



Sylvia from Vienna/ AUSTRIA

Dear birth parents,



It is difficult to start a letter knowing that somewhere in the United States, there is a loving parent who must be in a very difficult situation, considering an adoption plan for their unborn baby.

I'm single, 44 years old, living in Austria and I always wanted to have a family. Somehow it happened that I did not meet the partner who I could build a family with. Having read and heard a lot about adoption here in Austria, adoption was an easy decision for me.

My wish is to love your child unconditionally, to give your child the chance for a good life and to support all their needs. It is also my wish to be honest with your child about the adoption from the very beginning. I can easily travel to the US and visit with you if you like for you to get to know me better.

I strongly admire your braveness considering adoption as an option for you and your child.

To understand my strong wish to share my life with your child, I think there is no better way to express it than by the poem on the next page.

Fondly,
Sylvia

What I would do for you

I would do just about anything you'd ask,
For you there's nothing I wouldn't do, there's no such task.

I would walk without my shoes to the end of the Earth,
I would give up anything I had to, to teach yourself worth.

I would hold your hand every minute of every day,
But I won't because I know you need to find your own way.

I would surely bear the heartache of your first love that's real,
Even though I can't, I will naturally feel as you feel.

I would sell my soul if it would keep you happy forever,
I would give my right arm to keep us forever together.

I would run a hundred miles up-hill in the rain,
Just to guarantee that you will never feel pain.

I would laugh with you even if I was sad,
I will give you a smile even if I'm mad.

I can only accept your mistakes with a grin on my face,
I will guide you in correcting them, but at your own pace.

I will guide you through life, as this world can get quite wild,
Just don't you ever forget that you will always be my child.

Who I am

I am Sylvia from Austria. I consider myself to be open minded and very down to earth. I always try to stick to my principal values and to be genuine. I am currently single and live on my own because so far I haven't met the man who I would like to share my life with.

I possess a strong love for children and I long to make your child the most important thing in my life. For me adoption is a very good solution: it helps two families: yours because you can trust that your child is in good hands and mine because I can live my dream to become a mother.

I chose to adopt from the United States, because I am inspired by your very diverse and interesting country. I am open to adopting a child of any race. As a child I was fascinated by foreign cultures, religions and mentalities.



The daughter of a friend



With my godchild



With friends in summer & winter



With my cousin in India



With my brother at Christmas



Some facts about my life



I am the oldest child of two from a loving family. I grew up in the southernmost part of Austria and had a happy childhood. Playing and exploring nature, and having a healthy social environment were of utmost importance while growing up.



My brother and me



With our friends from school



With our cousins



My first Communion

The village where I grew up is surrounded by mountains, and the nearby lakes attract swimmers in summer and skaters in winter. I often enjoyed skiing and with my family discovering trails for hiking tours. I still spend a lot of my spare time at my parent's house, which borders Italy and Slovenia.

My mother stayed at home with us growing up, giving us the chance to do a lot of things with her, such as playing, cooking, baking and reading. She enjoyed inviting our friends and classmates over on a regular basis to celebrate birthdays and carnival parties.

During summer break, we often went on vacation for a few days. Most of the time our destination was the northern part of Italy, because it is not far away and as children we especially loved to go to the seaside.



My birthday in February



At the Adriatic Coast, Italy



Me and my brother with the baby of guests at the guesthouse of my grandmother



My brother's birthday

My years of studies and travels



When I turned 18, I went to live in a bigger city to study French and Spanish at the University of Salzburg: the city where Mozart, the famous Austrian composer, was born. During my years at University I learned to live and to organize my life on my own. During my vacation I worked to earn some money for trips in Europe (Spain, France, Italy). I was always curious to explore other places, cultures, mentalities and to learn foreign languages.

My friends from University



We shared a small apartment those days



My friend who lives in the United Kingdom today

Most of my longest friendships date back to this time. Today we all live in different places, making it difficult to meet each other that often, but we do regularly speak to each other on the phone or by e-mail.

A few years abroad

A few years later I went to live and work abroad, in Belgium. These were the years in which I built up my social network, and together with friends we explored Belgium and the surrounding countries whenever we found time to do so.

I had an interesting job at the European Commission where I enjoyed the international environment with colleagues from all over Europe. During these years between 1999 and 2003 I also travelled a lot for work, but only within Europe (for example to Barcelona, Athens, Rome). Unfortunately there was no opportunity for me to travel to the United States.

My friends from Brussels



City life in Brussels



At the Belgian Seaside

My life today

Today I work at the European Patent Office, based in Vienna, the capital of Austria. Our office is situated in the centre close to my apartment (walking distance) and close to the Belvedere Park, a nice green area, where people like to walk and run.

My job requires me to speak both English and French and I enjoy the exchange with my colleagues who have different cultural or ethnic backgrounds than me.

After 10 years I can luckily say that I keep enjoying the work I do and many of my colleagues became my good friends. As a potential single mother, I would have the necessary support from my friends who either have children or who just would like to make a child part of their lives.



In Berlin



Autumn in Austria



At work



For work in London

I have worked hard and I have achieved a lot in my life. Now, there is time for a change. I have a stable career and my income allows me to live a comfortable life. I have always dreamed of becoming a parent and can't wait to spend time with your child - discovering the world together!

My family



My parents and the sister of my dad



My mom and me



My parents married young and are still together after 44 years. My mother was only 20 when I was born. She stayed home as a full time mom until I was thirteen.



My brother Roland is just a little younger and so we played a lot together and had fun exploring things and experiencing adventures. We had a big garden, a beautiful lake nearby and woods around us. It was the perfect place to grow up!



My brother loves the United States, especially New York. He goes there frequently and enjoys eating lobster. He would also travel to the US with me and fully supports my plans to adopt.

Today our family is spread over Austria, Germany and Switzerland



Family event in Germany

My father has 3 brothers & sisters and my mother has 5 brothers & sisters. Therefore I also have a lot of aunts, uncles and cousins. I have regular contact with them and we visit each other when possible. Most of my family members I meet regularly at family events near my home. Traditions like Christmas, Easter and birthdays have a big importance in our family.

My aunt and uncle visiting me in Vienna



My aunt and me on holiday



My mother and my godmother visiting me in Vienna

My father's cousin lives in southern Germany and has three children. Her eldest daughter, who is around my age, is of mixed race and will be a great support system to both your child and me. I am lucky enough to be surrounded by family members of many different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and I can't wait to be able to share this with your child as well.



My father's cousin and one of her grandchildren



Her younger daughter with her daughter
They live in Hawai at the moment



Her two younger children and their father



Her eldest daughter,
younger daughter and
grandchild

Although we couldn't meet often in the last years, I hope we will see each other more often in the future and I am sure everybody will be happy to welcome a new family member with American roots.



My second cousin and her elder daughter who also has a baby meanwhile

Her niece



Her daughters



Her niece



Cousins



Family impressions ...



My brother with his girl-friend



Me and my brother



My parents



My mom and my brother



Me and my dad



My grandmother, my mother & her sisters in former times

Some of my cousins.....most of them in their twenties & studying at university



My musical cousin



My sporty cousin



My cousin reading a poem to my father (her godfather)



My youngest cousin who still goes to school



Two cousins studying



Sister & brother

My friends do enrich my life because...



.....I can laugh with them and have fun



.....I can spend my spare time with them



.....I am part of their lives



.....they always come up with nice ideas

...they are all very supportive of my plans to adopt.



A couple living in Vienna adopted a little boy from the US and as we met in the adoption course, we have built up a relationship which we would like to continue into future.

A single woman I know also adopted her son also from the US. Her boy is now 4 years old and goes to a nursery school in Vienna.



With these families I intend to continue my relationship in order to give your child the opportunity to meet other children who are also growing up overseas adopted from America.



My friend from University and her daughter



They live in a small town, one hour's drive away from Vienna.



The daughter of a girlfriend goes to a public school and I have also already met some of her classmates. In Vienna there are a lot of international schools and your child would have the possibility to go to one of these schools too.



My friends about me...



"She has a gift for approaching all different kinds of people in exactly the right way; she can be resolute if necessary, while still being friendly."



"Very down to earth and has a good sense of humour, which makes any relationship with her very reliable and fun."



"Not only absolutely capable of raising a child but above all Sylvia has the natural love, tenderness and patience to do so."



Christmas in Vienna
with colleagues

My second home town Vienna



The city attracts with its beautiful buildings, cultural variety (music, dance, theatres, opera etc.) and lots of parks and recreation areas. There is hardly anything one can't do in Vienna.

Although I grew up on the countryside I now very much appreciate the advantages of a big city because there are so many choices: swimming pools, theatres for children, playgrounds, parks and international schools.



Austria has borders with Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and other states. Austria is famous for high mountains, beautiful lakes, very good water quality, ski resorts and a high living standard.

What Austria is famous for...

“Sachertorte”



It is one of the most famous Viennese culinary specialties which you can order in most of the coffee shops in town.

“Großglockner”

The Grossglockner is the highest mountain of Austria.



“Mozart”

The famous Austrian composer



“Wiener Schnitzel”



Wiener Schnitzel is a very thin, breaded and deep fried schnitzel from veal. It is the national dish of Austria.

My home

My apartment is bright and centrally located; I can even walk to work. Nursery schools, playgrounds, schools and public transport are close by. Although the area is quiet, one can enjoy cultural & social life in the surroundings at the same time. I have a big dining room, a kitchen, a living room, a bed room and a special room for your baby. I hope that you consider me as the adoptive mother for your soon to be born baby so I can begin to decorate the room for your baby.



My dining room



My well-equipped kitchen



My living room



The future baby's room



My bathroom



My balcony to the courtyard



A nearby playground

My parents' home



Located in the south of Austria in a small town



My mother's lovely garden, surrounded by mountains

Our chalet in the mountains

The perfect place to relax!



This is also the place where we like to go hiking and exploring nature. My father loves to go on a mushroom foray. My mother and I like to pick blueberries and bake yummy cakes.

The beauty of Austria



Lake "Attersee", Upper Austria



National Park "Nockberge"



What a fantastic rainbow!



Lake "Millstätter See", Carinthia

Austria's landscape is diverse. Many regions are well known by tourists from all over the world.

Mountains inspire me... fresh air, clear sky.....it's so relaxing and peaceful!

We love nature and skiing and hiking in all different seasons.



With my mom and aunt



My dad and his sister



With my parents & aunt and uncle



With friends



With my friend from high school



With my father, aunt, brother, his girlfriend and friends

My hobbies

“Running/ sports in general”



At the yearly “Women’s run in Vienna. At this occasion several projects for women are supported.



Just before the finishing line

I like running very much and my friends & colleagues take part in several running events on a regular basis. I also take yoga lessons and strength training. I enjoy swimming and ice skating. With your child I also would practice sports.

“Languages / foreign cultures”



Russian food

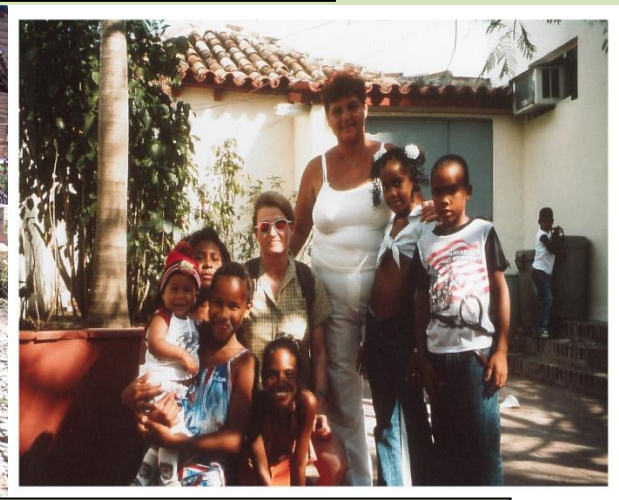


I attend a Russian course once a week. Most of the attendees are students and I enjoy spending time with younger people. I have always loved to learn different languages, which is why I chose French and Spanish as my main courses of study. At school, I also learned Italian. This was very helpful as my former hometown borders Italy, allowing me to practice the language often.

“Travelling”



In India with my cousin enjoying city and beach



Travelling through Cuba & talking to Cuban families and children



Mediterranean flair in Italy and Greece

I especially adore countries in the Third World because it's there where I always had the feeling to be brought back to my basics. People are so warm-hearted and family-oriented – that's what seems important to me in life! So far I haven't travelled to the US but I would love to do so soon. Once your child is big enough I long to explore their home country, and visit with you if you like, and other regions in the world together.

Some more photos...



Gathering at the house of a friend



Bike-tour with the boys of a friend

Riding on a tractor



Cross-country & skiing with girlfriends



Hiking tour



Dinner in Vienna



My activities vary: sportive ones like hiking tours, relaxed get-togethers, city tours & cultural events. But what I like most in my leisure time is to be with friends & explore nature. I mostly look forward to seeing life through the eyes of a child.

With friends at the River Danube in Vienna:
4 women - 4 nationalities



With the boyfriend
of a girlfriend



With my long -
standing male friend

I am confident that while I am living without a partner at the moment, male contact will still be very important for your child. I am glad that I also have good relationships with the partners of my friends and colleagues. Of course my father and brother will also play an important role in the education of your child.

Sportive activities and socialising



Girlfriends and their daughters



My values and thoughts

The key in education is unconditional love. A child needs to be reminded that they are unique and that individuality is what makes them special. As my natural love for children is very big I am confident that I will be able to build up a relationship full of respect, understanding, care and sensitivity with your child. I will always speak about you and the decision you made with respect and empathy.

In general a positive attitude towards life and its challenges is very important. I am convinced that children need to be equipped with values from the beginning. This way they will be able to do well being on their own and also be on their way to living full, happy lives. Endurance, honesty, passion, respect, forgiveness and gratitude, just to name a few, are very important values to me.

I can assure you that I will do everything to raise your child to make you proud. I would be happy to learn about your thoughts on education, childcare and anything else which you would love to have fulfilled in your child's life.

It would make me very happy if I could help your child to lead a good life and to develop to a happy, stable and self-confident adult who can take responsibility for their choices in life and who loves life.

I am open to having a relationship with you before and after birth and send you updates and photos as your child grows.

My job allows me to take time off (maternity & parental leave) and I also plan to add several months of leave in order to be able to stay at home with your child full time at least for one year. Afterwards I would look for a good and reliable day nanny (just for a few hours) and I would reduce my working time.

Many of my friends and colleagues live in my neighbourhood and are so excited about my plans to adopt. Most of them have kids too and would love to help and offer me advice.

For vacation periods and long weekends I plan to spend a lot of time in southern Austria at my parents' house. My parents and my brother support me and would be happy to help take care of your child. Many gatherings take place at my parents' house so, I am confident your child will develop strong bonds with many family members and celebrate all the Austrian and American holidays.

There is enough space and a big garden to play, there are woods around to discover nature, there are neighbours and friends who adore children.

And as traditions (Christmas, Easter, birthdays) in our family are cultivated, regular family gatherings will continue to take place.



My mother reading
a Christmas story



Christening of my godchild



My brother at Christmas



Thank you for reading my letter and considering my story.

I wish you all the best for your decision, an easy delivery and all the best for you and your family!

If you have further questions, please contact "Forever Families Through Adoption", the New York agency, helping me with my parenting journey (toll free at 866-922-3678) or by e-mail (adopt@foreverfamielsthrughadoption.org).

Take care & kind regards,
Sylvia