

Hi there!

It has been 8 years since you chose my adoptive family. I have been working hard to learn to write so I could start sending letters myself. Mama and Daddy are helping me. My first 8 years have been filled with love, learning, and adventure. I'm so happy that you chose Mama and Daddy for me. I know that Mama and Daddy are eternally grateful for being able to adopt me since they couldn't have a child of their own. They tell me my adoption story often and remind me that we are all very blessed. We live in Los Angeles where Mama and Daddy met. They each moved to L.A from the Midwest and were introduced through a University of Wisconsin Alumni Association event. Sometimes we go to the place in Santa Monica and sit in the booth where they met and were engaged. It always makes me smile.



Mama's name is Dr. Jennifer Earl Foss. She is creative and smart and spends a lot of time at her high school. She has been the Principal there since 2010 and I love going to school with her. It is fun wearing my spirit gear and going to school events. It feels like a big family and everyone treats me like they are my aunt or uncle! She makes sure that I attend great schools. Mama has lots of friends and is outgoing. I am trying to take after her in a lot of ways. It seems like we have "family" everywhere we travel. Mama loves to sing and can play lots of musical instruments. She's even



teaching me how to play the guitar! I love going to see musicals with her. Mama is athletic (she tells me stories about being a state champion high school basketball player) and goes to Pilates almost every day. I like to walk with her on hikes and she's teaching me how to stretch. When Mama cooks, she makes healthy meals. I have my own stool to help her. One of my favorite things to do is go to the Farmer's Market every Sunday to choose fruits, vegetables and other healthy snacks for the week. Well, that's what I tell Mama, but I actually go to pet the baby goats. Vegetables are not my favorite but I'm trying to like them because Mama does (she's a vegetarian!).

On the other hand, Daddy loves to eat sweets and lots of meat. Mama is always telling him to eat vegetables! Daddy's name is Kyle Foss and he works from home so I got to spend a lot of time with him as a baby. It's so nice that when I get home, he's always there. Daddy helps me get my homework done as we wait for Mama to join us. He has been at his software company for over 10 years and makes "a good salary" as he says. Mama always reminds me that we have special



things and take great adventures because Daddy is so successful. I like to play sports because of Daddy, especially water sports like swimming and water polo. He taught me to swim in our pool and he takes me to the ocean in the Jeep to play on the beach. We throw Frisbees and footballs and build sandcastles. Daddy also loves to read books. He always reads with me and taught me to read very early. My



favorite books as a baby were *Goodnight Moon* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Some of my favorite times are just sitting quietly with Daddy and reading. I am reading my first chapter books called the *Magic Tree House Series*. Daddy also loves animals so we have a membership at the LA Zoo. His favorite are the hippos and my favorite are the giraffes! Did you

know they have black tongues? Another cool thing my Daddy teaches me about is outer space. Sometimes, we go to the Griffith Observatory and look at all the beautiful planets and stars!

Before they adopted me, Mama and Daddy had dogs instead of kids. We even had a family dog when I first came to live with them. His name was Harley. I don't remember Harley, but Mama and Daddy tell me he was a very good dog. He would protect me from cats, squirrels and even the mailman. He was 16 years old when I was adopted! Mama and Daddy were very happy that I got to meet and play with Harley before he passed away. They told me I get to pick a new family dog soon and I can't wait. I know I have to be very responsible to have a dog, but I am ready for it! What kind of dog do you think I should choose?



Here is a picture of my room: I have interesting toys and books and even a speaker



to play music on! Mama and Daddy go see live music a lot so they like to play me their favorites. When I go to see live music with them I have to wear these big headphones, but it is worth it. The University of Wisconsin is represented all around my room. GO BUCKY! That's the school mascot at Wisconsin. He's a Badger.



Mama and Daddy want me to go to college there very badly. But I know that I can go to any good college and they will be OK (as long as it's not Ohio State). I've already been to my first college football game. It's super fun. On the weekends, family friends come over to watch football, swim in the pool and eat awesome food.

We also hang art that I have made with Mama, my Uncle Tommy and my cousins. Uncle Tommy lives in LA with his wife and kids. His wife, Aunt Adaora, is from Nigeria and she teaches me about her culture. Uncle Tommy and Mama take us cousins to art museums to learn about different artists and to be inspired to make our own art.



We take a few trips a year, but my favorite is always our summer trip to Wisconsin. I have two grandpas there, 1 grandma, two step-grandmas, three uncles, one aunt and a bunch of cousins! We go to two different lake houses in Northern Wisconsin and I have the best time there. I go fishing and play disc-golf with Daddy, my Uncle Ben and my cousins. I ride with Mama on her stand-up paddleboard, and my Aunt Bess rides with my cousins. I'm getting really good at it. The entire family hangs out on the lake, we talk, read, go out for family fish fry and cheese curds. Cheese



curds are my very favorite food because they squeak on my teeth when I bite into them. Then we go back to the house to make s'mores around a campfire for dessert! There is lots of wildlife to see. I even see Bald Eagles! This is Daddy's favorite part of the annual trip. Mama loves to hang in Milwaukee during our annual trip.



Sometimes we stay at Uncle Ben and Aunt Bess's with my cousins. We go to this place



called Summerfest to see tons of live music together. We always see the Milwaukee Brewers play baseball. We also go to my Grandpa's house to swim and catch fireflies with my cousins. They have a really big yard (Mama tells me its acres and acres) where we can ride and play. The house is very big and all my other grandparents come to see us. We can all stay there and be a huge family.

It's nothing like LA, but I think it's super awesome.

We have fun holiday traditions. The 4th of July is always at the lake in Wisconsin. I love watching fireworks from the boat. Thanksgiving is spent at home in Los Angeles and all our friends and family are welcome to come over. In the morning, we go to the grocery store and pick out whatever we want to eat that day as long as we get enough to share with everyone. I like to pick out a tasty dessert like a big ol' chocolate cake!

On Black Friday, Mama heads out to buy fresh poinsettias and Daddy goes in the jeep with Grandpa to buy our tree. For Christmas, after Mama bakes Daddy's favorite cookies, we go to Laguna Beach and stay right on the ocean. I always send a letter to Santa Claus ahead of time so he knows where to find me. This year, I'm going to ask Santa for a new bicycle. I want a purple one with fat tires that I can ride on the beach with Mama and Daddy!



Colorado River Rafting



Helicopter ride over volcano in HI

Mama and Daddy are so encouraging and they always tell me that I should Just Be Me. I can talk to them about anything. I can learn all about different religions and choose one I relate to the most - or not at all. They remind me that I can love whomever I want. Mama and Daddy love adventures and I am encouraged to travel the world when I'm older. They want me to continue our tradition of enjoying adventures! I know Mama and Daddy will always love and support me. Mama and Daddy are never afraid to talk with me about being adopted. I understand the difficult choice you made when I was born. By letting Mama and Daddy adopt me, you gave me a life filled with adventures and love. Thank you. I know Mama and Daddy have been sending you letters, but I am proud that I will be able to help now. I promise to keep sharing my adventures and telling you about my life as I get better at reading and writing.

