



STEPHANIE



MARTIN W. BAUER — mwbauer@martinpringle.com
AMANDA M. MARINO — ammarino@martinpringle.com
316.265.9311 | 645 E. Douglas Ste 100, Wichita, Kansas 67202



MARTIN | PRINGLE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MY NAME IS
STEPHANIE
&
I live in a Diverse
NEIGHBORHOOD
IN CHICAGO



Thank you for
TAKING THE TIME
to read my profile

...and for considering me as the adoptive parent of your child. **I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR YOUR CHILD.** I will never truly understand the difficult road you are traveling on, but I wish you peace, love and strength as you bravely make the decision that is right for you.



Dear
EXPECTANT PARENT

I grew up in Ohio and Indiana and moved to Chicago to be closer to my family after going to graduate school in Boston. **I have always wanted to be a mother and when I started down the path of becoming a single mother by choice, adoption was one of the options I considered from the beginning to make my dream and desire of motherhood come true.** I have been "aunt" to my friends' children and an Aunt to my nieces but am ready to expand my own family. I look forward to possibly sharing a life of adventures and learning with your child; to welcoming them into "my village" of family and friends.



A friend recently got married and as a gift to their guests, the couple wrote out cards that described a quality of each guest that they hoped to incorporate in their new life together. The quality that my friends highlighted for me was **"WELCOMING"**. I enjoy hosting informal gatherings with friends and family from a dinner or a cookout to baby showers and going away parties. **I make my home a warm and welcoming place and I look forward to welcoming a new baby to my life!**

My friend **ANA SAYS...** "Stephanie is a loving and stable individual, she has both personal and professional experience with children. She has a committed social network and supportive and wonderful family. She is mature, honest, hardworking and pragmatic. Stephanie is an excellent cook, she is active and she is smart. I count Stephanie as among my most loyal friends".



READING

PLAYING TENNIS

EXERCISING

SPENDING TIME WITH MY DOG. Your child will enjoy frequent walks with my dog, especially with playgrounds in walking distance.

CRAFTY HOBBIES such as knitting, card making and making jewelry with beads. I have gotten my nieces interested in some of these craft hobbies as well!

GARDENING. I help maintain the landscape of my building and grow a variety of vegetables in planters on the garage roof deck.

WHAT I
Love
TO DO

I LOVE TO HIKE AND EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS. I have hiked to the summit of two mountains in the Pacific Northwest. I enjoy exploring National Parks with my family. Our vacations usually involve outdoor exploration such as hiking at Lake Tahoe, walking on the beach at Hilton Head or swimming in Mexico.



HIKING WITH FRIENDS



GOING TO THE
DOG BEACH
WITH MY NIECES

Aja is a loyal, fun and loving dog. She is always up for a walk or for chasing down a stick or ball in the yard. Aja loves to go on “vacation” to my parents’ house and lay around in the grass in their backyard (while guarding the yard for squirrels and wildlife). She is protective of those in her family and always has her eye on “her people” when lying in the corner of a room. **AJA WILL TAKE HER JOB OF PROTECTING THE NEWEST MEMBER OF MY FAMILY VERY SERIOUSLY!**

I LOVE CHILDREN’S BOOKS! Working with children in my job, having my nieces and friends with children has allowed me to build quite a collection of children’s books. I have a library ready to read to the newest addition of my family.



KAYAKING ADVENTURES

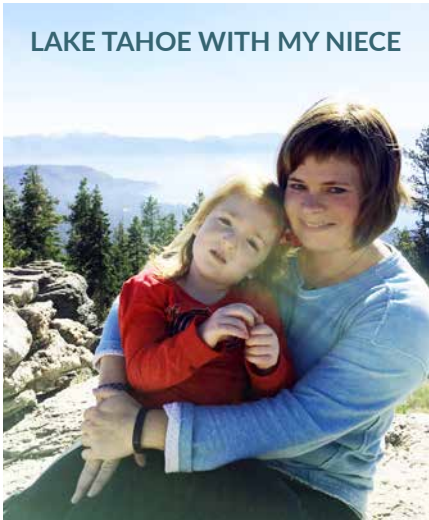
I LOVE PLAYING TENNIS! I took lessons when I was young but didn’t start actively playing until after college when I moved to the Chicago area. Tennis keeps me active and has given me the opportunity to meet some of my closest friends. Tennis will continue to be a part of my life for years to come and I can’t wait to get your child on the tennis court in a few years!



The **FAMILY CHAMPS!**
My brother-in-law and I beat my sister and brother at tennis!



PRACTICING MY VOLLEY



LAKE TAHOE WITH MY NIECE



I LOVE
WALKING IN
THE GARDEN
BY MY HOUSE

I LIVE ON A TREE-LINED BOULEVARD IN A DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOOD OF CHICAGO THAT IS A HALF BLOCK NORTH OF A LARGE PARK THAT HAS WALKING PATHS, LAGOONS, TENNIS COURTS, PLAYGROUNDS, BASKETBALL COURTS, BASEBALL FIELDS, ETC.

My condo is on the 3rd floor of a 3 story gray stone walkup building. I have been in my home for 10 years and love it just as much as when I first moved in. I get lots of light from all the front windows and have a view of the Chicago skyline in the winter when the leaves are off the trees. The building has a backyard area and a huge deck on the garage that I share with my neighbors. In the warmer months, I enjoy cooking out and eating meals on the deck with friends and family. **My neighbors on the 1st and 2nd floor both have young children and I look forward to adding another child to the building.** I live a short drive, bus or train ride from Lake Michigan and enjoy taking my dog to the dog beach in the summer and sitting by the lake. I enjoy playing tennis at a local tennis and fitness club or in local parks and walking on an elevated bike/walking path near my house.



I enjoy participating in various cultural events in Chicago including seeing live music, trying new restaurants, going to museums or art shows and attending street festivals in the summer. I look forward to sharing all these activities with your child.



WITH A GOOD FRIEND AND HER KIDS

The CHILDREN in my life

While I don't yet have any children of my own, I enjoy spending as much time as possible with my friends' children and with my nieces (ages 4 and 7) in my role as "aunt Stephanie".

My friend Kate became a single mom by choice 5 1/2 years ago and I have been an active participant in helping to raise her daughter, Beatrice. When Beatrice spends time at my house, we enjoy reading books together, making crafts, going to the playground or baking cookies. Beatrice recently told her mother that it doesn't matter if I have a girl or a boy because she will still be their "big sister".



LEAF PILE WITH MY NIECES

I LOVE MY JOB WORKING AS A SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST!



My CAREER

I am a speech language pathologist for Chicago Public Schools and work

with children privately through the Early Intervention program here in Illinois as well. I specialize in working with children on the Autism Spectrum as well as with children with articulation and language delays and disorders. Although it is challenging at times, I have thoroughly enjoyed my work as an SLP. Working at one school full time has also given me the opportunity to get involved in coaching girls and boys volleyball, softball and basketball.

MEET MY LOVED ONES



FAMILY CHRISTMAS IN RALEIGH



PIGGY BACK RIDE FOR MY NIECE!

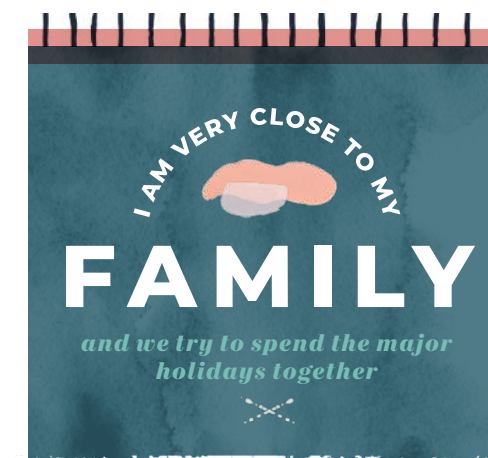


MY GOOD FRIEND KATE AND HER DAUGHTER



MY FAMILY VISITING ME IN CHICAGO

I am the oldest of 4 children and my parents (Nana and Grandpa) have been married for 46 years. **My family is caring, active and generous with their time, money and actions.** My siblings and I were raised to be respectful, responsible and patient. We were taught to value reading and education. I will strive to pass on all of these values to your child. I grew up going to both Methodist and Presbyterian churches; attending church on Sundays was routine for my family.



One of our family traditions is to make homemade pasta when we are together. We also enjoy making "buckeyes" and pizzelle cookies during Christmas time. Although, I no longer have siblings that live in

Chicago, **my parents, brother, sister in law and my nieces live just a few hours away. My family enjoys traveling together and most of my vacations are centered on visiting my siblings in the cities where they live or all of us meeting in one location.**



MY NIECES



TRAVELING IN AUSTRALIA WITH MY SISTERS

My Chicago "family" is composed of my good friend Kate and her daughter, my friend Ana and her family, my tennis friends and a few other close friends.

MY FAMILY (BOTH GIVEN AND CHOSEN) IS SUPPORTIVE OF MY PLAN TO BECOME A SINGLE MOM BY CHOICE THROUGH ADOPTION AND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER TO THE FAMILY.



THANK YOU!

I greatly appreciate you taking the time to read my profile and learning more about my interests, family and values. **THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING ME AS THE ADOPTIVE PARENT FOR YOUR CHILD.** I promise to provide your child access to anything they may need as they grow and develop in order to succeed in life. I look forward to meeting you and am willing to speak on the phone and then meet in person to answer any questions you may have and to discuss what an open adoption would look like for us. **I plan to talk with your child about adoption so that they know their story and where they came from. I will raise your child with all the love, respect and support my family has shown me.** I hope this book has eased your mind a bit as you make this difficult decision, and has helped you to imagine what your child's life might look like with me.



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