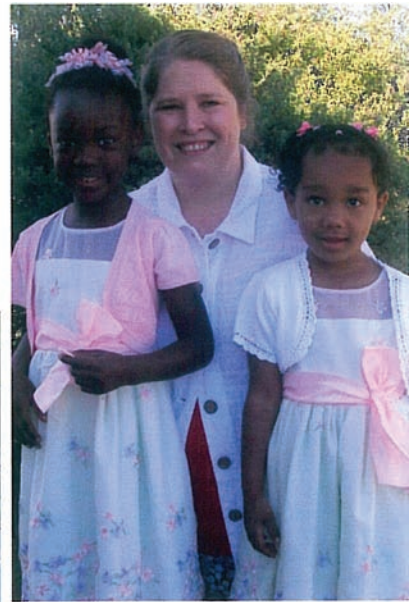




*Wanda, Melania and Mishayla  
~2012~*

My name is Wanda,  
and I am the adoptive  
parent of two  
wonderful girls. My  
M&M's.

Melania Maycie (age 6)  
was born in Louisiana  
after Hurricane Katrina  
and Mishayla Marian  
(age 4) was born near  
Cleveland, OH. I chose  
to become a single  
mom because I hoped  
for a family, in spite of  
not yet meeting a man  
with whom to share  
my life.





I work as a physical therapist in my own clinic in a small Montana town. Recently, I hired a second physical therapist to work with me, so now I have more time to spend with my girls and a new baby. I enjoy working with my patients and helping them recover from injury. My work allows me to provide financial security for my family.

It is not unusual for my girls to join me at work to "exercise" and play on the equipment. My office is located close to home and school, so I am able to volunteer in the classroom and meet the girls at home for lunch nearly everyday.





June began working as a nanny for my family when Melania was just 5 weeks old. She is an accomplished pianist and vocal instructor. June is a very warm, patient and nurturing person, and I know that my girls feel safe and loved when she is caring for them. She has been teaching them to play the piano during "mini" lessons each week. June has also shown a special talent for braiding and caring for the girls' hair.



Melania is in kindergarten. She loves to take pictures and play games on her Leap Pad. Melania is learning to read and enjoys books about princesses. She wants to be a doctor and mom when she grows up. Melania is a very patient big sister, and she loves to be around babies. In fact, she has asked if the new baby can sleep in her room. Melania is active in soccer, gymnastics, swimming and piano lessons, and she gives great hugs!



Mishayla is an energetic little girl with a big imagination. She's curious and loves to explore. Mishayla attends pre-school two days a week for a couple of hours. She loves her big sister, soccer, swimming and cooking with mommy.

Mishayla likes to be involved in whatever is happening around the house, and she's quite a little helper. Mishayla can't wait to snuggle with the new baby, and she has been practicing giving gentle kisses!







### Our Family

My girls and I have a wonderful extended family, most of whom live in the area. We are able to get together often throughout the week.

Grandma enjoys reading the girls books and teaching her grandchildren to sew. Grandpa is active on the farm, and takes the girls on rides in his pickup and on the combine. He is a great father figure and both girls are very attached to him. Both grandparents attend most of their grandchildren's activities and performances.



My sister, Wendy, and her husband just adopted a bi-racial baby girl from Florida.



In addition, the girls have a close relationship with their great grandma, great aunts and uncles, and church family.



Two of my sisters and their families also live nearby, so the girls often play with their cousins. Uncle Jason and Uncle Hugh are also wonderful male role models for the girls.





Our Pets! Mama Kitty, Baby Kitty, Ginger and Sylvester.  
Extended family members have horses, sheep, bunnies and chickens!  
The girls love to feed the horses and have even done a little riding.  
They also enjoy helping collect eggs from the chickens.



This picture of our lives would not be complete without mentioning our faith. We are part of a non-denominational Christian fellowship. As a family, we try to live in a manner that honors God and demonstrates our love and thankfulness for Him and one another.

Our church family is diverse, including both interracial couples and other adoptive families. My girls often have the opportunity to see other families who don't "match" in the traditional sense, but who still love each other completely!

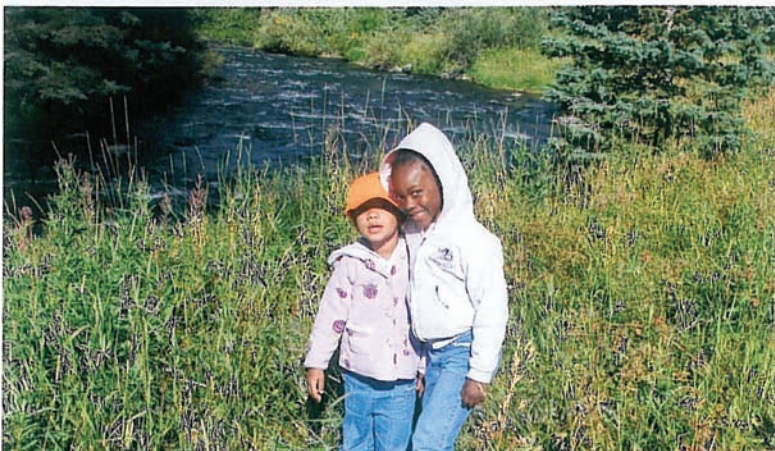


We love spending time together as a family.

During the summer we have picnics at the park, hike around our local turtle pond, go swimming, fishing and boating at the lake, take bike rides, and camp out "under the stars" in our trailer.



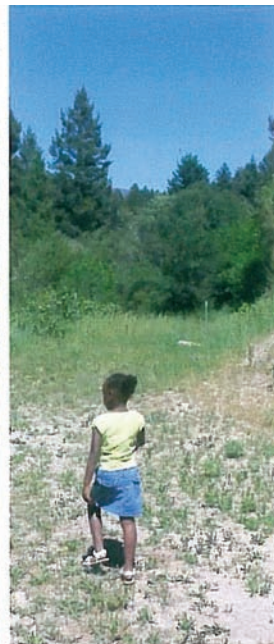
It's not uncommon for our neighbors to invite us out to eat s'mores around their firepit overlooking the Missouri River. Outdoor concerts and fireworks are also favorite activities.



The girls and I often attend local high school and college sporting events. If asked about their favorite team, they'll respond, "Go, Huskies!"



Visiting friends and family in the Seattle, WA, area gives us a chance to play in the ocean, as well as visit the zoo, aquarium, and children's museum.



On snowy evenings, you'll often find me snuggled up with my girls, favorite books, blankets, popcorn, and snowman soup (cocoa). We also enjoy sledding, snowball "fights" and building snowmen. As the girls get older, we'll try ice skating, show shoeing and skiing.



Melania has loved going to see the Nutcracker and watching her nanny perform with the symphony.





I am honored to have had the opportunity to share a glimpse into my family with you through this book. I know this is a difficult time for you, and I am humbled by your courage and selflessness in the decision to choose life and make an adoption plan.

My girls both love hearing their adoption stories, and each will grow up knowing only the best about their birth families. I hope to have an open relationship with my future child's birth parents as well, in a manner that is completely comfortable for everyone.

My M&M's and I are looking forward to adding more life, laughter, and love to our family. We would be honored for you to consider us as an adoptive family for your baby. I hope you'll know peace and blessing in making the best decision for yourself and your baby.

Sincerely,  
*Wanda*



"It has been said that adoption is more like a marriage than a birth: two (or more) individuals, each with their own unique mix of needs, patterns, and genetic history, coming together with love, hope, and commitment for a joint future. You become a family not because you share the same genes, but because you share love for each other."

Joan McNamara, Adoptive Parent