



I AM ROCHELLE

It is hard to know how to share my story with you in just a few pages, but I want to start by saying how honored I am that you are reading this profile, and that you are considering trusting me with your precious child. These pages offer a window into my world: my passion for people, the thrill of adventure, and the warmth of my amazing family. Above all, they share my longing to expand that love by welcoming a child into my home.

I can only imagine the immense decision you face. I am sure it is so hard to try and get a sense of somebody in just a few words; yet if you feel drawn to anything you see in this profile or if anything resonates with you, I would very much love to meet you and get to talk heart to heart.



The Californian sunshine washes over my home in San Diego, a cozy ranch-style house I bought in 2019. I feel so grateful for where I live – in a 3 bedroom 2 bathroom house with huge windows looking out on Jacaranda trees, and a lovely fenced-in backyard with a hammock and various fruit trees. I have been blessed to be able to travel quite a bit in my life, and my house is filled with both a sense of comfort and adventure, full of photos, artwork, and maps from around the world. Although I was born in America when my dad was studying here, my family is originally from South Africa, and I absolutely loved spending most of my school years growing up there. On one of my walls I've hung a picture of some elephants I painted; on another I have one of my favorite photos I've taken, of a leopard gazing straight at me. I love my house – but "house" doesn't quite do it justice. I think my 13-year-old niece's words capture its essence best when she said: "Some people have houses; but your house is a home!" And there is so much to love about this home! San Diego itself is full of parks, beaches, children's museums, and topnotch schools, all within reach. I love that while I live on a quiet side-street in a suburb, adventure awaits: beaches and the world-famous San Diego zoo just 15-20 minutes away, and diverse landscapes - deserts, mountains, even snow - within a 1-2 hour drive.

FUN FACTS

I love board and card games.
I enjoy watching fun youtube videos to relax.
My favorite movie is "The Princess Bride".
I was in the play "Little Women" in college.
I love playing make-believe with my nieces and nephews!



My Story

Two really important features of my life have been learning and serving others. I've been really blessed by excellent educational opportunities (I have two masters and just finished a doctorate last year), and love to make learning fun. I spent a few years teaching, but now am working as the lead pastor of an incredibly diverse church in San Diego. At my current church, we have people from over 60 different countries that are part of our church family, and part of the work I get to do is to figure out ways to learn from each other, listen to each other, and love each other well. I enjoy hearing so many different languages spoken together – Spanish and French and Creole and Kinyarwanda and Swahili and Tagalog and Laotian, to name a few. I love that in this community, whatever background someone is coming from there will be people with whom they can connect and feel like they belong. It is my hope that everyone can really feel how valuable they are, and how much they are loved, no matter what background they come from or mistakes they may have made.

This, in essence, is my world: a tapestry woven with love, adventure, and diverse perspectives. It is my deepest hope to be able to welcome a child into this world.

Friends and Family

describe Rochelle as warm, passionate, enthusiastic, caring, adventurous, loyal, loving, creative, and a life-long learner. They shared that she brings joy and laughter and a sense of adventure into a room with her!

ON BEING A P<u>ARENT..</u>

I have been dreaming about adopting for a long time. When I was younger, I envisioned embarking on this journey with a partner. While open to that possibility still, an unshakeable certainty has emerged – I'm prepared to offer a child a nurturing and loving home now. In my various roles, I have worked with many different types of families over the years. I have seen some wonderful twoparent families, but I have also seen some really painful and difficult family situations, where the parents' relationship has deteriorated to the point of constant fighting and arguing and tearing at each other, with the kids stuck in the middle as pawns. I would never want that for my child.

Thankfully, "family" isn't defined by a single mold. I've discovered that love, respect, laughter, and joy weave the tapestry of a truly strong family, and these threads are precisely what I'm weaving with my "village." It's not just me; it's an entire network of committed individuals embracing this adventure alongside me.

Ahave

been longing to become a mother for a long time now.

I HAVE SPENT MANY YEARS working with children of all ages, and have had experience creating safe, warm, nurturing environments where a child can flourish.

I'D LOVE TO TAKE MY CHILD TO SOUTH AFRICA SOME DAY, SO THEY COULD SEE WHERE I CAME FROM.



Travel expands both my mind and heart, and I have had the incredible privilege of being able to explore some amazing parts of the world. When I was in my twenties, my love for both adventure and service saw me volunteering, first as a disaster relief worker in Mississippi helping people get back into their homes after Hurricane Katrina, then in a non-profit hospital in high up in a remote mountain in Lesotho (Southern Africa) helping with grant writing and communications, then in a church in Sydney Australia learning and growing with youth and young adults.

In fact, I have now travelled to over 40 countries, and have had some incredible adventures. Some of my travels have been with family, like the trip in 2010 when my entire extended family travelled to South Africa to celebrate my grandparent's 60th wedding anniversary together. We delighted in showing the newest members of the family where we had grown up, going on camping adventures in Botswana and making our way to gaze in wonder at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Some of my travels I've spent with close friends, like my trip in 2013 when I went to study history in Jerusalem for the summer, and then met up with some friends to experience Petra in Jordan and Istanbul in Turkey. And some I have travelled on my own, like the dream trip I planned in 2019 to get on a plane for five weeks and fly completely around the world, traveling from California to New York to Spain to Prague to India to China and then back to LA, collecting not just stamps but lifelong memories.

FUN FACTS

<u>My favorite place ever</u>: Machu Picchu in Peru

<u>Greatest experience</u>: My cousin and I rented a campervan and drove around the South Island of New Zealand, through glaziers and forests and mountains and waterfalls









ABOUT TUCKER AND LEO

I have always loved animals, and their unconditional love and joy and loyal presence has enriched my life so much over the years. Currently, I have two furry family members. The first is a 14 year old cat called Leo that came to me when he was barely a few days old. He was found in the back of a friend's truck, and fit in the palm of my hand. I remember waking up every two hours to feed him, and sleeping with him cuddled on my chest. He is now a stately king of a cat, and I love him dearly.

I also have a 3 year old mini Australian Shepherd who joined the family in 2023. I had known him ever since he was a puppy, and we have always been very close. Recently his pet-parents had to move and could no longer keep him, and so he has joined my family. He is a wonderful dog, incredibly loyal, and loves to be around people. I have a backyard full of flowers and trees that he loves to play around in, but perhaps my favorite memory with him is watching him run free at one of our nearby beaches, jumping with joy at the waves and sand and whatever other dogs may also be there.

Leo and Tucker have filled my home filled with adventure and love, and would love to become your child's furry playmates and loyal companions as well

FUN FACT

When Tucker runs he looks like a rabbit, bum bouncing in the air; Leo, on the other hand, likes sitting high up on the back of the couch, like a lion lazily surveying his kingdom.



ABOUT MY family & friends

The sound of laughter fills in the air whenever my extended family gathers, filling my life with warmth and support for my adoption journey. I have three brothers and several cousins and close friends who all live on the west coast, and have a large number of nieces and nephews that I love being an incredible "aunty" to. Picture 12 adults and 11 kids buzzing around a campfire in Mammoth Lakes - these are the types of memories we love to make together. Witnessing their wide-eyed wonder at roasting marshmallows and starry skies reminds me of the joy I want to share with a child. My child will have a built-in "village" of love with 7 young cousins to giggle with, older college-aged mentors, and the active presence of my engaged, vibrant parents. Dad, a university professor, and Mom, a retiree bursting with grandparent energy, can't wait to shower their love on the newest edition to our family.

Beyond family, I also have a handful of very close friends I have had for a very long time. Two of them have adopted children of their own, and have been such a blessing and support to me in my journey. We've committed to building even stronger connections, ensuring our children share the unique experience of adoption and lifelong friendship.

Growing up, I loved bedtime. Not because I was going to bed, but because every night right before I'd go to sleep, after I'd brushed my teeth and gotten completely ready, my mom would come into my room and let me cuddle up to her. She'd ask me questions about how my day went, or we'd read stories or dream up adventures together. When I would start to nod off, she would always end by singing a song to me, the warmth in her voice making me feel incredibly safe and seen.

I also loved our Friday night tradition. On Friday nights, my mom would make a special type of macaroni and cheese dish. We would set the table, light the candles, and the whole family would gather around to eat and talk and share. My dad would tell stories, my brothers would make jokes. Friday nights weren't just about ending the week; they were about weaving the threads of family connection, a ritual that ushered in the weekend with joy.





I would be overjoyed if you chose to partner with me.

MY LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO MY FUTURE CHILD IS UNSHAKEABLE.

Dear Birthmom,

My name is Rochelle, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to share a little bit about myself with you. I imagine this is a challenging season you are going through as you make this decision, and hope that this profile helps you catch a glimpse of who I am, what my values and dreams are, and how deeply I will love my future child.

I am a daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, learner, adventurer, person of faith. I love children, and have had the privilege of working with all sorts of different kids for almost a decade (first as an English teacher, and then in a church setting as I led the Children & Family ministry department for 8 years). I loved celebrating each child's first step, or their first day of kindergarten, or their first graduation. I loved working with parents and families to try and create homes that are safe, caring, and stable, where children can really flourish and where they know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are loved.

I have been interested in adoption for a long time now. I have a nephew who is adopted, as well as many people in my extended circle of friends who have either been adopted or who have adopted their own children. I believe adoption can be a beautiful gift, where someone who is ready and prepared and longing to raise a child connects with someone who is unable to do so at this time, for whatever reason. I have spent the past few years intentionally preparing to adopt, and am in a great place financially, geographically, emotionally, and socially.

Perhaps the most important thing I want you to know about me, however, is that my love and commitment to my future child is unshakeable. I have longed to expand my family for many years, and would be overjoyed if you chose to partner with me to make that happen

Sincerely, Rochelle