

Heath and Salvatore



Dear Birthparent –

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you, and for considering our family as your child's forever home. Even before we were married, we discussed adoption as the way we wanted to build a family. We promise that any child who will join our family will have love, support, and all the possible opportunities that we can provide to make sure they flourish; as well as the chance to travel, learn, and play, and the freedom to pursue their dreams.

Who we are

We're Heath and Salvatore. We live in Bloomfield, a charming neighborhood nestled between downtown, East Liberty, and Oakland, with two cats (Penelope and Jasonas) and a small dog (Fritz). Our house overlooks a small park, and is filled with flowers, books, good music, and delicious Italian food.

Salvatore is originally from Northern Italy, where his family still lives. His mother and father are still married after 50 years, and so we go to visit them every summer, taking the opportunity to also see Salvatore's older brother and sister. Salvatore loves to read, play videogames, and walk around Pittsburgh to discover charming hidden little places, roads, and older buildings. He is a socio-legal scholar who studies pirates and hackers, and he loves to talk about them.

Heath is originally from near Boston, where her parents and younger sister still live, just a mile from the ocean. Her parents also have a long standing, strong marriage (45 years). When we visit them, we love to spend time on the beach running in the sand, swimming, and playing with the wet dogs (her parents' and ours). Heath loves to read, do photography, and exercise – she used to be a competitive fencer! She is an anthropologist, and she does research in Greece, where we try to go every summer to see friends, do some work, and enjoy the gorgeous places and foods.

We met at a conference in Berlin in 2007 where we both were traveling for work. When we looked at each other for the first time, each of us knew we were going to spend our lives together. We

married in Italy, in Salvatore's hometown, in 2010. Since then, we have lived in many places: Ireland, Greece, England, and finally in the USA (in California, Maine, New Jersey, and have now settled– since 2016 – in Pittsburgh).

We spend our time together cooking (Salvatore bakes bread weekly, and loves to make pasta from scratch), walking our little Fritz (a dachshund), occasionally hitting a tennis ball around, and exploring the city (there is so much to discover!).



What our lives are like

We both teach at Pitt, so our work schedules are very flexible, and we spend much of our time working from home, since we are not required to maintain a constant physical presence on campus. This will enable us both to engage closely in childcare.

We are thrilled to have settled down in Pittsburgh where we have found a community and sense of home. In the park in front of our house people walk, run, picnic, and play, and there are playgrounds, basketball, and tennis courts nearby. There are many excellent schools, and we generally walk to do grocery shopping and to the many stores and restaurants nearby (though we also have a car). We have many friends in our neighborhood – including our neighbors on both sides.

Any child who we will be lucky to bring in our home will spend time in the fresh air, in the water, and in the mountains. We would also hope to teach a child other languages and expose them to different cultures, both in our community and through travel. We are both artistic and grew up playing musical instruments (these days we love karaoke!), and we would encourage a child to explore any artistic interest they might have. We also understand the benefits that organized sports can give, but we would never impose a hobby or interest on a child; it is important that they also carve out their own path. We look forward to learning from them!



Values

Family time is extremely important to us, and we make a point of eating together (without the TV on), reading aloud (a tradition that Heath's family adopted thanks to her grandmother, who was blind), and playing games. Generosity and hospitality are also values that we care about, as well as community service. We both care deeply about social justice, and we try as we can to use the good fortune, luck, and resources that we have been granted to make the world better (even in very small ways).

We both had childhoods filled with joy and love, and we strive to create a similar climate in our own household. We both were raised Christian – Salvatore Catholic and Heath Episcopalian – and we respect the importance of religious faith, although we practice seldomly. In raising a child, we would expose them to religious beliefs, practices, and traditions.

Education is also a crucial value for us – after all, we are both teachers. We hope to encourage a respect for learning in a child, as well as curiosity and independent thinking.

We welcome a child of any race or ethnic background!

We can be contacted through the Children's Home of Pittsburgh, or directly at heathandsalvatore@gmail.com.



The Children's Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux Family Center Adoption Program

Birthparent Counselors available 24/7 • Call or Text: 412-736-2908

Email: birthparentcounselor@chomepgh.org • Live Chat: www.childrenshomepgh.org/adoption