

Our Story

John and Gina



Dear Birthmother:

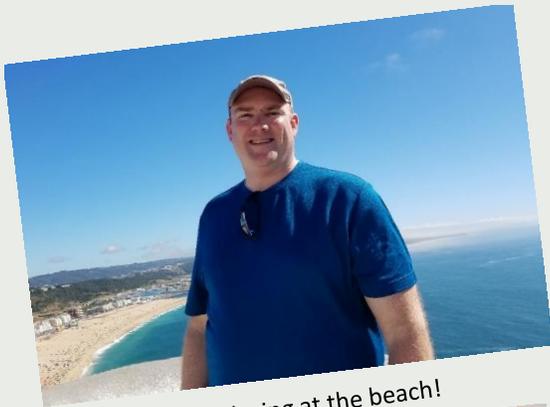
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, for taking the time to read our letter. We know you are facing a difficult decision and admire your selfless act in choosing to have your baby and wanting to give your baby the best opportunities in life. We want you to know that if you choose us to be the adoptive parents of your baby, we will always put your child first and provide unconditional love.

We will share a bit about ourselves, our families, our upbringing, our traditions, our hobbies and more importantly, our values. We hope that by providing you with a glimpse into who we are, we can reassure you that we are extremely loving and dedicated to each other and our families, and that we will treasure the opportunity to adopt, parent and love your child.

Thank you for considering us.

Gina and John





John relaxing at the beach!



Gina on the boat ride to an Azorean Island.



Exploring the botanical garden.



Relaxing at a coffee shop.

Welcome to our family! We are John and Gina. We are a fun loving couple who are extremely excited to become parents.

We met through a mutual friend while Gina was finishing her degree and John was working at the library of the university Gina was attending.

For our first date we went to Outback and, after dinner, we walked along the beach. We talked for hours about our families, what we liked to do on vacations...and we just clicked.

As we continued to date we discovered that we share common values, outlooks and goals. When John realized Gina was “the one”, he took her out on a romantic boat ride and proposed at sunset overlooking the Manhattan skyline.



With my parents.



With our siblings, best man, and Mariana John's goddaughter.

After dating for three years, we were married at Gina's hometown church, and have been happily married ever since.

We are of Portuguese, Irish, and German ancestry and so our wedding day, just like our lives, was a blending of all of these cultures.

It was a wonderful day, with a lot of laughter, delicious food, and dancing, but most of all, it was great to be surrounded by all of our loved ones.

On our honeymoon, we went to the Bahamas, where we did some snorkeling and sight seeing.

Afterwards, we went to Portugal where we had a gathering for Gina's Portuguese relatives, so they could meet John, and celebrate with us.



Gina's graduation.



Yeah!!! John is a doctor!



Marching in to receive the diploma.



Celebrating John's graduation with his parents.

Gina finished her doctorate, and has a job teaching biology.

John completed his doctoral degree and works at a school library as the technical support manager.

Our workplaces are very friendly and family oriented. We are very lucky in that our jobs are flexible, with extensive time off for holidays and vacations, which allow us to spend a lot of time with each other and our families. It will also offer us flexibility while raising your child.

A few years ago we moved from our apartment in New York City and purchased a home in a safe area in the suburbs so we could have the space both indoors and outdoors to raise a family.



The first snowstorm at our new home.



The Baby room.



The lake near our house!

Our Home

We own a raised ranch with a big backyard, in front of a private lake. During the winter, the lake freezes over, and children ice skate and play hockey.

In the summer months, there are barbeques at the lake house and we swim and fish in the lake. It is a wonderful, peaceful, and friendly community.

We have three bedrooms, one of which we have begun to prepare for your child, and two fire places to keep our home nice and cozy on cold winter nights.

The basement is finished with a family room, office and a room we call the "craft" room which is for doing hobbies, which include beading, model building, painting, and crochet!



John baking!

We love to have our friends and family over, and we enjoy cooking healthy, organic, meals and baking delicious treats!

During the summer we enjoy relaxing in our backyard, and grilling.



Our beautiful flower garden.

Our yard is Gina's passion. She spends hours tending her rose garden, her vegetable garden, making our yard a peaceful and beautiful retreat.



Labor Day BBQ!

Gina spends a lot of time making sure that the beauty of our garden compliments the beauty of nature around us.



A summer BBQ with family & friends.

John tends our lawn, always making sure it is just right to run around and play on.



Jacky.



John's parents in the Botanical Garden.



Gina's parents walking through a park.



Sammy in our back yard.

We both grew up in homes surrounded by big families with siblings, friends and pets.

We have two cats, Sammy, and Jacky. They are very friendly, patient, and are great at playing and cuddling. Both are wonderful with children.

When our younger relatives come to visit us they love to play with both Sammy and Jacky!

When we moved away from the city we chose a location to live that would be close to our parents' houses. We thought it would be wonderful to have our parents nearby so we could visit each other often. They live less than fifteen minutes away from us and we visit every weekend.

They are all extremely excited that we are adopting and that they will have a grandchild to shower with love and affection!



Ana and Gina's father.



With my mother.



With my parents, sister and cousin.



At Ana's wedding.

Gina's family

My parents both emigrated to the U.S. from Portugal, met while living across the street from each other, and got married. They had two daughters, me and my sister Ana.

My mother was an elementary school teacher and she would always have a lot of free time to help us with our homework. My father was a quality control inspector. Both of my parents were always there for us when we needed them.

My mother was offered an opportunity to teach in Portugal, and we moved to her hometown where we spent part of my childhood. My parents always had the time to bake cookies, do projects and take trips with us.

This made me realize how I wanted to raise my family when I grew up. I chose to be a teacher because I love to help people learn, and also so that I could have a lot of time to devote to my children.



Ana and Sara doing art projects.



With my mother and Sara at the park.



With two of my childhood friends.



With my mother visiting France.

I had a wonderful childhood. I was able to walk home to eat lunch with my grandparents, and play in our backyard with my friends year round, after I was done with my homework.

When I was in High School, we returned to the U.S. so that I could attend college, and look for a job.

I am very glad that I settled down in NY, where I have a lot of opportunities for success. I am also very blessed to live near my family.

I plan on staying in NY, at my current job where I have a lot of time to dedicate to your child while being close to my friends, and family.



John's sister and father.



John's brother, wife and niece Alessandra.



Celebrating dad's birthday.



John's parents and aunt.

John's family

Both my parents are retired teachers, and my mother now works as a Life Coach.

Growing up, my parents raised us to be compassionate, and responsible people. They made sure that we had all that we needed. We attended private schools, and we plan on doing the same for your child.

We helped out around the house, doing chores like the dishes, yardwork, and cleaning up after our pets. My parents took advantage of the cultural opportunities in NY and were always taking us to museums, the Bronx Zoo, the Aquarium, and baseball games.

As both my parents lived near the beach, we spent our summers there staying either at our house or with my grandparents, and playing with my cousins. These are values we would like to share with your child if you choose us to adopt your child.

Our families



At Ana's wedding.



Hanging out at the park!



Sophia's wedding!



Cousin Linda's wedding.



Baby-sitting Sara!



Mom and her girls at our 4th of July BBQ.



Cousin Anita's baptism.



Grammy's 96th Birthday.



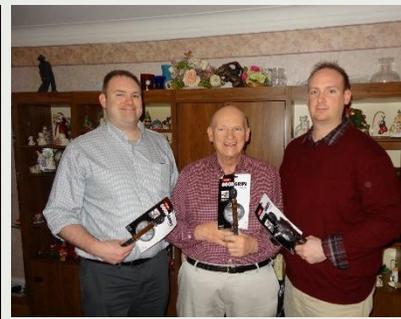
Exploring Berlingas Islands.



Visiting California.



Dancing with Grammy.



Dad and his two big boys at Christmas.



Jacky guards the Christmas Tree!



Celebrating Christmas.



Unwrapping Christmas presents!



Warming up by the fireplace!



Sara's second Christmas at our house.



The table is set for Christmas Eve Dinner!

Holidays and special events

Holidays, birthdays and family get together, are very important to us. We love celebrating and sharing special occasions with our loved ones.

We love to host Christmas Eve dinner. It is our favorite holiday, because our entire family is able to come celebrate with us.

We try to make it a true feast, with our favorite Christmas foods, like paella for Gina, and rib roast for John. Everyone brings a favorite dish. Gina's father roasts chestnuts, Gina makes her special flan, and John makes Christmas cookies and bonbons for dessert.

It is a time for sharing good food, laughter and making everlasting memories with our family. We long to include another seat at the table when we are lucky enough to adopt.



Celebrating Christmas with family!



Boat ride to the Berlengas Islands.



A walk in the park!



Exploring the island of Sao Miguel.



Getting ready to go snorkeling!

Vacations

Our vacations are an opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life, and have a chance to rest, have fun, and spend time with each other.

We love to travel and have had the chance to explore many new and beautiful places. We love going to beaches, like the Rockaways in New York, and Hilton Head in South Carolina.

We especially like beaches where we can do water sports and hiking, like in the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas and in Portugal.

We love to explore nature, through walking and snorkeling.



Gina's Family picnic.



Gina's Family reunion.



Gina hanging out with her cousins.



Gina's Family reunion.



At a café in Portugal.

Vacations in Portugal

In the summer, we also travel to Portugal, where Gina's family is from.

Every summer her family's town has a festival with carnival rides, concerts, and wonderful food. We get together with her friends and family to enjoy these festivities.

We also like to spend time at the beach.

In the past few years, we have discovered the beautiful islands of the Azores, where we go swimming and hiking often on the same day!

We are looking forward to sharing the natural wonders of places like the Azorean Islands with your child.



Having fun at a fair.

Vacations in Portugal and the Azores



Cruising the Douro river in Portugal.



Visiting Parque das Nações in Lisbon.



Admiring the flowers in Sao Jorge Island, Azores.



Exploring the Oceanarium in Lisbon.



Hiking up the tallest mountain range in Portugal.



Hanging out at a park in Pico Island, Azores.



Getting ready to snorkel in Berlengas Islands.



Hanging out with Vasco da Gama in Terceira Island, Azores.



Late afternoon walk by the ocean in Pedrogao.



Exploring a fort in Peniche.



Visiting Nazare, Portugal.



Boat ride to the Island of Faial, Azores.



Vacations in Florida

Closer to home, we have a time share at Disney World, so during winter breaks, spring breaks, or whenever we are off from school we like to go visit Florida.



Since both of us have family in central Florida, Disney has become a great place for us to get together with our younger cousins for mini-family reunions.



We love visiting Disney's Magic Kingdom, Epcot, and Animal Kingdom, which has wonderful animal exhibits. We look forward to taking your child with us on all of these vacations.





Exploring Terceira Island, Azores.



Teaching students about pitcher plants.



Celebrating Gina's birthday!



Doing art projects!

About Gina by John

Gina puts her whole heart into everything she does and is extremely dedicated to her family, and friends. As a teacher she never gives up on her students and always finds the time to give everyone extra help and personal attention.

When we were trying to start our family, Gina underwent many procedures. When we finally conceived we were devastated when she miscarried. But instead of giving up on our dream, Gina picked herself up and continued our quest to build our family through adoption.

Gina, brings the best out of those around her. Whether it is her students, her family, or even me!

She is a natural with children being both calm and patient. She spends a lot of time with our niece Sara, and every weekend I see them baking, doing art projects or just hanging out. When I see the two of them, hear them laughing, and see how happy they are together, I know deep in my heart that Gina will be a great mother!



Exploring Pico Island, Azores.



John and his cousins.



John getting an award for distinguished service from his employer.



Visiting a fort!

About John by Gina

Since meeting John I can say that I love him more each day. During the late nights of cramming in college John always made my life easier, helping with chores,and making me laugh when I was stressed out!!!

Through our years together, we have had many, many happy moments and a few sad moments. But through it all, John has been unwavering in his support. He was there during my surgeries, my fertility treatments, his positive attitude uplifted me through the pain and always reminded me that we would get through.

During our years together, I have seen John grow, not in size, (he is six foot four already!), but in his dedication to me and to our families. As a husband he is hardworking, and supportive and a great role model to our niece Sara, and goddaughters.

I know one day, in the very near future we will receive our wish of adopting a baby, and I will finally see John as a father, sharing all of his love and dedication with a very lucky little boy or girl!

Our hopes for your child...

We hope to raise your child to be a kind and respectful person, always willing to help others especially those less fortunate. We want to help your child live up to their fullest potential.

We want them to be a person who brings joy and peace to those around them and to be considerate and compassionate to people around them.

We will love your child unconditionally and help your child have a happy and fulfilling life. Your child will be the center of our lives.

We're fortunate to both work for family friendly institutions. Because of this, we have flexible hours, family leave, holidays, and vacations. This gives us the time to dedicate to your child. In addition, our parents and sisters live close to us and they are all very excited to babysit and spoil your child!

We imagine this is an overwhelming experience for you, but we hope we have given you a glimpse into our lives and home, and the future your child could have with us.



When we told our niece Sara, that we wanted to adopt a baby, she drew this picture for you. We asked her to explain the drawing and she said that it was Aunt Gina and Sara waiting on the front deck for the new baby to come home.

Final Thoughts

We are extremely grateful that you have taken the time to learn about us, our families, and the life we would give to your baby.

We know you are facing a very tough decision, and that you are very strong and selfless in wanting to provide the best life for your child. We admire your determination and we will forever remind your child of how loved they are by all of us, including you.

When the time comes, we will tell your child about how resilient and courageous you were in choosing to give birth and how much you wanted your child to grow up with endless opportunities.

We plan on being open with our adoption and sharing with you pictures and regular correspondence so you can witness your child's progress and see how they are growing.

If you wish to know more about us, or have any questions, please contact us through our agency, Forever Families Through Adoption at 1-866-922-3678 or 914-939-1180.

Thank you for considering us.

We wish you an easy pregnancy and delivery.

Gina and John

