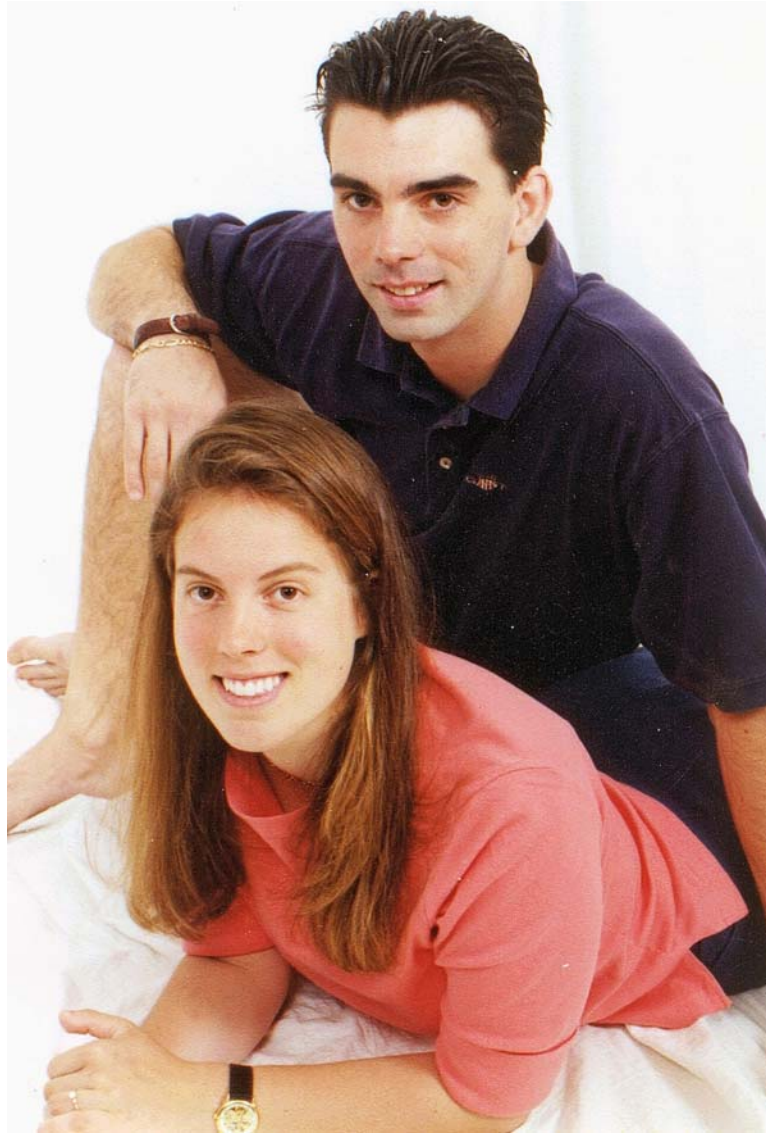


Barbara & Butch

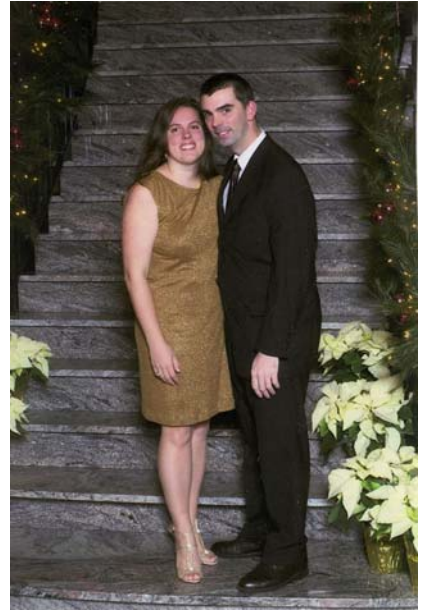


Hi!!!

We are Barbara & Butch – or as friends and family call us B&B! Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. As you go through this emotional process, hopefully you will consider us as the couple right to adopt your baby and that we can ease your mind about your baby's future during this difficult time.

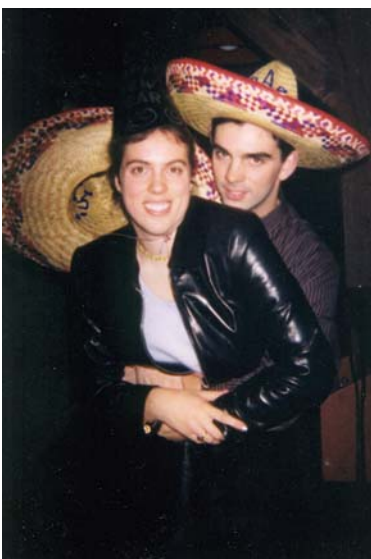


Our Engagement Party



Our 10th Christmas

We met in July of 1999 – it was love at first sight! However, we really didn't start dating until September because each of us went on already planned family vacations in July and August. But once we started seriously seeing each other, we quickly became very close. We lived over 80 miles apart from one another, so there were some long days commuting back and forth to see each other, or we would meet half-way at a restaurant or at the movies.



Our First New Years



Our First Football Game



Our First of Many Hikes

The long commutes were wearing on our cars but not on us. Butch knew that he had to solve that quickly, and he surprised Barbara with a proposal at the end of May 2000, and less than six months later we got married!

Our Wedding

We believe our wedding was “perfect!” We all had a great time. It was so memorable having so many friends and family all together and traveling so far to come and celebrate this wonderful and fun moment in our lives.



Butch's Stepdad and Mom, and Barbara's parents



Our Wedding Party was comprised of Barbara's roommate from college, Butch's 2 stepbrothers, Butch's niece, the children Barbara babysat for, Barbara's best friend since middle school, and close coworkers of both Barbara and Butch



Sydney, age 6, one of the children Barbara used to babysit was our Flower girl



Our Honeymoon

Our love of traveling together all started with our honeymoon which was three weeks in Australia. This was the first time that we really got to spend long times together without breaks and it was completely amazing. We continued to learn more about each other (as we still do today), and we adapted to married life so easily.



*Some of the adventures we had in Australia :
We saw the famous surfing beach – Bondi Beach, saw seals on Kangaroo Island, petted a kangaroo in the Blue Mountains, went sailing in the Whitsunday Islands, and went on a helicopter ride over the Great Barrier Reef.*



Why We Want to Adopt



4th Anniversary

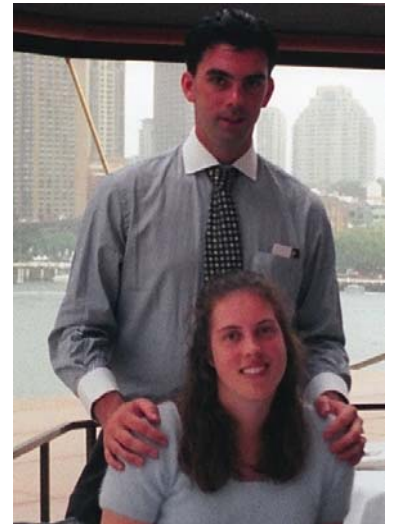
After almost two years of marriage it was time to buy a house, and we purchased Barbara's grandparents' house. They lived in the house for fifty years. This home means the world to us. Our family was so happy that the house was staying in the family. We have made some upgrades to a more modern look, as every room has a different wall coloring, look and feel.



Our home in springtime, pink dogwood in bloom

What has been missing is that the bedrooms have been empty, and Barbara loves to cook but looks forward to cooking for more than just Butch on a daily basis. We tried to have children, but have known since before we got married that the chances were unlikely. We knew that we could love another child just the same as if it was biologically ours. So we chose adoption, because we know that we will cherish your child and provide a fun, love, safe, and happy home.

One of our best friends adopted twins a few years ago. Spending over a week with this close family on several trips has helped us answer hundreds of questions about adoption. They gave us several books to read (which we have read cover-to-cover) that helped them through their own process. Our children will be great friends.



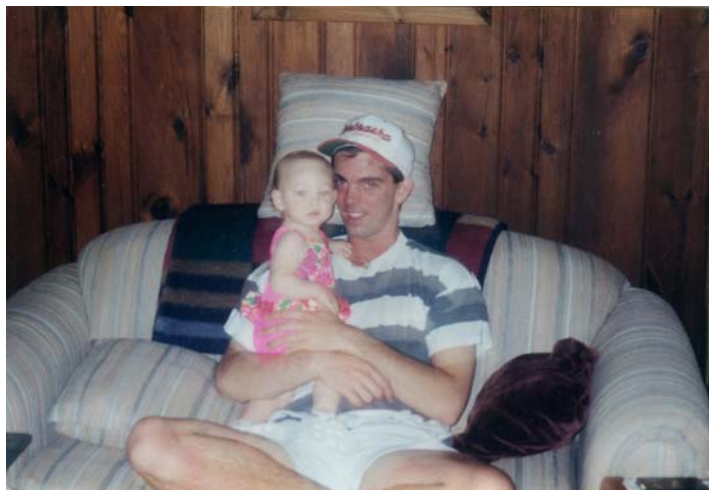
Dining out, but Barbara loves to cook at home too



Our friends and their adopted twins, we went on a vacation to a Nebraska lake with them

Children Have Always Been a Part of Our Lives

We are around a lot of children, whether it's our friends' children or our families' kids. We are very close with Butch's niece, Alyssa, and have taken her on some long weekend trips, as well as watched many of her cheering competitions.



Uncle Butchy with Alyssa as a baby and growing up



In high school and college, Barbara did a lot of babysitting, so she knows all about diaper changing and the responsibilities of being a parent. She began babysitting for one family when their middle child was ten weeks-old and has now known them for over 20 years!



Kara and Jack at ages 2 and 4



At Barbara's wedding shower, Jack, Kara, and Sydney at ages 11, 9 and 6 and Barbara's three bridesmaids.

Barbara is very close to her roommate, Lynn, from college. They are like the sisters they never had! Butch has become very good friends with Lynn as well, as they both have the same sense of humor.

When Lynn had a son in 2005, she asked us to be his godparents. We were so honored and we hope that we live up to our “Godparent roles.” Lynn is a single parent, and so we try and help her out as much as we can with raising Shaun and giving him special childhood memories. Butch is a positive male role model for Shaun and looks forward to taking Shaun to a baseball game this summer.

Shaun calls us “Uncle Butchy and Auntie Barbara.”



We took a few days off and went to Hershey Park, Pennsylvania together



Barbara lost to Shaun in a slide race!

Shaun is absolutely wonderful to be around, and every time he leaves our home after a visit, the house seems too quiet, and we start remembering the void in our family. We talk to him often on the phone as he gives us updates on his karate belt status and whatever else is new! He is always asking to come to our house and for us to take him on a long weekend somewhere.



Shaun's Baptism

Family Fun

Barbara's parents have been looking forward to being grandparents! They live only thirty minutes away and would absolutely love to watch the baby while we are both at work (which will be only three days a week).

Butch is very close with Barbara's parents, and so we have gone on several family vacations together with them as well as the extended family of aunts and cousins coming along on the trips.



Butch's first of many trips with Barbara's Parents and Cousins from Austria visiting New York City



Butch, Barbara's parents, cousins and Aunt from Austria all on a cruise to Bermuda.



Visiting Barbara's cousin Patty in Florida, who was also one of her best friends growing up!



Butch's mom, Barbara's college roommate and best friend Lynn, Barbara's Grandma, Barbara's other best friend Liz since middle school, Barbara, and Kara one of the girls she babysat for

We love to ski. Barbara could practically ski before walking, and thankfully Butch enjoys it too, so we ski and snowmobile together. While we ski in the winter, we like to play golf in the summer. We so look forward to teaching your child to ski as Barbara learned from her parents, and Butch learned to play golf from his stepdad.



*Colorado ski and snowmobile vacation
with our friends who adopted twins*



*Snowmobiling with Barbara's coworker
who is now a close friend and her husband
in Vermont*



Lake Tahoe California and Nevada with Barbara's parents



Barbara learning to ski thru the years in Austria and the U.S. with her parents



Extended Family

Barbara has a large family in Austria (her mother was born there and all of her mother's family is still there) so we go there every few years. Barbara's mother came to the United States when she was twenty years old to work as a nanny. After the children grew older, her mother stayed in the U.S. and worked for several other families and their kids. Growing up, Barbara and her family went back to Austria almost every year. Now that we are married, we have been back several times. Barbara's cousins and second cousins can't wait for us to visit as a family of three!



Butch carrying a tired cousin after a long day



Hikes in the Austrian Alps. Most of the family come on these 8+ hour treks.



Austrian family celebrations

Butch has family in the area, and those who don't live by, he keeps in contact through Facebook.



Butch and his mother at our wedding



Butch and his stepmom



Butch standing next to his new sister-in-law. Two of his stepbrothers wedding and his nephews are in the photo



Summertime family reunion with Butch's mom and stepdad

Our Adventures

Since our honeymoon, we try and take two vacations every year, one is to see a national park or other “treasure” here in the U.S., and the other is to travel outside the country. Our international travels include an African Safari, the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, Australia, Peru, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Europe. We’ve spent vacations in a SUV backroading in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and California, to name a few. Those national treasures also include the roller coasters of Universal, Disney, 6 Flags, and over a dozen different baseball stadiums. We really love looking at nature and it’s natural amazing rock formations, and the awesome patterns that the clouds make against majestic mountains.



San Francisco, CA



Mount Rushmore



SCUBA Diving



Machu Picchu, Peru



Desert oasis in Peru



Toronto, Canada



Quebec City, Canada



Derailed train in Ecuador



Up high at a volcano in Ecuador



Humpback whale watching



Tanzania, Africa

For our fifth anniversary, we went to Africa for twenty-five days. It was such a life changing and spiritual trip. We came away from that trip loving the people that we met, at awe with the animals that we saw and overall a better understanding of different cultures.



Camel ride in Tanzania



Swimming with elephants in Zimbabwe



Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



Kids at the school we visited



Lions!!!



Rhinoceros

Never would we have imagined that we would have come across and so close to so many amazing animals!

Our Dogs

We rescued two Australian Terriers. Mitty, was rescued from a shelter in Maryland, and seven weeks later, we rescued Abi from a shelter in Florida. They love going to the dog park and are great with kids. They both have Australian names, Mitty is short for the **Remittance** Men of Australia, and Abi is short for the **Aboriginal** people of Australia.

We look forward to getting to go on walks with the dogs and the baby in the stroller. This is a fond memory that Barbara has from her days babysitting. We have been fortunate with the support from our friends and family around us that we haven't boarded our pets in a kennel. They have stayed with "Grandma and Grandpa" or we've had a friend stay at our house.



Here are Abi and Mitty napping on the couch



Walking at a fundraiser with their "grandparents"

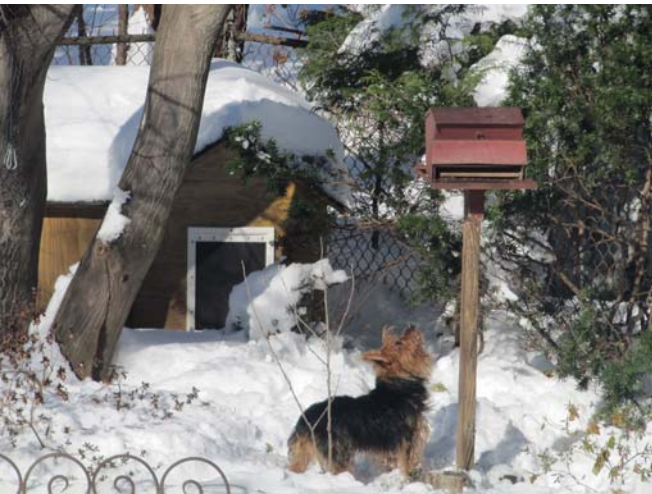
Our Home - Outside

We love our home and Barbara loves decorating it! For Halloween each year, we get almost a hundred kids in the neighborhood coming by for Trick or Treats because the streets around it are perfect and safe for the kids.

In our neighborhood, the elementary school is only five blocks away, our church is within four blocks, and there are four parks and playgrounds all within a ten minute walk.



This is our front and backyard



Abi is waiting for a bird at the birdfeeder. Also in the background is a doghouse that Barbara's father built, but the dogs prefer to look at, and have no interest in going in it! They'd rather go in the kiddy pool!

Our backyard is completely fenced in, and the dogs come and go when they please. And when it is too hot – they love cooling off from the summer heat and relaxing in our kiddie pool. We have a brick patio with a picnic table for outdoor eating, barbequing and parties. We can't wait until the dogs can play with your child, and he or she will love playing in the backyard, as much as Barbara did with her cousins as she grew up. Our street is fairly quiet and lots of kids use it to bike and skate on safely. There are tons of kids in the neighborhood and we can't wait until there are play dates in our yard.

Our Home - Inside



The dogs in our living room and decorated for Christmas

We host a Super Bowl Party every year for about thirty people. It's a tradition that all of our friends know about and no one plans anything else that day! We even have a kids section, and this year there were seven kids from twenty months to six years old running around playing while the adults tried to watch the game! Barbara loves to cook, and each year, we plan a theme around the Super Bowl party depending on what teams are playing that year. For example, for New England Patriots, she has made New England Clam Chowder and Boston cream pie and when the game was held in Miami, she made Cuban sandwiches and TexMex food for when it was held in Texas. We've hosted the party nine of the eleven years we have been married!



Kitchen



Dining Room



Our Bedroom



Spare Bedroom



Future Baby's Room

Here are our bedrooms. We have kept the baby's room simple but we look forward to decorating it, filling it with toys, games and books, and buying and building new furniture.

Hobbies & Fun

We're pretty adventurous people – and we are willing to try almost any activity which gives us lots of laughs! For example, we have tried several different modes of flight – we've flown a blimp, been in helicopters, and even gone skydiving on Barbara's 30th birthday! Since we love animals, we have specifically gone on trips to see as many as we can.

We love the water! Not only have we spent lots of time on the beaches, but we have gone whitewater rafting four times, and Barbara has her SCUBA license and has gone diving on four continents.



Whitewater rafting in Maine



Butch playing with his niece

Building and getting creative with things is what Barbara really enjoys. We have so many scrapbooks with thousands of pictures over the last dozen years. Barbara also really loves board games, different types of puzzles and in our attic is her childhood Lego collection from her parent's house. It's a complete village with trains, airport, castles, and even a western town.



Butch loves to play and coach on his company's softball team for the last seven years. He grew-up playing baseball, and even got a scholarship to college. Our family (both in the U.S. and Austria) have come to cheer him on and learn about this "National Pastime!" Butch dreams to coach the team of your son or daughter's softball, baseball, football, or any sport, if your child wants.



NFL Pro Bowl Game



Butch playing softball

Traditions

You may have noticed that Butch wears a lot of Red Sox hats - there is no denying he is a huge Red Sox fan, and Barbara is a Mets fan. So part of our vacations when we visit other cities and see the sites is to go to various stadiums. We have been to over a dozen so far. Whether we are lucky enough to adopt a girl or a boy, we hope to carry on this tradition!



*New York Mets
old Shea Stadium*



*Turner Field - Atlanta Braves
with Butch's niece*



*Chicago Cubs
Wrigley Field*



*Pittsburgh Pirates
with Barbara's parents*



*Boston Red Sox
Fenway Park*

For the most part we are very settled and homey people. We love crashing on the couches snuggling with our dogs or just talking and joking with each other after work. Barbara has been with her employer since graduating college and then they helped her get her Master's degree in Leadership and Strategic Management, and is now a director. Butch has been with his employer since we got married and is now a manager. We both see ourselves retiring with these companies as we really enjoy what we do, and have flexible work schedules.

We thought we'd give you some fun facts about us – clearly opposites attract: :-)

	Barbara	Butch
Favorite Color	Orange and Green	Blue and Red
Favorite Number	9	14
Favorite Food	Mexican	Italian
Favorite Holiday	Halloween	Christmas
Favorite Football Team	Jets	Steelers
Favorite Baseball Team	Mets	Red Sox
Least Liked Team	Yankees	Yankees
Favorite TV Channel	Animal Planet	Travel Channel
Favorite Wild Animal	Elephant	Cheetah
Favorite Cartoon	Bugs Bunny	Fred Flintstone
Favorite Season	Winter	Fall
Favorite Kids books	Dr Seuss	Spiderman Comics
Best Friend	Butch	Barbara



Climbing highest mountain in Austria at over 14,000 feet

We feel we were very true to our descriptions and trying to show you who we really are through as many pictures and details as possible. We've tried to humbly show you part of our lives together and what makes us happy, and how we want to continue these memories with your child. We love each other very much, and plan on being together for the rest of our lives. We lead healthy and active lives, and know we will make loving and fun parents. We have so much to offer to your child. We so look forward to the next step in our lives and building even better memories as a family!

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and we hope that we have eased your mind with your decision and that you have an easy pregnancy and delivery. We are happy to meet you and get to know you more if you would like as well as share photos and updates so you can see how well loved your child is as he or she grows. Please contact our agency, *Forever Families Through Adoption*, at toll free 1-866-922-3678, for more information about us and the adoption process.

With Love,
Butch & Barbara 😊

