



Mary

Thank you for taking the time to read about me. I can not begin to imagine how difficult this time may be for you and I greatly respect and admire your decision in considering an adoption plan. I hope this letter will paint a picture of who I am and the love I can offer your child. I want you to know that your child would be loved and cherished by me and my family. I am honored that you would consider me as a potential parent for your child.

I have always wanted children. My family is large, loud and loving. I have three sisters and one brother. This year my parents celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Every Sunday we still gather together for a family dinner at my parents' home. I love Sundays because it is noisy. There are lots of nieces and nephews (I have eight.). Everyone is squished around the dinner table and clamoring for elbow room, but I wouldn't change it for a bigger space. Stories are shared from the past week as bowls filled with hot food are passed around the table. There is love, laughter and happiness. Later, we all either head to the backyard for a round of whiffle ball, kickball or home run derby. Sometimes we go for a stroll around the block to burn off some dinner calories and make room for some warm apple crisp. In cold weather, we put on a football game in the family room and cheer on our favorite teams. I'd love to bring a child into my big, loving family.

I have a wonderful career as an elementary school teacher. Working with children is rewarding and always entertaining. I am financially secure. I bought my own home about ten years ago. I grew-up in the suburbs, but I always wanted to live in the city. To me the city is alive and vibrant. I bought a home in a wonderful neighborhood that is a mix of young families with children, couples and elderly. The best part is that I am close enough to walk to the beach! Yet, I am only a thirty minute ride from where I grew up.

Years of teaching and lots of time with nieces and nephews has given me insight into the growth and development of children. I am ready for a little one! Growing-up, I always helped my father in his gardens. My love of gardening was developed because I worked side by side in the backyard with him. I have summers off and I spend that time traveling, gardening, reading and walking over to the beach. My mother is a wonderful cook. I haven't developed a huge love of cooking, but I have developed a love for baking from her. I'm the one who brings the homemade desserts at holidays.

I was brought up with a strong sense of family. The importance of having strong character and morals as well as the value of education were integral parts of my upbringing. Having faith is also important to me. I am Catholic and I do attend mass every Sunday. However, my parents reared me to be open to other faiths and belief systems and I am. I would want my child to have the same openness. My parents were both teachers and they always stressed the importance of education because of the opportunities it could provide. All five of the children in my family attended universities and earned master's degrees. Although, the significance of a strong education was stressed in my family, my parents did not believe it was the only path for a successful life. One of my brother-in-laws has a wonderful career as a carpenter. So, yes, I want my child to have the best education. However, I also want my child to choose the path that is right for him or her. One of the most important things I can do as a parent is provide my child with opportunities and choices in life.

I live in Massachusetts. It is a great place to grow-up. I am still thrilled when the leaves start turning color in the fall. I imagine raking leaves into a giant pile and jumping into them with my child as I did with my siblings and parents. The first snowflakes bring the promise of days off from school, building snowmen and rides down long hills on a sled. I have fond memories of the five of us dancing around our living room coffee table. My father in the lead, performing a snow dance in hopes of a day off from school. My

nieces and nephews still use the steep hill of my parents' front yard to ride down on bright red flying saucers. Each March, the crocus poke their heads out from any snow that may be lingering. Like the leaves changing color, and the first drifting snowflakes, the brilliant yellow, purple and white flowers of spring send my heart skipping with the anticipation of a new season. I begin planning my summer garden. Summer is probably my favorite season because I am off from work from mid-June until late August. I have my nieces and nephews over for sleepovers and day trips. I spend days at the ocean with good books and I work in my garden. Having summers off has afforded me time to travel. I have been to many parts of the United States, but I have also traveled to Europe and Canada several times. Meeting new people, trying new foods and learning about other cultures has always been exciting to me. Probably because my own family's culture and traditions are so important. I want you to know that I will make your heritage part of my child's upbringing. He or she will know about his/her personal culture.

The celebration of birthdays and holidays is integral in my family. We gather together on each of our birthdays to share a special meal, give gifts and make wishes as we blow-out candles. I'm half-Irish and I host St. Patrick's Day festivities. Last year, I had thirty relatives over for corned beef and cabbage with Irish soda bread. When all stomachs were full, we walked down to watch the Patty's Day parade. At Easter, we gather at my parents' home for Easter egg coloring. This often leads to a little competition to determine whose egg was decorated the best. It is also a chance to redeem oneself from jack-o-lantern carving at Halloween.

My favorite holiday is Christmas. The half that is not Irish, is Polish. Each Christmas Eve I attend mass with my family. We then celebrate at my brother's home with a traditional Polish meal. We track Santa's progress on the internet, sing carols and all the children open one gift before they head-off to bed. On Christmas Day we gather at my parents' to exchange gifts and stuff ourselves with a turkey dinner. The afternoon is for playing with newly acquired games and eating homemade Christmas cookies.

These are just some of the traditions I dream about passing down to my child. There are also smaller ones, like ordering pizza for dinner on Friday nights. Things that are part of a family's weekly routines. I had a wonderful childhood because my parents are kind, caring, hardworking and selfless. These are the values I live by as an adult. These are the values I would like to instill in my children.

I can't begin to imagine what you must be grappling with as you move forward with an adoption plan. I want you to know that my child will grow up knowing that he or she is adopted. I will foster an open and honest relationship so that he or she will feel at ease having conversations about you and adoption. It is important for you to know that I am open to keeping you updated about his/her growth and development (both big and small milestones) through letters and photos. It truly is one of the greatest acts of love you are performing. I will be eternally grateful to you for the incredible gift that you will bring into my life because I want children more than anything else. Thank you for considering me. I wish you well and, if you choose, I would be happy to meet with you.

PS In this book you will find pictures of me, my family and my friends. I organized the book with some photos from my childhood intermingled with photos from the last several years. I wanted to convey the importance of family and tradition in my life.

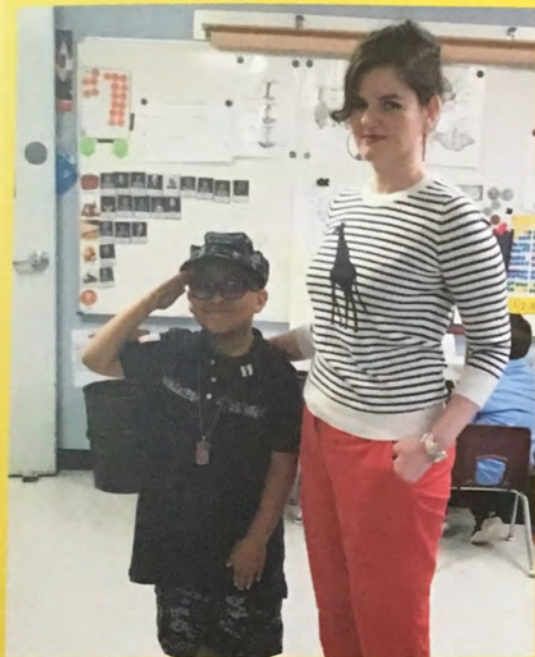


Warmest wishes,
Mary



I have always wanted to be a
mother. I love being with children.





I like to join in
on the fun
and act like
a kid, too!



My student's mother was in the hospital on his birthday. I planned a mini-surprise party for him after school with his first grade teacher joining us! He was very surprised and overjoyed to celebrate with us.



Which one of us could stand on the wobbly balance mattress the longest? That's me giving my victory wave. My competitors are cheering for me!



LET'S ALL
CELEBRATE

Sharing milestones both big and small with coworkers, friends and family is important to me.





Whether it is celebrating a birthday or just catching-up and trying a new restaurant, I enjoy being with others!



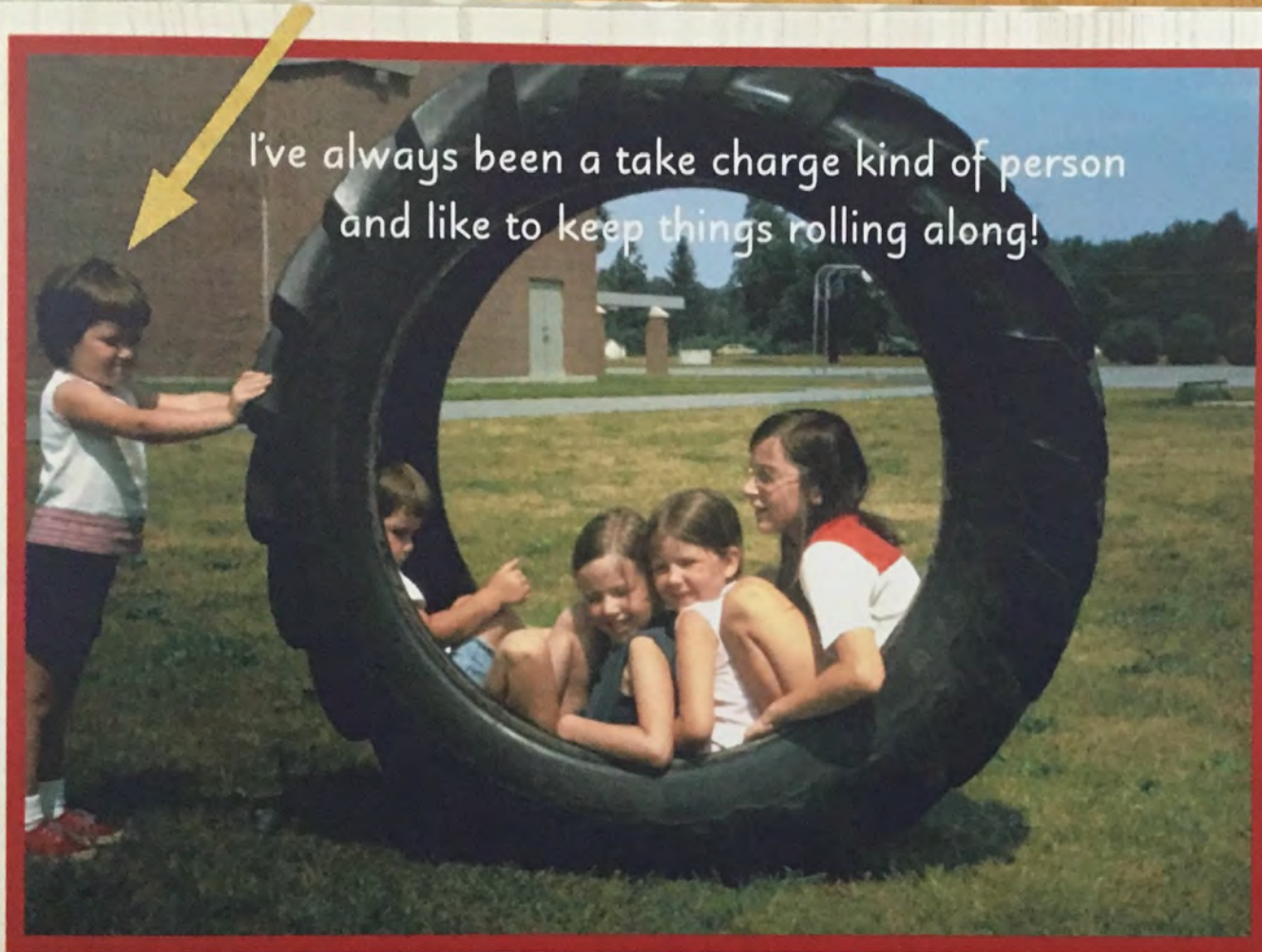


That's me in the powder blue jumpsuit.



The best memories of my childhood were those spent in the backyard or local playground with my siblings and parents. I'm the second to youngest.





I've always been a take charge kind of person
and like to keep things rolling along!

Family





Family Traditions



Sunday dinners with my family have been a tradition since I was a child.

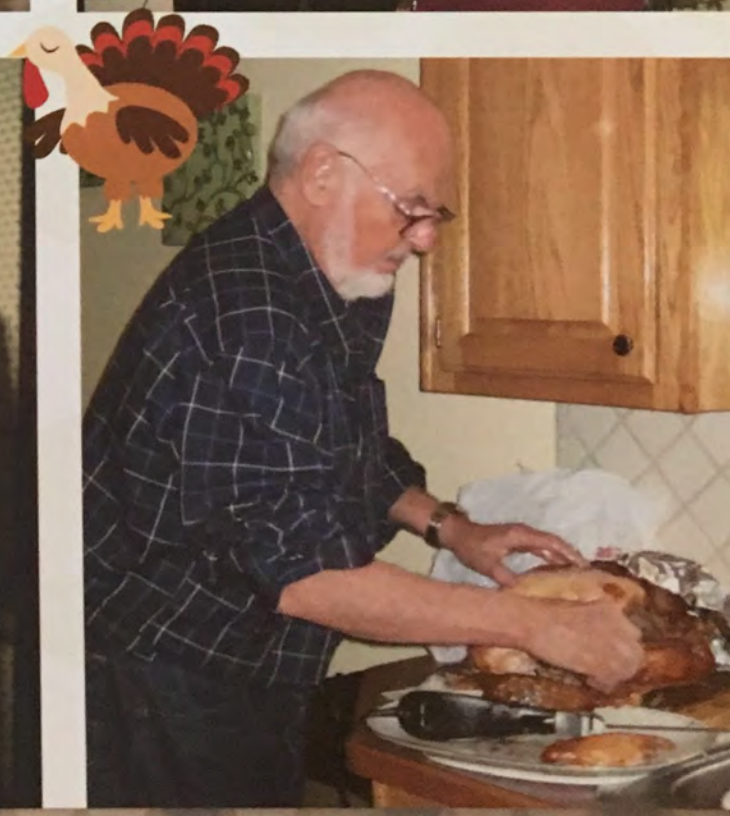
The tradition still happens each Sunday. After we eat, we often head outside for some fun or head to the family room to watch some football.





BOO!

My mom always
made our
Halloween
costumes. Of
course, I needed to
be the princess!





The tradition of cutting down our Christmas tree continues today. There is nothing like the smell of a fresh pine tree at Christmas.



The large photo is my grandparents and my family choosing a tree when I was young. I'm in the pink. The first picture at the bottom is of me chopping down my tree this year. The second picture is after it is decorated.





My mother is a wonderful seamstress. She used her wedding gown to make our Christening gown and made our First Communion dress. The Christening gown is still used for my nieces' and nephews' baptisms. The top two photos are of my First Communion. The bottom two are of my niece's.





Birthdays in my family are celebrated with grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The picture above is of my sixth birthday. The other two photos are of my nephews' birthdays.



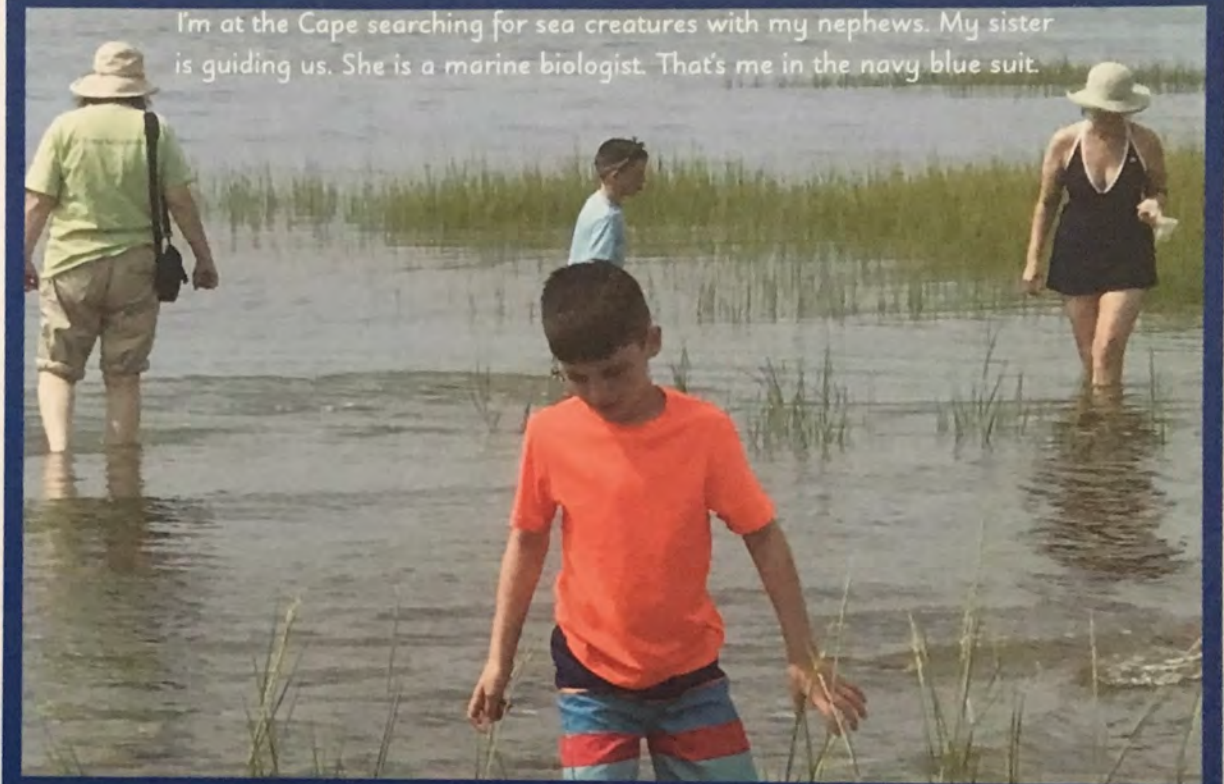
My nephew opening the gift I gave him.

at the beach near my home with my nephews



SUMMER
FUN

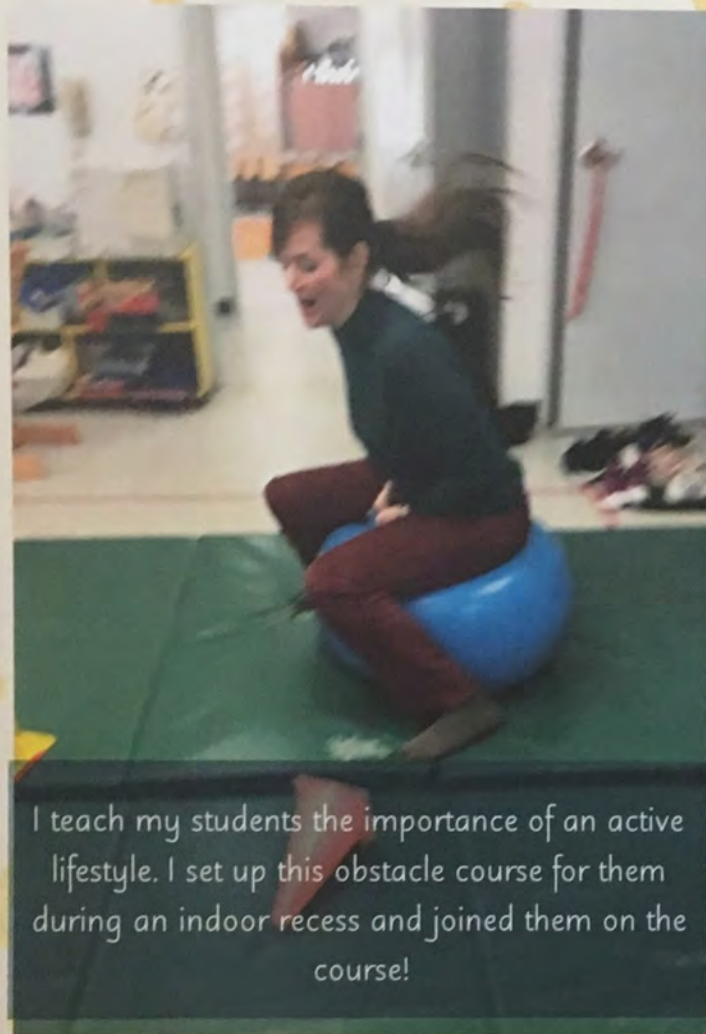
Summer has always been my favorite season. We had an above ground pool when I was young. My parents had to beg me to get out of the pool each evening. I still love swimming, but now I go mostly to the ocean. I can walk to the beach from my house and my sister's home is located right on the ocean. I also like to visit the Cape during the summer.



I'm at the Cape searching for sea creatures with my nephews. My sister is guiding us. She is a marine biologist. That's me in the navy blue suit.

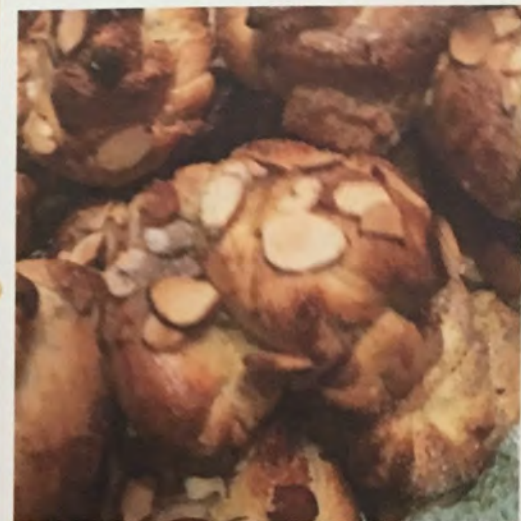


at my sister's home with Papa and my nephews



I teach my students the importance of an active lifestyle. I set up this obstacle course for them during an indoor recess and joined them on the course!

Two of my favorite hobbies are staying active and baking. I like swimming, hiking walking and going to the gym. I also have a huge sweet tooth! I love candy and bake some great desserts like: cardamom rolls, carrot cake, chocolate cheesecake and rose flavored cupcakes. Decorating is my favorite part . . . besides eating them, of course!



my garden in the front yard



My garden on my back porch is all done with pots.



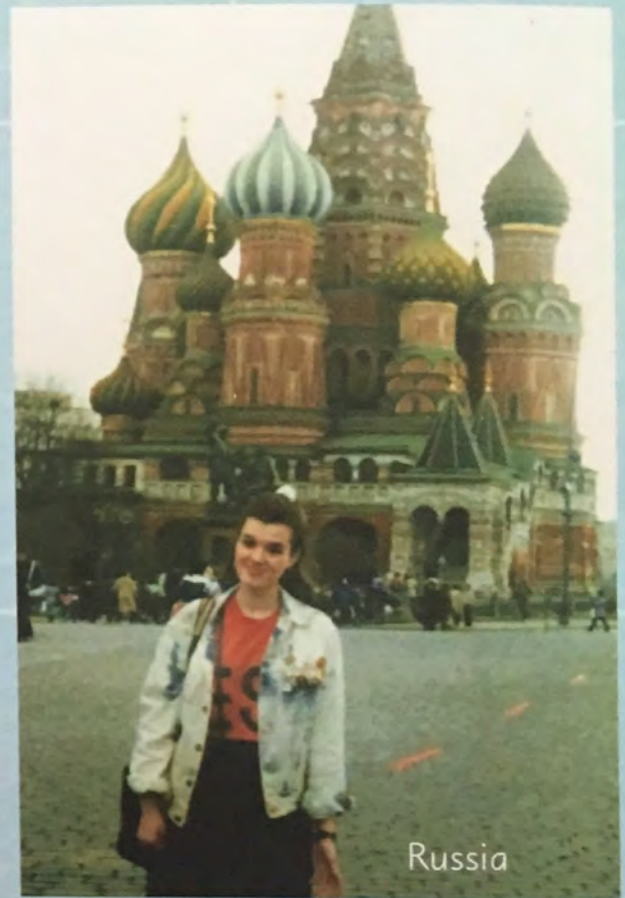
Gardening as a child
with my father.

My father taught me about gardening. It is a hobby
that brings me much happiness.



I have been fortunate to
explore new places and
learn about other cultures.

Discover





Spain



It is important to me to try
new things, take risks and
go on new adventures.



Hawaii



my parents and me



meeting a runner at a marathon dinner



my friend's wedding



Enjoying life with my family
and friends.



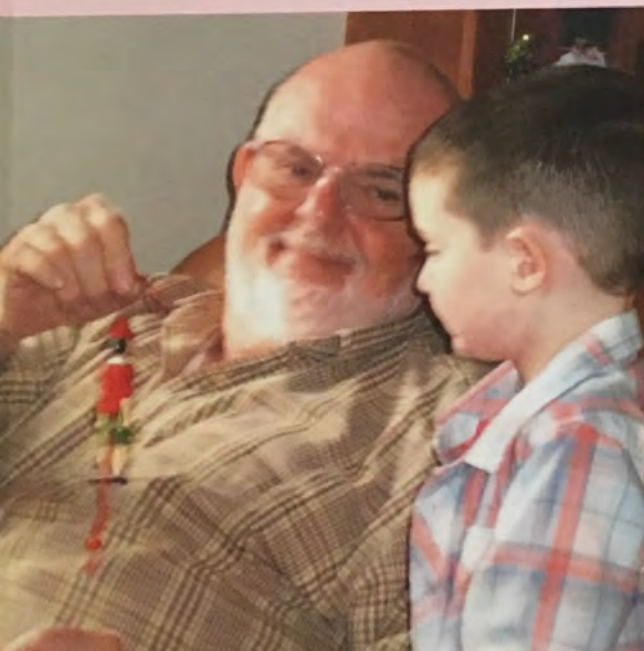
My brother and I have been close since childhood.



I'm dancing at an event for Kenyan marathon runners.



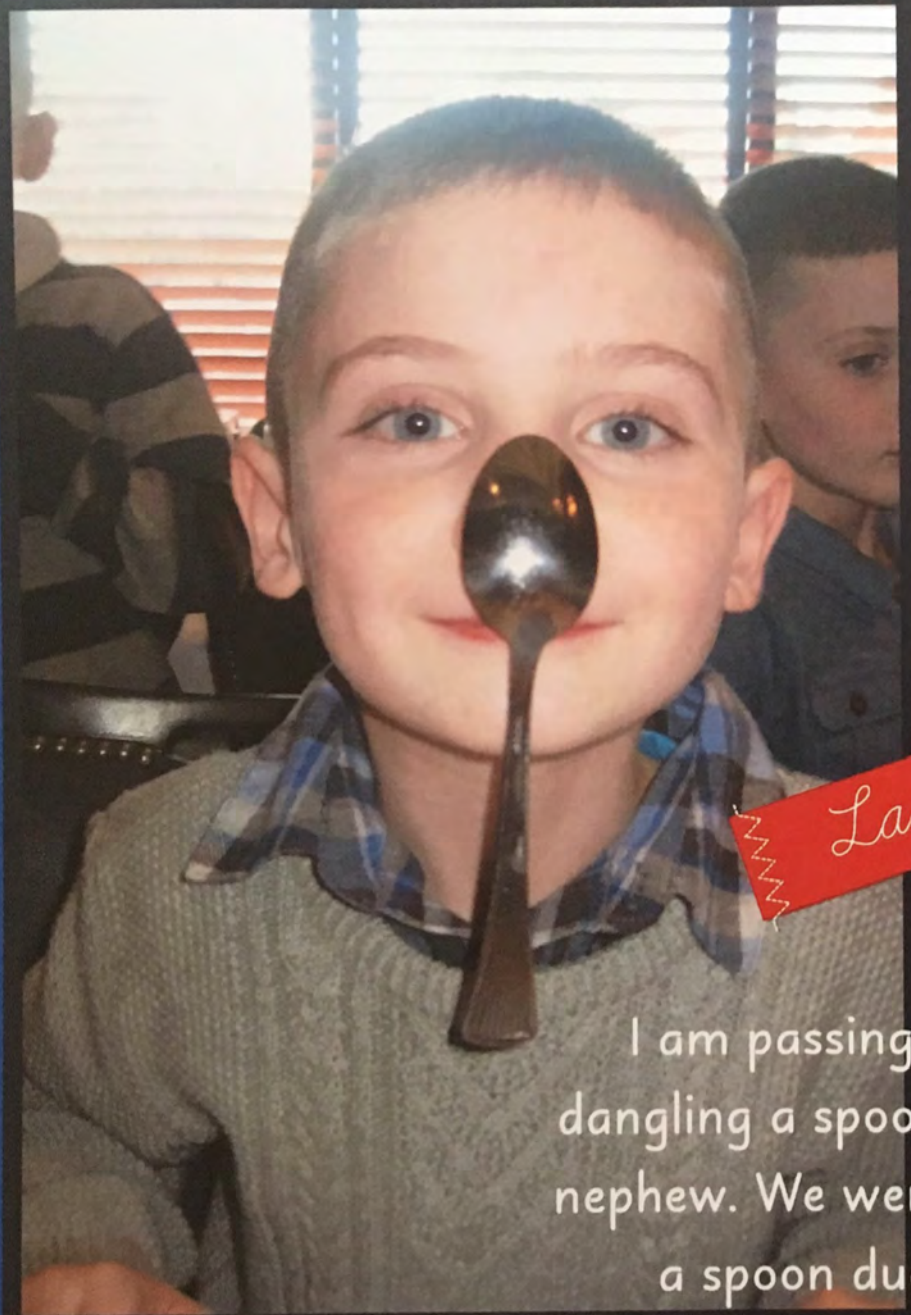
My nieces
and
nephews
love spending
time with
Grammy
and Papa.



They also enjoy spending time with their Aunt Mary.



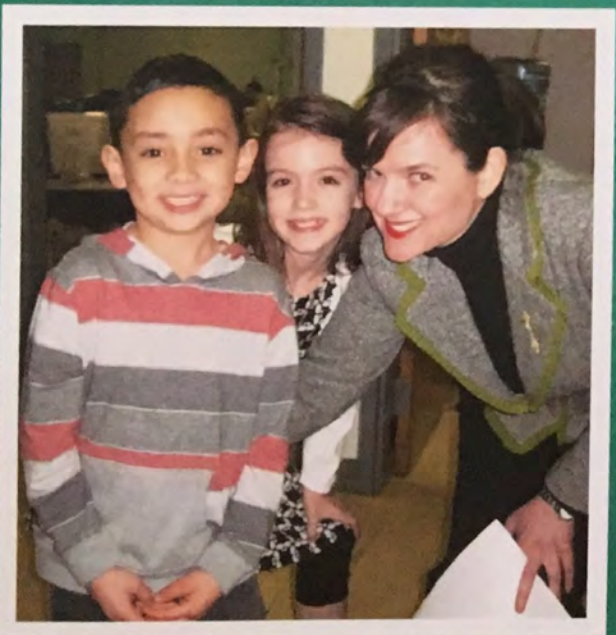




Laughter

I am passing on the tradition of
dangling a spoon on your nose to my
nephew. We were facing each other in
a spoon duel in these photos.

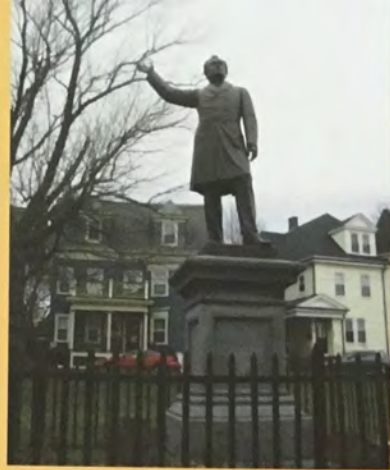




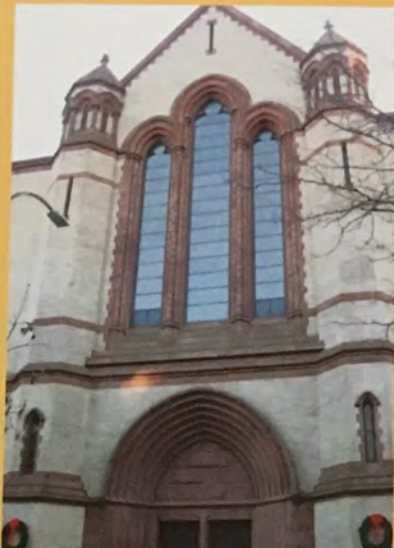
Teaching is the perfect
profession for me
because there is nothing
more rewarding to me
than helping children.







On the opposite page are photos of my lovely two bedroom home. These are pictures from my neighborhood. The beach is about 1/4 of a mile away. There are also monuments, historical sights and homes from the 1600s. Within three blocks of my home, there are several playgrounds and a popular ice cream parlor. I have also included two photos of my church.





Family and friends celebrate the new basketball court my brother's family won through a Boston Celtics contest. We are all big sports fans. After participating in a basketball clinic on the new court with Jayson Tatum and Cedric Maxwell, all the kids gathered around for a photo.



GO TEAM

Like I said before. . . I've always been a take charge kind of person and like to keep things rolling along! There I am trying to organize a family photo.



L
O
V
E



This large, loud and loving family is ready for one more!