

November 14, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Todd is the youngest in our family. He is one of the most focused people I know. He struggled with learning disabilities through school and fought the system that tried to hold him back from his dream of being an architect. One of my children also has a learning disability and I use him as my example of what someone can accomplish with determination and the encouragement of his parents. He is a more compassionate and understanding person because of what he had to go through. In many ways, the learning disability made him a better person. He understands the importance of not giving up on someone and that everyone deserves a chance.

Todd and Candice met in college studying for architecture. Candice is an only child and our family is large and probably a little overwhelming for her at times. From the first day we met her we loved her. She is one of the sweetest people I know and brought out the best in Todd. They have definite differences but they compliment each other and they are caring and considerate people. Candice is always on a mission to save the world!

I have five children and started teasing Candice about passing on the baby items soon after they were married. I really didn't want them to have a baby that quickly because I think it's best to have time together before you change your entire life for a child. No one knows better than me the kind of commitment it takes. I was glad they had the time to get to know each other, work on their dream house and travel but it has been heartbreaking watching them go through problems with fertility once they decided they were ready for a child.

I'm sure it's especially hard for Todd and Candice being around my family with so many children. They are God Parents to one of my children and the other children get jealous about how special he's treated. All of our children's God parents are close to them but none of them take it to heart the same way Todd and Candice do. I think my son has had a crush on Aunt Candice since he was a year old. She's gentle and soft spoken and he looks forward to every visit.

The last few years have been emotionally draining for Todd and Candice. We have all looked forward to them becoming parents and held our breaths each time they tried. The last couple of times have been the worst because I could see they were losing hope; they want and deserve to start a family so bad. I know they will be kind and loving parents and will have the support and love from the entire family.

Tonia
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