

Alon – how our little angel came to us

A moving story about a successful open adoption

It was one of these things which happens by accident but are somehow destiny: A friend of ours in Switzerland gave us a seven year old business card of Goldstein's Office and told us about a special evening, where she learned about open adoption. This was very new to us and sounded exciting. We plucked up courage again after having lived through many disappointments on our way to become a family. Even more exciting to us was the fact that the phone number on the card still was correct, that somebody answered! Little by little we found out that we reached to probably the most competent people about adoption matter in USA. And we learned about open adoption, which to our eyes is the most wonderful way of adoption for all participants.

Joy and Michael Goldstein and their team were able to consult us very competent, clear and with much compassion. It was the first time, we met somebody who helped, and supported. After having received the permission of Switzerland to adopt a child, it took only 5 months until we received this meaningful phone call from their office: there is birthmother Kristina, who wants to talk with us! We understood each other from the very beginning.

At that time, Kristina was only 17. She chooses us, because she wants the child being grown up in Europe. And moreover, she asks us, if we would like to take part at the birth! What an unbelievable gift to us. We kept connection with her by phone and could develop a relationship of trust and respect.

In September 2005, Alon was born and we could welcome him as our son from the very first second of his life on. During the time after his birth, we met Kristina several times and could deepen our trust to each other. In the city of Alons birth – too far from the Goldstein's office – we were coached a by another Lawyer who is member of the network. We were so happy and relieved to receive this highly professional support. In October 2005 the three of us could finally travel back home. Now we are a normal small family but with a very special and touching background-story.

We still keep in touch with Kristina: She could continue with her studies and looks forward developing her future plans. And yet she is happy to know that Alon found a family where he belongs to and where he is loved from all our hearts. For us it is important to keep track to Alons biological roots. That gives Alon the possibilities to one time find out where he came from. Moreover we are able to show Kristina our gratitude for what she did: she made a decision for life.

For Alons baptism in summer 2006 we asked Kristina and her family if they would like to participate. They decided to come over to Switzerland. What an exciting but beautiful ceremony! Of course, we were all nervous to see each other again after 9 months. But we had a wonderful time together. Kristina could see where Alon was "landed" and so she could really let go and ensure herself that she did right. For us it was this meeting, which ensured us: to keep connected with Kristina is no "danger" at all but only a benefit for all of us: we somehow became one big family.

To us, process of this open adoption was a big adventure: It challenged us, because we (as adopting parents) define and form the relationship to the birthmother. We had to deal with our fears and wishes and we had to be honest to ourselves. With this process, something very special and precious develops: a relationship with respect and gratitude towards all participants and especially towards life. This we think is the best fundament for our child to grow up, to find love and security. And this delicate process needs a professional "frame". That's what Joy and Michael Goldstein and their team did for us.

We are so grateful!

Caroline and Reto from Switzerland