

# Dear Birthparents



**Wendy, Colin and Marcel in Italy**

Dear Birthparents,

We try to visualize you, while writing this letter. We wonder about the look in your eyes, the way you talk and especially how you must feel right now.

Most of all, you must be a strong and loving person, to consider adoption. You open your heart to others, like us, for the future of your child. Therefore we admire you very much. We, too, have experienced that life is not always easy. We didn't think that we would ever write a letter like this, and you probably didn't think that you would be reading one as well.

We hope that you have loving and helpful people nearby who can support you during this difficult time.

We are Marcel and Wendy, a young happily married couple from the Netherlands. Since we were young we have been hoping for a family. We both love the family life where we grew up.

Our wish to become parents didn't happen for us biologically. With open hearts, we look to adoption as our way of completing our family.

In May 2006 Colin was born. We were great full to welcome him in our lives. We fell in love with him on first sight. Our friends and family did the same because Colin touches every ones heart at first sight. The feeling grows everyday more and more. He is just adorable. We are proud to be his parents.



**Colin one week old**



**Colin and Mamma**

While thinking of you, we will try to give you a picture of ourselves.

We hope you will consider us as the adoptive parents for your child and answer all our prayers and dreams.



**Colin and Daddy**



**Family picture at our wedding.**

Wendy: "Marcel is a loving husband. He supports me in many ways and is not only my husband but also my best friend. He is a great dad to Colin. Marcel loves to play with Colin, they have their own special games they like to play. Colin likes that very much. Marcel reads stories to him when he is going to bed. We can share everything together. Marcel is a computer network and internet specialist in the city-hall of a big city. We are grateful that we can live well on his salary.

Marcel: "Wendy is a loving and caring wife and a great caring mom. She loves Colin with all her heart. She likes to play with him and go for walks outside with the dog. Colin loves reading books with her, they do that every day. She also loves to be with friends and their children. Wendy works at a care home for blind and disabled people, this is what she loves to do, she does it in a perfect natural and caring way. Wendy works a few hours a week when Marcel is at home taking care of Colin.

With Wendy I can open my heart and talk about everything, and she supports me in every way.



**Breakfast in our bed**



We live in a small village, nearby big cities. Our neighborhood is friendly and there are lots of family's with children. There are good schools nearby, as well as nature and authentic cute shops. The supermarket and the bakery are close by.

It's great to raise children here, not only for the safe and friendly atmosphere. But also because there are many other children to play with in our neighborhood: with space and nature, but also the comfort of good shops and schools nearby.

In our neighborhood people greet each other, while passing by.



Our dog Max and cat Balou

Marcel: My mother is a loving woman who loves her children and grand children. My mother worked at a home for elderly people. But she recently stopped. She looks forward to helping us when we become a family of four. She likes to make special candles and postcards and loves to go to musicals. On my birthday, my mother makes me a special Dutch pudding, because I love it so much.



Marcel and his Mother

My father is a wonderful man. If I need him I call him and he is always there for me. My father is a truck driver and drives only in the Netherlands. In the year 2009 he retires. My father and mother like to travel. My father loves to spend time with his grandchildren. Both our parents support our adoption plans and can't wait for us to give them another grandchild by adoption. They support us in every way to realize our dream for a second child and a sibling for Colin. In the summer they go to a camping side next to a farm. Colin loves to see the cows and run around on the grass. He calls grandma then grandma camping side. Grandfather and grandmother are very fond of there grandchild. He gets a

lot of hugs and kisses. They take him on special trips most of the time with the children of the brother of Marcel. Colin loves his niece and nephew very much. They love him to and they are so proud to call him there nephew.



**Father of Marcel**

Wendy: My father was a housepainter with his own company. He loved to watch football. In the weekends he took my mother and me on a drive thru the Netherlands. If I wanted something my father would go out and buy it for me. He was always there for me. My father is no longer with us. I miss him every day. Because of this I value the family life with children even more than I already did.



**Marcel, Wendy and her mother on holiday in Italy.**

My mother is a very warm and gentle person. Everybody is always welcome and if you want to stay for dinner you can.

My mother works for sick, old and handicap people.

She doesn't work all days of the week because she wants to have time to work in her garden and to do other things in and around the house.

My mother is looking forward to become a grandmother again. She is very enthusiastic about us adopting another child. She is so proud of Colin and she loves him very much. She does nice things with him like going to the park to feed the dears or make special

sandwiches. Then they eat together. Colin always eats more at his grandmother's house than at home.

She also gives him a lot of toys. Colin likes to go to all his grandparents. He can say now to us if he wants to see them. He misses them if he doesn't see a grandparent after 2 days.



**Brother of Marcel**



**My niece Luka**

Marcel: I have one brother and I love him very much. He is married and has two children. In his free time he likes to go out for a walk with his children and his dog. Working on his house is also one of the things he likes to do. He works as a manager at a gymnasium. His wife works as a nurse in the intensive care at the hospital.

My niece was born in April 2001. We love her very much.

My nephew was born in May 2005. We also love him very much and it is nice to see the children play together. They can't wait for another baby in the family. A niece or another nephew to love and care for.





**Bathroom that Marcel made himself**

We love to spend our free time walking with our dog, having dinner with friends, go to the movies and travel. Every day we enjoy our life with Colin. We play with him, go on trips like to the zoo or visit family and friends with him. Colin loves the company of other children. Older children he finds interesting and for younger children he is very sweet and caring. Going for a bicycle ride or visiting the playground nearby is also one of the favorite things Colin loves to do. And to see him enjoy himself is enjoying ourselves. Marcel likes to work on the house and make things of wood like our dresser. Marcel also made the bathroom himself.

Wendy likes to shop with her friends in a big mall or just spent time with friends. A lot of our friends have children and they like to play and hangout with us.

We don't collect many material things, but we collect beautiful moments with the one's we love.





**Our house**

Our house is in a very good neighborhood with a lot of children. There are three bedrooms, a bathroom with second toilet and a walk in closet on the second floor. On the first floor we have a living room, a hall, a kitchen and a toilet. In the basement we have a washing machine and laundry dryer and shelves where we stock things. We have a garden, which is safe for children and there is a friendly fence around it for the safety of children. In the summer we can enjoy the sun there and the children can play. We can't wait to decorate the baby's room. We made a beautiful bedroom for Colin to and he says almost everyday that he likes his room and he wants to play there.



The Netherlands is a small country in Europe. In the Netherlands, there is a lot of room and respect for variations in thoughts, religion, background and ethnic origin. Because of this there are a lot of biracial people around us. That's why we chose to adopt from America. This is because we see people how they are, not what they look like. We find America a beautiful country and accessible for us to visit often.



**Nature Park near our house**



**small park 5 minutes from our house**

The Netherlands is a safe country to live in. This makes the Netherlands a great place to live and raise children.

The Netherlands is known by its windmills, wooden shoes and tulips. There is also a lot of nature here.

In the Netherlands, most of the roads have a path next to it for the people on a bicycle. This makes it safe to ride on a bicycle through the Netherlands; even between cities there is a special road for the bicycles. We love to ride on the bicycle on the weekend with our dog Max.

Some times we go to the beach and take long walks with Colin, Max and friends. In the winter we drink hot chocolate to get warm from the cold wind.



**Authentic windmill in a pasture near our city**



**A winter walk on the beach in Holland**



**Bedroom for the baby**

We have several friends that also adopted their children. There is a couple in our circle of friends that adopted their two children from the USA. The oldest is a bi-racial boy; he's very spontaneous and fun to be with. When we are there, he wants to be with us continuously and wants to play with us all of the time. The youngest is a Caucasian girl. She is still a bit shy, but very sweet. The smile she has is so lovely that it hits you right in the heart.

The other couple also adopted two children. They adopted their children from China. They have a girl and a boy. And it's always fun to be there to play with them. Colin loves to play with all of them.



**Monastery in the center of our city**

**Square where also the market is**

When we were young and didn't know each other yet, we knew that we wanted children in our lives. At the time that we met each other and bought a house together, the feeling of wanting children in our lives grew even stronger.

We have both been brought up in a loving and caring family that supported us with the choices we made and they taught us the values of having a family.

It is nice that our adopted children are able to grow up knowing others that have also been adopted through mutual friends.

Colin and his sibling can also chair this in there lives and hopefully they can support each other.



**Wendy and her friend Anita in New York**



**Wendy and Sandra**



**Wendy with the new born baby of her friend Angelique**

We met in 1998 at a party.

And there she was, a beautiful woman with a kind and friendly face. Normally Marcel is very shy, but at that party he could talk for hours.

Wendy's first reaction was; " nice guy, I want to know him better". We talked for hours. It was if the other people around us disappeared.

When the hours passed by, there came a moment that Wendy had to go home, because she had to work the next day. We walked to the car and Marcel pulled up enough courage to ask Wendy out.

The day after we went to the movies, and it was the best evening that we could imagine.





**Colin with our dog Max**



**Picture speaks for it self**

In January 2005 we got married. We wanted to get married sooner but we were very busy still fixing up our new house that we bought in July 2001. We thought then that it was more important to have a good home to bring up our children than to be married. But we wanted to be married before a child arrived in our life.

Our wedding day was very beautiful. A friend of ours was the chauffeur and came to our house around eleven. Wendy was at that time at her mother's house. There she put on her wedding dress.

Around twelve o'clock the family and friends gathered at the house of Wendy's mother. Marcel came around 12:30. And there she was, even more beautiful than normal. She was the most beautiful bride I had ever seen. I fell in love all over again.

The wedding it self was around 14:30. The ceremony was beautiful, we enjoyed it very much. After the ceremony we went to a restaurant where a beautiful wedding cake was waiting for us. A friend of ours made it herself. In the same restaurant we had dinner and a party. It was a very special day for us, surrounded by our favorite family and friends. The next day we went to Paris for our honeymoon. The city is very romantic. We had a beautiful and romantic time there.



**Disneyland Paris**

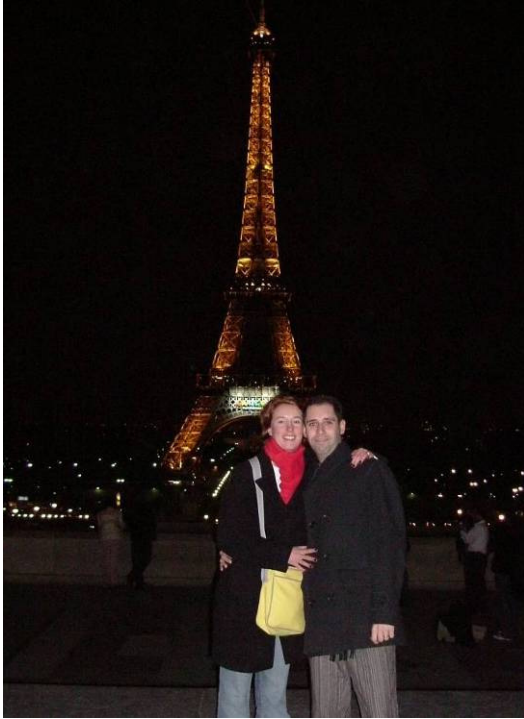


**Marcel, his brother and friends**



**Wendy, her mother and friends**





**Honeymoon in Paris**

We like to spend our holidays in Italy. We usually go to the north of Italy because we find that the most beautiful part of the country. Mostly we go camping near a big lake where it's great to swim and relax in the sun. Sometimes we go together and other times we go with friends. If we go with friends who have children, we stay on a camping ground which is perfect for children. Where it's safe and has a lot of room for children to play.



**Wendy and Marcel in a bubble bath on a camping in Italy**



There is also a great deal of nature and mountains where we like to walk and where we can enjoy the nature. In the city's that are near we like to go to the local shops and the markets. Colin loves to go to Italy. He loves seeing the lake and just be outside all day. He loves our Italian friends and they fell for him the moment they met him. When we have to leave to go home, Colin says he wants to stay. But once at home it is fine. He has his other friends and his toys.

We also like to make city trips. We go for 3 or 5 day's to a big or known city to get an impression of that city. Some places we have visited are London, Rome and Paris. Wendy went to New York with a friend and loved every minute of her travels to the USA. We also went camping in Holland with friends and their children. It was a great experience.



**Dinner with our Italian friends in Italy**



**Dinner with family and friends at Wendy's birthday**

The reason we want to adopt from America is because the values of Americans is very much like that of Dutch people, friendly and helpful. Also we like to know as much as possible about the background of the baby we adopt, so we can answer as many questions of his or her origin as we can.

The best way to do this is to have the opportunity to speak with and or meet with you if you are also comfortable with that option.

We are very grateful for the life we have with Colin. Hopefully he can become a big brother because we have a lot of love to share as a family. We would love to give another child this love and a place in our hearts to grow up with us.

We thank you for even considering us as parents for your baby and we promise you that we will be the best parents in the world! Colin is going to be the best big brother in the world!





**Colin with grandma**



**Breakfast in Italy**









**Holiday in Italy**



**Our Italian friends love Colin also very much.**

We wish you love and strength.

With sincere and warm greetings,

Marcel, Wendy and Colin



If you would like to arrange to speak with us or have any about the adoption process, please call our adoption agency located in New York, and speak with Joy Goldstein toll free at # 1-866-922-3678. She is a social worker and adoptive mother of three and can answer any additional questions you may have about us or the adoption process. Thank you for considering our family to become a part of yours!

We wish you health and peace during this difficult time.

-Wendy, Marcel and Colin





















**At grandma's house for the celebration of December 5. The children get a lot of presents then. Here is Colin with his nephews.**