

**“I believe that adoption is  
the most loving choice  
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not “giving up” a baby, but  
instead I view it as a  
“giving to” a family and  
“providing for” a child.”**

— Cheryl, 26  
birthmother



**birthmother.**  
*the gift of love* **stories**



Dear Birthmother:

We invite you to read through these stories by North Carolina birthmothers who have placed through our agency – **A Child's Hope**.

A Child's Hope is a North Carolina based adoption agency which offers help and guidance to all women who have an unplanned pregnancy and want to consider the option of adoptive placement. Our goal is to help you explore your options with your pregnancy and to give you information about adoption as an option.

Our adoption counselors are experienced in the adoption field. Our counselors are available to meet with you in person in your hometown and guide you through what choice is best for your pregnancy.

If you choose adoption, you will have the opportunity to select from a group of loving and caring couples who have been screened and approved by our agency. Our agency can also offer assistance with medical and living expenses as well as give you information about your legal rights and the rights of the child's birthfather. Your adoption counselor will help you prepare for the delivery of your child and for the placement. She will also be there with you after placement to help you with your feelings.

After placement you can choose to continue communicating directly with the couple in an open adoption, or you can choose to let the agency be the go-between for you and the adoptive parents in a semi-open or closed adoption.

You can learn more about us by visiting our web site at **[www.achildshope.com](http://www.achildshope.com)**.

# a mother's love

## Brandi - 29

I started working with A Child's Hope in February and my baby was due in late May. I called the toll free number, got the answering service and was called minutes later by an adoption counselor. The adoption counselor was always very caring and supportive and answered my questions honestly. She, along with the agency, took care of all the legal and financial aspects of the adoption so I could focus on dealing with my emotions. I knew almost from the start that I would choose adoption, but it was never an easy choice. My situation was such that I felt, after very careful consideration, that this was the

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best choice for my baby as well as for me and the daughter I already have.

I looked at parent profiles in April and with the help of the birthfather we chose a wonderful couple who met all of our criteria. Then the agency arranged a meeting between me, the birthfather, and the prospective adoptive parents. My adoption counselor was present to guide the meeting. The birthfather and I agreed that these would be the best parents for our child. They were warm, compassionate, intelligent, and everything else we were looking for. Most importantly, I never felt judged either by them or any of the staff at the agency.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> I gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby girl whom I named after my grandmother, Claudia Mary. I had tried to maintain some emotional distance from Claudia throughout the pregnancy for fear that I would change my mind and keep her. When she was born, I still tried to maintain that distance, but as the hours slipped away I loved her more and more. Then the day came that I was to leave the hospital without her. I still knew in my heart that this was the best choice, but I loved her so much that I didn't want to let her go. My counselor came later that

morning to bring Claudia to her respite care home. I was adamant that Claudia and I leave the hospital at the same time, and my counselor arranged this for me. I kissed Claudia for the last time and handed her to my counselor. I told her I loved her, and we both went our separate ways.

It's been over three months now and I am working very hard at putting my life back together. Strangely, I am mentally and emotionally stronger now than ever before. I still have some guilt over letting Claudia go. I am very fortunate that her parents want to remain in contact with me through the agency, and they have sent me lots of pictures. I have to say with all honesty that A Child's Hope made this experience as positive as possible and brought out all of the beauty of adoption. They covered every aspect completely and I could not have wished for a better adoption experience. There is a part of me that will always wish that I could have kept Claudia – that's only natural. But I do not have any doubt that she is in the best possible place with two parents that waited for her for a long time and now get to know the joy that raising a child brings. ♦

## *the loving choice*



### **Stephanie - 25**

I didn't work with A Child's Hope until after the birth of my daughter. I contacted them the day after she was born. Right away, someone from the agency was at the hospital. I felt very comfortable when talking over my decision. I

*"They send photos and letters to let me know how she's doing. It's the greatest feeling to see how she's grown and how loved and happy she looks."*

contacted A Child's Hope because I felt comfortable dealing with them. I had been to their website numerous times and I think I read all there was to read on it. I had even looked at the couples waiting to adopt. For some reason, one couple stuck in my mind. The parents of my daughter are wonderful people. I feel secure in my decision. They love her and will provide her with love, values, and spiritual guidance. They send photos and letters to let me know how she's doing. It's the greatest feeling to see how she's grown and how loved and happy she looks. I am very

grateful to the agency and those I worked with personally. Everyone was great. Placing my daughter for adoption was the hardest thing I've ever done, but I know she's better off where she is – with two loving parents. It's still hard, and it's only been a year and a half, but some things you just have to do! ♦

## *comfort zone*

### **Tracy - 22**

When I first decided to place my child for adoption, I didn't know if I was doing the right thing. But after meeting with a counselor for the first time, I felt more comfortable. I got the chance to meet the parents I had chosen to be sure that they were the ones, and we met several times before the

baby was born. I felt sure they were the people I wanted to take care of my child. The people at A Child's Hope were very helpful and patient, and they did the best they could to help me make the right decision for myself. There was never any pressure about which decision I should make. ♦

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# *a letter to birthmothers*

## *from an adoptive family*

Dear Birthmothers,

We are Scott, Tracy & baby Ethan – a family made possible by a birthmother like you in September of 2000.

After years of struggling unsuccessfully with infertility treatments, Scott and I longed for a child in our home. We decided to focus our hopes and energies on adoption. We could have never imagined what a wonderful experience it was going to be. As with any new experience we were a little nervous and anxious but after meeting with the agency staff of A Child's Hope our fears were calmed. The agency informed us of the support that Birthmothers would have and made a profile and a web site of us.



*Adoptive mom Tracy & baby Ethan*

When we were chosen by our birthmother, we were so excited and could not wait to meet her. Scott and I were very anxious about the meeting, but when we got there, things went so smoothly. She was very sweet and had questions about our family and our beliefs. It was so wonderful to meet her and to be able to have a long conversation with her. The adoption counselor was also there with us to help in the meeting and we talked about what we would name the baby and what activities we would be taking him to.

I am so glad we got to meet our birthmother. The meeting in the agency's offices put any preconceived notions I might have had about birthmothers out of my mind. At times now I can see a part of her in Ethan's smile and it warms my heart. It takes an extraordinary person to make such a loving and difficult choice to place a baby for adoption. We have promised that we will make sure that Ethan will always know of his birthmother's courage and strength in choosing adoption for him. I cannot even begin to imagine the sacrifice that our birthmother made, but she made our family complete and we will always be grateful to us for the gift of her child. We still send her pictures and updates about Ethan and how wonderfully he is doing.

What a wonderful opportunity birthmothers have to help couples that desire a child so much!.

The joy in our lives since Ethan joined our family is indescribable. We will always love and thank Ethan's birthmother for helping make us a family!

*Tracy*

### **Birthmother - 20**

I just want to say thank you so much! I was so confused and didn't know what I was going to do until I talked to people at A Child's Hope. Being able to talk to an adoption counselor helped a lot because I couldn't really talk to anyone else about it at first. And I am so thankful for A Child's Hope helping me to find the couple I placed my son with. They are wonderful and I can feel good about my decision because of them. I wouldn't change anything! ♦

# answered prayers

## Cheryl - 26

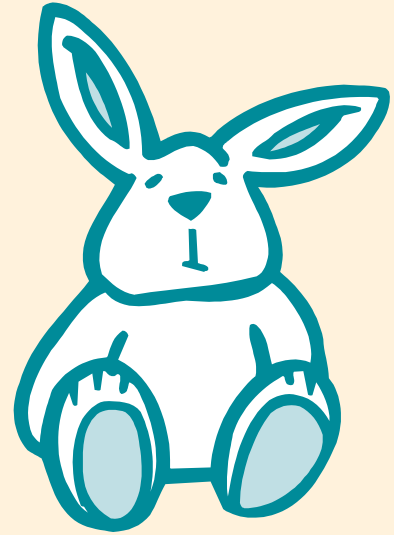
Before finding A Child's Hope I was petrified. After finding them, my stress was alleviated. My experience has been wonderful. The couple who adopted my little girl are an answer to my prayers.

A Child's Hope provided me with options and made the

*"I have never doubted my decision because of my experience with A Child's Hope and the parents of that precious baby girl that we brought into this world together."*

decision mine. I chose adoption because I couldn't care for her and give her the life that my parents had given me. I have a family member that is adopted and knew the joy that she has given our family, and I wanted to give that happiness to another family. I have never doubted my decision because of my experience with A Child's Hope and the parents of that precious baby girl that we brought into this world together.

I believe that adoption is the most loving choice that is available. Adoption is not "giving up" a baby, but instead I view it as a "giving to" a family and "providing for" a child.



I love my little girl and her family and thank God for them everyday and for the attorney and the rest of the A Child's Hope staff. Thank you for helping me make the most difficult and loving decision of my life. ♦

### *To two precious people in my life, the birthmothers of my children:*

I wish I were a poet, or at least more elegant with words. I wish I could tell you something, your heart has not yet heard.

Something to help you understand, or feel a small extent, the peace and love you brought to me, the day your labor was spent.

My heart had never known the joy, the laughter, magic, or love, that two precious children brought to me, because of a birthmother's love.

The decision you made with caring concern, will never be taken for granted. Time or years will never fade the miracle as God planned it.

So on this Mother's Day, and every day, may an angel gently whisper, "You are a hero, a gift so rare, a woman God chose for a mother who could not bear."

May your life and heart be filled with peace and a wealth that money can't spare, for you have given me my most cherished gift, my children, my answer to prayer.

*By Adoptive Mom Connie  
To Birthmother Leigh Ann*

# *a letter to birthmothers*

## *from an adoptive family*

Dear Birthmothers,

We are Charles, Erica, and Crystin, a family made possible with the help of A Child's Hope and a very special person like yourself. We adopted our beautiful daughter in January 2001.

After two years of marriage, we realized that we would not be able to conceive. That's when our hearts and minds brought us to the wonderful gift of adoption. When we originally started considering adoption, all of the information that we gathered was very overwhelming. We knew that we wanted this with all our hearts, but were having trouble getting started and deciding what agency to work with. Then A Child's Hope came along and all of our worries were erased. We originally heard about a birth mother opportunity with A Child's Hope through an email listserv at work. From the first time we contacted the agency, we were always greeted with the helpful and knowledgeable staff of A Child's Hope. They told us what we needed to get started and described every step of the process.

After one birth mother revocation, we were later matched with our daughter's birth mother. From that moment on, we knew that we were making the right decision. We just knew that this was going to work out. After Crystin was born, our adoption counselor called us so that we could talk to the birth mother at the hospital. The voice on the other end of the phone stated the softest, kindest words. Words that will always stick with us... she stated that she wished we could be there and that we didn't have to worry because she knew that this was our child and she was sure she was making the right decision. When we finally met Candida, it was like we were meeting an old member of the family. We were so nervous to meet her but I think she was just as nervous as we were. We immediately hugged and all of the tension went away. Our counselor made us feel comfortable as we began our conversation and got to know each other. We thanked her over and over for the unselfish decision that she was making. We know that it was a very hard decision to make, but I think her fears went away when she saw how much we wanted a child and how much love we had to give. We still can't imagine how hard it is to make such a unselfish decision, but please know that by doing so, you are helping others to make miracles happen, just like our daughter's birth mother did for us.

### **Candida - 27**

I was 26 when I found out I was expecting and still didn't have things together in my life. I was going to the Health Center for my prenatal visit and saw the brochure for adoption. I didn't open it until weeks later when I realized there was no way I could give this child a good home. I called the toll-free number for birthmothers, and I was in contact with an adoption counselor within days. To me, A Child's Hope gave me an experience so that I know that if I was in the

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same situation, I could make the same decision. The best part of working with A Child's Hope was the support and devotion they give you. Also, I was able to meet the adoptive parents, Charles and Erica, and I am still receiving pictures and letters from them telling me how my daughter Crystin is doing. ♦

*Charles, Erica, and Crystin*



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