'll be able to spend a lot of time together at the holidays and all summer together!

I want my child to meet new people, stay active, and have a wide variety of friends in their life. I want them to be well-rounded and have a wide range of experiences to look back on to reflect when they are an adult.

Growing up I was involved in lots of activities along with my sister. Our dad spent time coaching our teams each year because he wanted to be involved in our interests. I want to be involved in my child's interests, knowing that this provided great memories that we all share even now.

This is why it is so important to me to have my child involved in afterschool activities. I don't expect my child to play a particular sport or like the theatre because I did. A child should do what they enjoy. The point is that they are involved in activities. I learned my life skills through such activities, like taking turns, working together, and being part of a team, skills I still use today. My child will need these skills as well. What could be more fun than learning them through activities that you love?



Enjoying an afternoon outside with great friends!



A special present for a special little girl



# MY FAMILY

I am very close to my family and feel very blessed to have their love and support during the adoption process. My parents live forty minutes from me and we talk a few times a week. My sister lives in Ohio and comes to visit me often.

We also have a very large extended family and we're together several times a year. Everyone is very supportive of my decision to adopt. They all share in my excitement about becoming a mom, and I look forward to introducing a child to my large, loving family!

I had a happy childhood and hope to offer the same joys of growing up with a child of my own. Part of what allowed me to enjoy a happy upbringing was that I knew no matter what I did, my parents would always be there for me. When I was young and told my parents I was scared or upset, they listened and helped me through it. Since they were so supportive when I was younger, I learned that I could go to them as I got older with more serious problems. My goal is to provide that same security and comfort to my child. I will always give their problems, concerns, and feelings the attention they deserve.



My family likes to have fun together, experiencing new things!



Introducing Grandma to my puppy



I'm very close to my sister who lives in Ohio. We take turns visiting each other, enjoying the differences between where she lives in Ohio and where I live in Florida.



# TRADITIONS

When I become a parent, I look forward to continuing traditions that I had as a child. Family dinners were always important as my family sat down together for dinner each night for as long as I can remember. This was our time to talk about our day and spend some quality time together. Even now as an adult, I go to my parents' house once a week for a family dinner! I plan to continue nightly family dinners with my child as well as a weekly dinner with my parents. I think this time of undivided attention is important to keep our family close.

Family adventure on an airboat!



Our family loves to have fun together!



I have a large extended family. (My mom comes from a family of twelve!) We are all very close so we celebrate so many occasions together: weddings, birthdays, holidays, and even just impromptu gatherings. Some of my favorite family memories come from these get-togethers, like our annual "hobo stew" dinner. Everyone in the extended family comes, bringing vegetables from their own garden to put in the pot. The stew cooks all day while the adults talk and the kids play. When the stew is done, we all sit down and eat together. I am very excited to bring my child to gatherings like these. My child will have plenty of cousins and second cousins to run around and play with as he or she grows up!

## IN THEIR WORDS

**"Sheri will be a loving and caring mother. Her entire life will be centered around her child. Her home will be active and happy. She will enable her child to experience a variety of activities and will always be encouraging. Her child will know that he or she is loved unconditionally. Her child will always have an open minded adult to discuss any troubling situations." - Sheri's Mom**

**"Sheri is a loving and caring person who would do anything for her future child. She is a very calm and patient person who will guide her child through life's ups and downs." - Sheri's Dad**



# MY FRIENDS

I'm fortunate to also have wonderful, supportive friends who are excited about my journey to become a parent. They include many strong women, leading successful lives. I can always count on them, as they can also count on me. I know they will be great support to me and a child in this new chapter of my life.



Dinners out to celebrate birthdays, visits to comedy clubs for laughs and just fun days at a theme park, my friends are always there for me!

## IN THEIR WORDS

**"Sheri is one of the most nurturing and loving people I know. She is a very strong woman who will make an amazing mother." -Airyn**

**"I wholeheartedly believe that this will be a wonderful, loving, and nurturing home for any child lucky enough to be placed with Sheri." -Jill**



There's nothing like a walk on the lakefront with great friends.

**"Sheri has a huge heart which children are automatically drawn to. She is always smiling and laughing, such a happy person. She is very nurturing and loving. I believe she would make an amazing mom." -Michael**

**Sheri is a wonderful woman with so much love in her heart. She has a lovely home ready to be filled with all of the joy and happiness that a child would bring to her life and to the lives of her family and friends. In the time I have known her I have seen many qualities that I believe every good mother should possess: love, compassion, warmth, wisdom and strength just to name a few. Sheri has such a wonderful support network of family and friends who couldn't be more supportive and that are standing in line already to share their love and support to Sheri and her child. I can honestly say from the bottom of my heart, that if I had to choose a woman to be the mother of my child; I can think of no one more ready, more deserving, or who would be more overjoyed to receive such a blessing than Sheri. -Chris**



# MY HOME

I own a three-bedroom home with a large yard in a small town in Central Florida. One of the great things about where I live is that my town has a small town feel but is close to larger cities and fun places, like Disney World!

In my development, there are several young families so there will be plenty of kids for your child to play with. The neighborhood also has a brand new playground along with other play areas for children to run around plus benches for the parents to sit and watch.

My neighbors are amazing people. We are a close group, watching out for each other since we live in a cul-de-sac. While we chat with one another, our dogs run around and play together. The kids are always outside playing and riding bikes. In my circle, there are kids of all ages, from newborns to teens. All of the neighbors watch out for the kids around. I'm proud to be a part of this nice neighborhood.



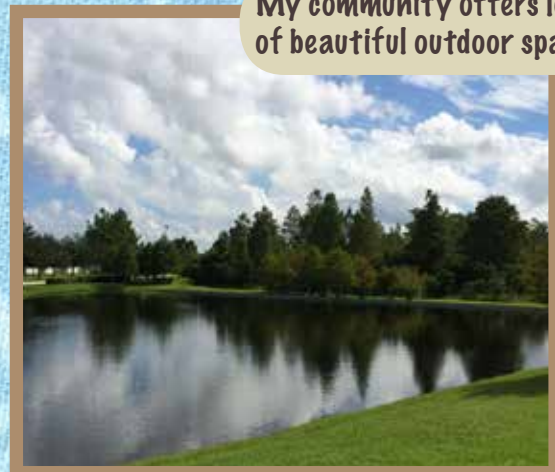
**My home offers lots of open spaces to enjoy meals and family time!**



**Kids love the neighborhood parks**

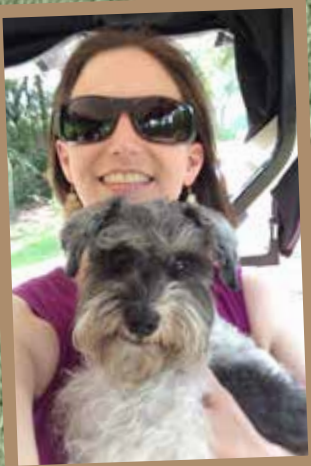


**My community offers lots of beautiful outdoor spaces**



**My favorite reading spot!**





# BARON

Baron is a two-year-old Miniature Schnauzer. He's active, loving and well-behaved, and he's especially great with kids! His favorite pastime is taking trips to our local dog park where he plays with his friends and runs an obstacle course.



## FUN FACTS

Favorite Color - Blue

Favorite Food - Pasta

Favorite Season - Spring (I love the fresh and clean smell of Spring rains!)

Favorite TV Show - Criminal Minds (I try to solve the case before they do!)

Favorite Movie - Gone With the Wind

Favorite Book - Too many great books to pick just one! (I love to read!)

Favorite Disney Movie - The Little Mermaid

Favorite Children's Book - The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

Favorite Disney Character - Chip and Dale

Favorite Vacation Spot - Chicago or San Francisco

Hobbies - Reading, walking along the lakefront, bicycling, going to movies, having dinner with friends, taking trips to the beach, going to the theater, farmer's markets, and cultural activities





# MY PROMISE



If I am lucky enough to be chosen by you I promise your child will know that he or she is loved. I do not plan on hiding the fact that they are adopted. I will do my very best to help them understand the strength and love it took for you to make the decision to give him or her up for adoption. I will also make sure they know how much I love them. They will know that I considered them part of me (my child) from the moment I was told that I was chosen by their birthmother.

My promises to you:

- \*Your child will be loved unconditionally.
- \*Your child will be safe and protected.
- \*Your child will grow up with a strong sense of self.
- \*Your child will know the importance of education and will get nightly help with homework.
- \*Your child will know I am always there for them and that they can talk to me about anything.
- \*Your child will have a large extended family to love and support them.
- \*Your child will know that they are adopted and that you loved them very much.
- \*Your child will have the opportunity to explore their cultural heritage.
- \*I will do everything in my power to make sure your child has a happy childhood, and grows up to be a strong, well-adjusted adult.
- \*I will meet your child's physical needs along with their emotional, educational, spiritual, and cultural needs.

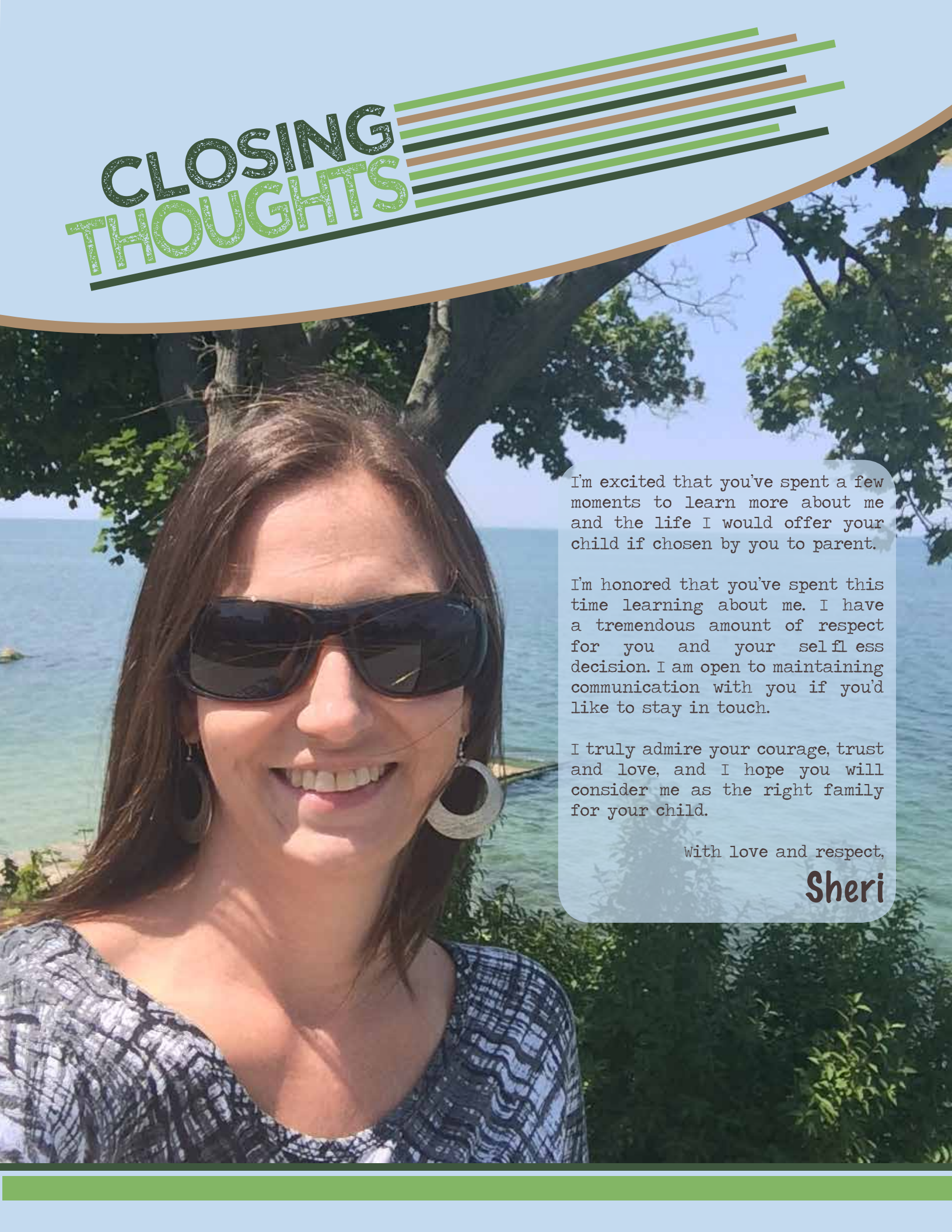


The bond I share with my mother is an inspiration for the relationship I want to share with a child of my own.

**"Sheri has longed to be a mother her whole life and constantly demonstrates that she would be a fantastic mother. She would devote her life to ensuring she raises a kind, good, motivated, and happy child. You can rest assured that that child would be loved and cared for unconditionally, while receiving the loving guidance needed to grow into an incredibly kind and caring person." -Melanie, Sheri's sister**



# CLOSING THOUGHTS



I'm excited that you've spent a few moments to learn more about me and the life I would offer your child if chosen by you to parent.

I'm honored that you've spent this time learning about me. I have a tremendous amount of respect for you and your selfless decision. I am open to maintaining communication with you if you'd like to stay in touch.

I truly admire your courage, trust and love, and I hope you will consider me as the right family for your child.

With love and respect,

**Sheri**