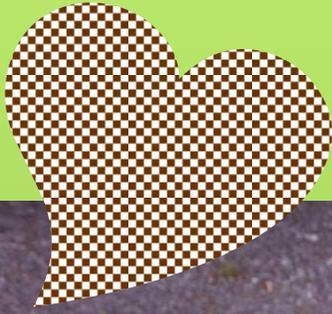


**Hello!**



**We are  
Claudia & Geri**



# Hello,

We are Claudia and Geri. We are living in Austria, the heart of Europe surrounded by beautiful mountains and a wonderful nature.

When we married, our ceremony was held in a little chapel in the mountains. The sun was shining and it was a very romantic, beautiful day. After our wedding, we hoped to soon expand our family. Unfortunately our desire for conceiving didn't come true. We went through a roller coaster of emotions: hope, frustration, strength, sadness, and heartbreak. We imagine that you too have been through many different emotional stages. We admire your brave choice to find a safe, loving home for your child and understand what a big and difficult decision you have before. For us, your child would be the greatest gift anyone could ever give us. The very thought about this gift brings the sun back in our life.

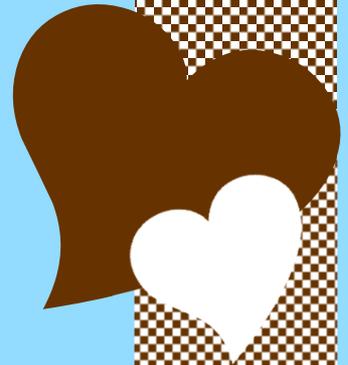
We have so much love to give and are looking forward to sharing this with your child. We will raise him or her in a stable, warm-hearted family with a healthy sense of humor. We want to assure you that your child will have a bright future with all the opportunities life has to offer. Her or she will grow up to be a happy, independent person, and always hold a positive opinion of you and your difficult decision.

On the following pages we hope to tell you a little bit more about ourselves and what kind of life we can offer your child. Hopefully, this will help you with your decision-making and give you an idea of the love that we have to offer to your child.

Warm wishes,



Holidays on  
Maledives



First time in  
New York



Safari in Africa



At home

# Austria



Austria is a small country in the heart of Europe. It is famous for its skiing regions, the beautiful nature, as well as Mozart, Arnold Schwarzenegger and the "Wiener Schnitzel".

We live in a famous skiing valley in the most western part of Austria near to Switzerland. Thousands of people come to our region every year to enjoy nature and skiing or hiking in the mountains.



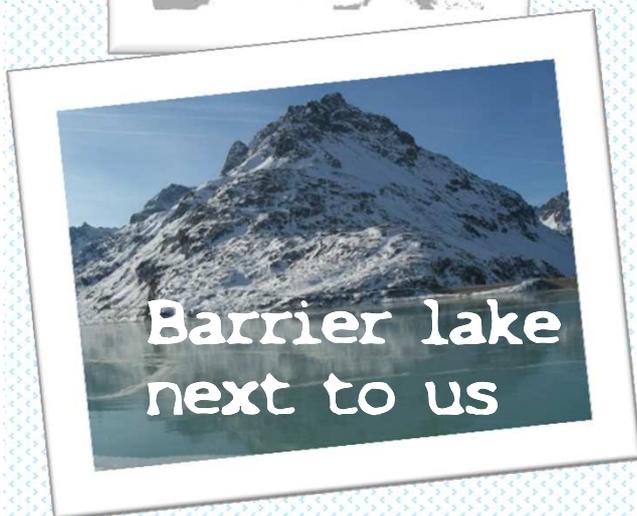
Wiener  
Schnitzel



Our valley



Austria is a neutral, democratic country with approx. 8.5 million inhabitants. 60% of the landscape is mountainous and some parts of the Alps are owned by our country. We also have a lot of lakes and rivers which provide us with drinking water.



Barrier lake  
next to us

The infrastructure and public transport system are perfectly developed. Our school system is one of the best in Europe and families receive a lot of support from the government in order to stay at home with their kids and work part time if desired.



Slipping on the rings



Friends playing "The Alphorn"



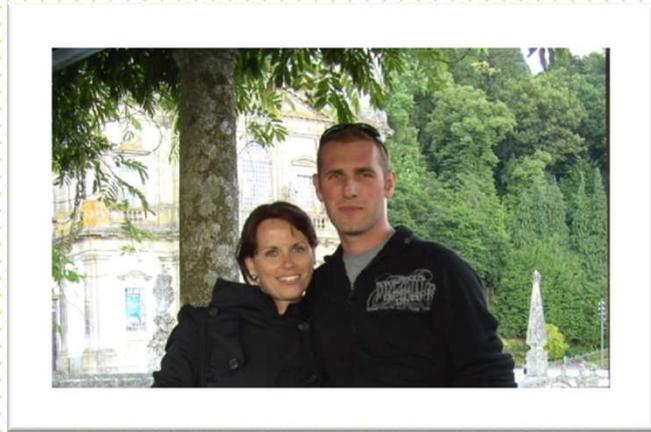
Our friends had fun with throwing rice after the ceremony



Wheelbarrow-challenge



# Our Story



We both grew up in Austria only 15 minutes away from each other. For many years we knew each other, but never talked and didn't even like each other.

Finally one day Claudia came through the door where Geri worked during his master school and it was love at "second" sight. We couldn't stop talking with each other. Unfortunately, we were confused and nervous that we forgot to share our phone numbers.

Afterwards, Claudia couldn't forget Geri and she talked with friends about him. Luckily one of them knew him. She got his number and the rest is history. We have been inseparable since that day.

We are both very warm-hearted, honest and uncomplicated people. We love spending time together in the mountains as well as travelling around the world. It's never boring with us and friends love to join us on our amazing trips.

Our deep love was sealed in June 2012 when we married. It was the luckiest day of our life and we are thankful for every day we can spend together.



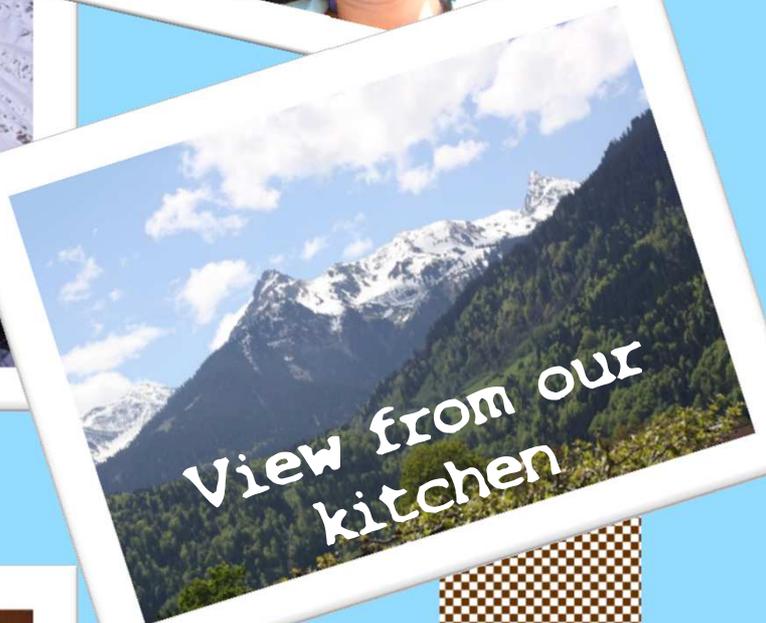
View from where  
we married



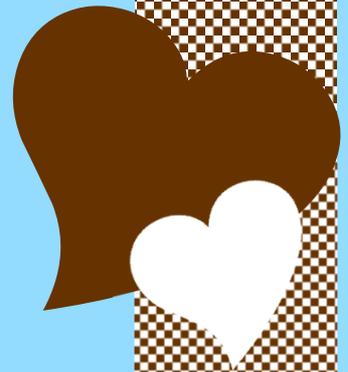
Enjoying  
winter  
time at  
home

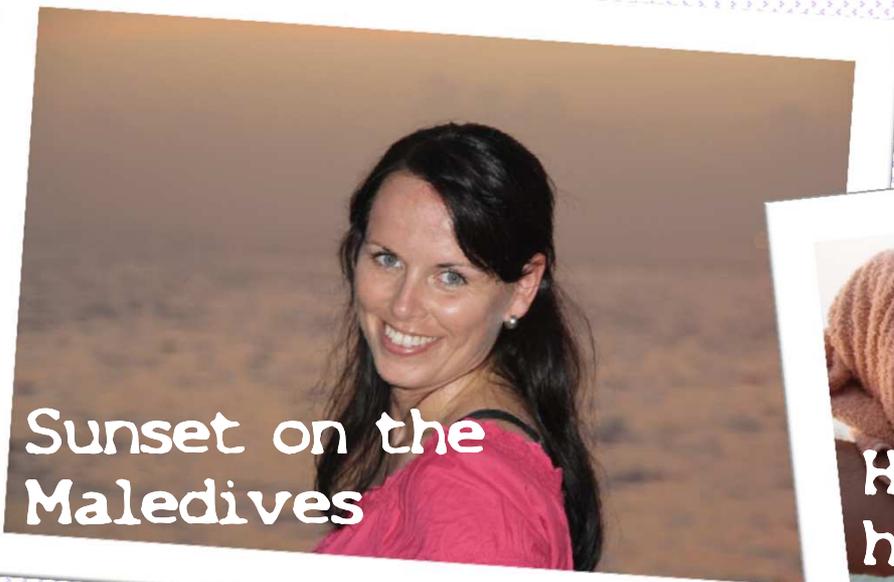


View from our  
kitchen

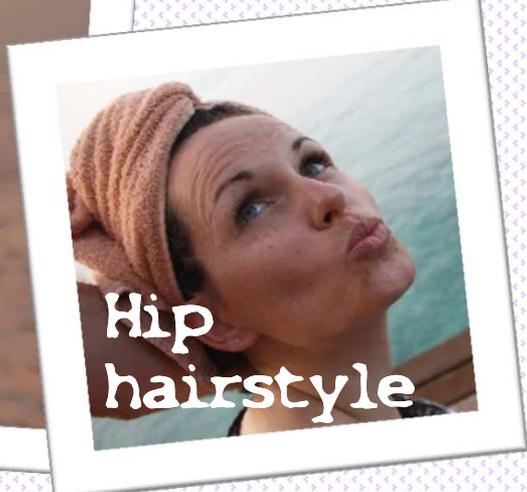


Snowy  
winter night  
(view from  
our bedroom)



A photograph of Claudia smiling, looking towards the camera. She has long dark hair and is wearing a pink top. The background is a warm, orange-hued sunset over a body of water.

Sunset on the  
Maledives

A close-up photograph of Claudia looking upwards and to the right. She has a brown towel wrapped around her head like a headband. The background is a bright, blue sky over water.

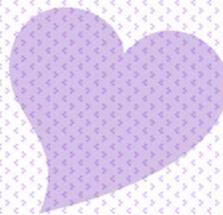
Hip  
hairstyle

## About Claudia

I am working as the Head of Logistics and member of the Executive Board of an automotive company. Until two years ago, I also gave lectures at the University in Switzerland. I love my job, which is very exciting and challenging. However, I feel that I reached my professional goals and am completely ready for a new time of my life – being an adoptive mom.

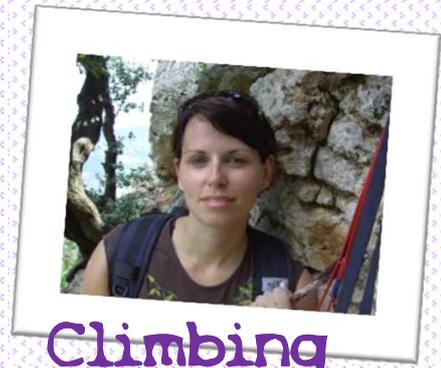
In Austria it is common that women stay at home as long as the kids are little. We even receive financial support from the government during this maternity leave. I am looking forward to spend this time at home with our adoptive child. When kindergarten starts I will also start working part time again.

I am a very spontaneous, open minded and humorous person. My whole life I selected my friends carefully which is the reason that I found friends for life. With my family I have a very close relationship and we spend a lot of time together. Our home is often filled by children running through the house, dogs playing in the garden and friends or family sitting around the table. I love to host guest, and especially love cooking, baking, and listening to their stories.

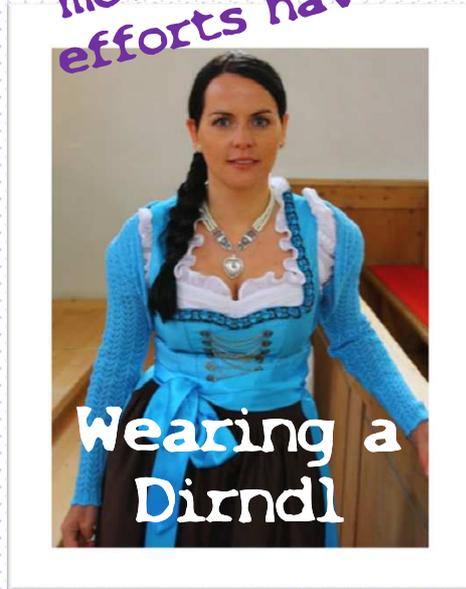


**Mummy & Claudia**  
**Dinner with family and friends**

Sometimes you feel like you won't succeed but when you stand on the top of the mountain you know all the efforts have been worth it.



Climbing



Wearing a Dirndl

## About Claudia

What I enjoy most is spending time with Geri in the nature around of our house. I love to hike to the top of a mountain and just enjoy the silence.

Every time we explore new hikes, we think about sharing them with our adoptive child some day. This thought makes us happy.



Lena 3 hours old



Hiking with Lena



Sometimes we take my little goddaughter Lena with us for a hike or we just visit her at home. I loved her since I saw her for the first time on the ultrasonic scan. When she was born, my brother and I cried together tears of joy in the hospital. She would be the best cousin ever and happy about having a playmate.





**Claudia  
with her mum**



# About Claudia

... how I grew up

I was born in a small city 30 minutes from where we live now. My little brother and I loved to climb on the trees in the forest next to us or hide in the cornfield. We had a great time together and still have a strong connection.

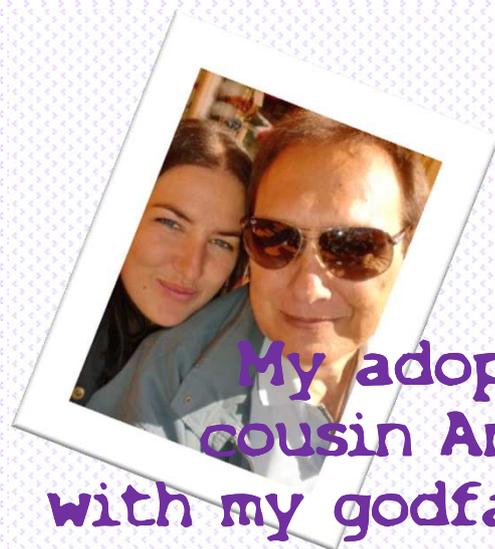
Our parents never had a lot of money, but they provided us with a very good education and allowed us to enjoy all the hobbies we liked to do. I played the clarinet and the saxophone for about 10 years as part of a Big Band.

On weekends and holidays we always visited our grandparents. For us kids this was very cool because next to our grandparents' house, was our uncle and godfather with his family. Therefore, we had another playmate – our adoptive cousin Angela. What we loved most was following our godfather to the caves nearby and climbing with him through them. That was very exciting!

Since we grew up with so close to each other, our adoptive cousin Angela was like a sister for us. We still celebrate every holiday with each other.



**Stefan  
Angela  
Claudia  
Christmas Eve**



**My adoptive  
cousin Angela  
with my godfather**



... always a clown ...



## About Geri

I am 33 years old and work as the Head of Paint shop in an international crane manufacturing company. I am responsible for about 70 employees which is a new challenge every day and is a lot of fun.

My career started when I was little and I helped my dad in the garage repairing cars or mopeds. I learned a lot of technical things from my dad but also how you become a diligent, uncomplaining worker. I spent a lot of time with my dad while my older sister Isabell helped our mum in the house.

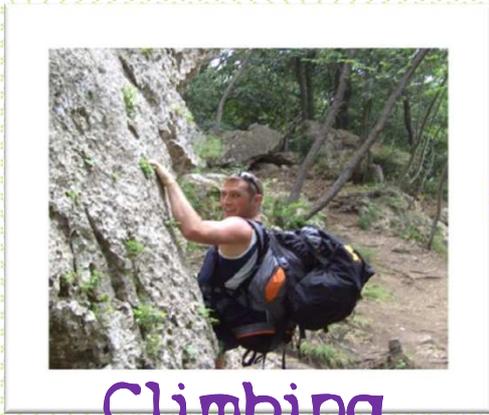
My childhood was beautiful. My sister and I had a treasured, loving home and a down-to-earth upbringing. We enjoyed the time with our parents – especially the yearly camping holidays in Italy or Austria.

first car



snorkeling





**Climbing**



## About Geri

I am a humorous, fun-loving person who loves to talk with everyone and in an extensive way. Especially discussions with persons from different cultures and countries I enjoy a lot. In contrast to Claudia (my little romantic) I am a realist with a careful evaluation of situations.

My hobbies are climbing, hiking, diving and being the Holy St. Nicholas during Christmas time. Claudia and I still yearly make some climbing trips to different spots in Europe. These journeys are my favorite time of the year. We just pack in some climbing stuff, some food and a tent for the night. Very uncomplicated and close to nature. It's so relaxing!

Every Wednesday I am diving with the diving club in one of the local lakes or rivers. This hour of total silence I enjoy to the fullest.

After sports I love to eat good food. It's important to refuel yourself when you pushed yourself. Especially Italian food such as pasta, pizza or seafood are my favorites. At least once a week we visit the Italian restaurant in our village. That's mandatory! ☺



**Pizza in Italy**



**Philipp, Geri, Antonio  
(the best Italian cook)  
and Jampy**

# About Geri

I have two best friends named Jampy (Oliver) and Philipp. They both have been friends since school and we still spend a lot of time together. They both are climbers too and they normally join us on our yearly climbing trips. Whenever we are not "on the road" we sit together on our terrace having dinner and chatting. They already are part of the family.

6 years ago I became the godfather of my little niece Anna. She is our angel and grandparents' darling. Unfortunately my sister and her family don't live in our neighborhood. They are six hours away from us but very often "at home" in our valley. During this time they live in our house. We even furnished an own nursery for Anna and a little guest flat for Isabell and her partner Andi.

Claudia and I are always looking forward to when they are planning to visit us again. It's wonderful having a little child running around and having life in our house. We truly enjoy these days. Anna would love having a little cousin who she can show how the swing works and what kind of flowers are in the garden. She would be a loving cousin!



Babysitting



Carneval



Cuddling  
with Anna



Hiking

# Our home



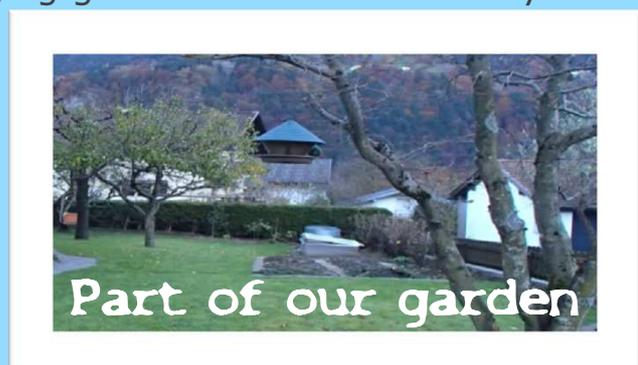
decorated by our friends after marrying

Geri, his parents and his grandparents lived next door to each other for about 30 years. When Geri's grandparents passed away he inherited their house and we started to renovate it. Today it is a modern, cozy home with a long family story which makes it very homey. Apart from a kitchen, living room, office and storage, our home has also 5 bedrooms. So there would be a lot of room for children to play in or to invite friends over. The most important place is the large terrace where we love to sit with our friends and family having a barbecue, drinking coffee, having breakfast on weekends etc. Around the house we have a beautiful garden with apple, cherry and plum trees, a vegetable garden where Claudia plants our own salad and vegetables as well as many flowers which are the darlings of Geri's mum.

We live in a small village with a lot of tourists around us. Therefore the children are growing up in an international surrounding with playfellows from all over the world. They can play at the various playgrounds around us, in the forest or at the rivers. For example our niece Anna loves to play in our garden with the kids from the neighborhood, using the swings or building little houses. And in winter the kids normally go skiing or sledding with each other.

Our neighborhood is positive, we do have a respectful and polite contact with each other and always funny chats while doing the gardening. On New Years Eve we normally meet on the street clinking the glasses and exchanging good wishes for the new year.

We have different kindergartens and schools in our village with good teachers and interesting training programs fostering the unique talents of the children.



# View down to our village



Living room



Kitchen



Fireplace



Our neighbours' cows



Our house



Our house in winter



Claudia's  
brother  
Stefan

Claudia's  
parents

Geri's  
parents

Geri's sister  
Isabell

Geri's  
goddaughter  
Anna

# Our Family



Andi  
(Geri's  
brother-in-  
law)



Claudia  
with her  
sister-in-  
law Sabine



Claudia's 6 months  
old goddaughter  
Lena

# Our Family

We both have the great fortune of holding sweet memories of our childhood and parents. Our parents are still in a loving marriage and we have a strong cohesion within the family.

There are many traditions we love to celebrate every year with our family. On "St. Nicholas Evening" Geri dresses up as the Holy St Nicholas in order to visit families with little kids and surprise them with small presents. At the end he comes to Claudia's grandparents where the whole family is already waiting for him. It's always a funny evening.

On Christmas, we alternate years at our parents houses. Normally we first eat Fondue (which is a traditional Swiss/Austrian dish) and then we unwrap the presents under our big Christmas tree before we all go together to church.

Another very important tradition (especially for Claudia) comes during Easter time. Claudia's dad always gives us "Good Friday eggs" from his little farm which should bring us good luck for the following year.



**Christmas tree**



**Philipp & Geri  
(Knecht Ruprecht &  
St. Nicholas)**



**Unpacking Anna's  
present**



**Grandpa's  
cows**

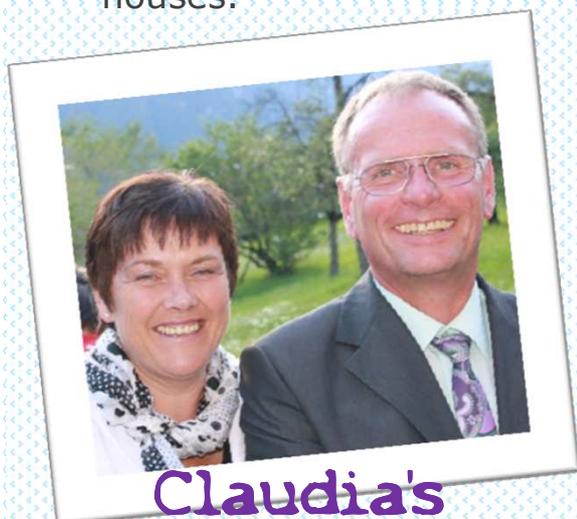


## Our Family

Geri's parents are living in the house next to us. They are both retired and love to spoil our cat Gini if we are out of town or on holiday. They support us in every situation – such as taking a package from the postman, ironing some laundry (if it's bad weather and Geri's mum is bored) or fixing different things on our house. We do have a very close relationship with them. They know almost everything about us and they can't wait for a little child to be playing around our houses.



Geris parents before a heli flight in the Swiss Alps



Claudia's parents – farmers with a big heart

Claudia's parents are only one village next to us. They have a little farm with goats, cows, chickens and a lovely dog called Max. Claudia's mum is the managing director of a little drug store in our valley and her dad is farmer. When Claudia and her brother were growing up, their parents thought about adopting a child. Now, they are very excited about our adoption plans. They are looking forward to hold their adoptive grandchild in their arms and show him or her the animals of the farm.



**Geri & Isabell**



**Claudia & Stefan**



**Geri, Anna & Claudia**



**Geri, Lena & Claudia**



**Geri, Anna & Claudia**



**Anna & Claudia**

We both fully confide in our siblings and we have a very strong connection. Each of them has a little daughter – Lena and Anna. They are very excited about our adoption plans and will be the godparents of our adoptive child. We know that they will support our adoptive child as much as they can.



**Stefan, Sabine & Geri**

Our adoptive child would also have three wonderful great-grandparents. They already spoiled Claudia when she was little and now they spoil their great-grandchildren even more. They all live in our valley – only a few minutes from where we live.



**Anna & Grandpa**



**Claudia's grandparents**



**Claudia's grandparents**

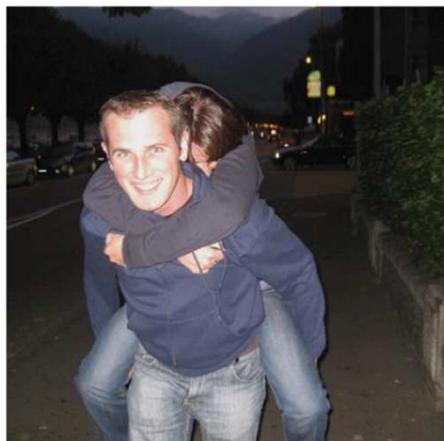
**Grandma –  
mother of  
Claudia's  
father**

# Travelling

During University, Claudia studied abroad. In this time she met and lived with people from all over the world. Some of them became friends for life. We visit them regularly in Portugal, the USA, Italy, Czech and Belgium. So far, our friends in Australia and in Chile we haven't visited. But we would love to introduce them our adoptive kid(s) some day...



Safari in Africa



Italy: Geri carrying Claudia piggyback

Besides visiting friends we already travelled to almost every continent in the world. On weekends we often travel to Italy for climbing or swimming. We luckily share this passion and enjoy the experiences we make together in different countries.

The first years with our adoptive child we plan to travel to Italy, Austria or Croatia where we can drive to. When he or she is a little older, we look forward to exploring the world together. That's what we would love to do.

Madeleine, Ethan & Claudia in Michigan



The M&M's store in New York – one of the best places Claudia has ever been 😊



Visiting Sue & Joao in Portugal



Boat trip with Sabine & Stefan in Egypt



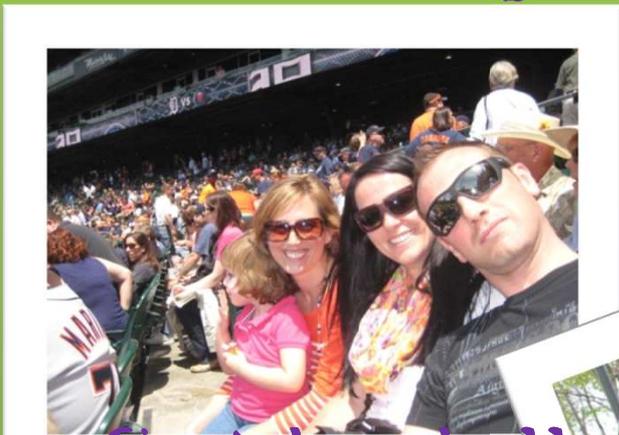
Visiting Stephanie & Antonio in Sicilia (Italy)



The Maldives



The Seychelles



Our first baseball game (Detroit Tigers)



On a bear farm with Mindy, Jim, Ethan and Madeleine from Michigan



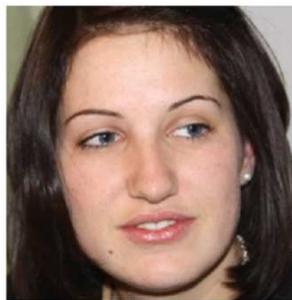
Our friends on our wedding



Manuela –  
being soon a mum



Poor Jampy & Claudia  
(having pain after climbing)



Angela



Sabine & Jerome



Holidays with our friends



Jampy



Koen & Rebecca  
(from Belgium)

# Our friends

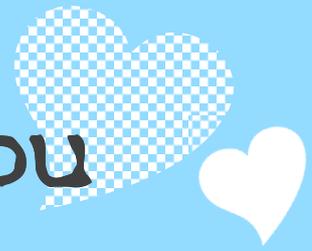


Canyoning with friends



Trip to Barcelona

# Our promise to you



We are open-minded, faithful and stable people with a very strong connection to each other and a loving marriage. We are a good match having a lot of fun together and we complement each other very well. We know that we would be wonderful parents, acting responsible and moving heaven and earth to offer your child a safe and stable environment in which he or she can grow up happy and strong.

We are both grown up in a close family with strong values, a respectful relationship with each other and down-to-earth education. This is what we want to pass on to our adoptive child. However, we will also introduce him or her to other religions, cultures and points of view. Raising children means to us acting strictly but fair, setting the right examples and explaining the different situations of life. The most important values for us are respect, honesty, tolerance and living according to the Christian values like being forgiving and helping people.

Our surrounding is filled with close friendships and a large, warm-hearted family. More and more of our friends recently become parents and so your child would not only be received lovingly by us but also by all the people around us.

Your child will surely have a lot of questions about the adoption and we will answer to them as best as we can. From the beginning will be open and honest about the adoption and if you would like to stay in touch, we would be happy to do so. You will receive photos and updates if you want and we will happy to meet you when we travel to the US.

We hope that with this letter we could give you a better idea about who we are, how we are living and what makes us "us". If you decide to choose us as parents for your child, we promise you that we would love your child dearly and enable him or her a happy life with all opportunities.

We can imagine that you may have a lot of questions. Please feel free to contact us via email at [claudiaandgeri@outlook.com](mailto:claudiaandgeri@outlook.com) or call our adoption agency Forever Families Through Adoption toll free at 1-866-922-3678 or contact them via email at [adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](mailto:adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm wishes,

