



We want you to know that your child will be loved and cared for more than words can express. We also know that the connection you and your child have will always be there, and having the ability to know their past will only help them be stronger as they grow into adulthood.

## Matt

## Melissa

**Job Description:**

Journeyman  
Lineman

Future Stay-At-Home Mom;  
Part-Time Head Teacher for  
After School Program

**Education:**

Associates Degree in Electrical  
Engineering, Associates Degree in  
Applied Science

Bachelor in Communications,  
Associates in Natural and  
Behavioral Science

**Favorites:**

**Leisure Activity**  
Watching a Good Movie

**Leisure Activity**  
Baking

**Memory with Spouse**  
Our Many Vacations

**Memory with Spouse**  
Winter Ferris Wheel Ride

**Thing to Cook**  
Grilled Cheese

**Thing to Cook**  
Hillbilly Spaghetti

**Tradition**  
Making Christmas Cookies

**Tradition**  
Long Family Dinners

**Shopping Store**  
Home Depot

**Shopping Store**  
Target

**Children:**  
None

### Our Lifestyle and What We Do For Fun

**Matt** has always had a passion for wood working, along with building interesting light fixtures and displays. On a typical weekend you can find him either remodeling parts of our house or building something interesting to put on display. He also enjoys reading historical books, watching old black and white films, skydiving or just walking the dogs around town.

**Melissa** enjoys running - every year she participates in a half marathon. She also loves her Zumba class, or any form of dance class. When she is not running or dancing, she is usually cooking up new recipes for us to try, but her number one passion is the cinema. As a hobby she collects movie stubs and has collected over 250 tickets in the past 13 years! She also enjoys horseback riding, which she does frequently with a friend who owns a farm just 10 minutes from our house.

### What It Would Mean To Be Parents and Our Strengths

Being parents would be such a blessing for us because we have wanted this for so long. Given the many heartaches, frustrations, and disappointment in our inability to have children, it has strengthened our desire to start a family and become the best parents a child deserves. We are both active in our lifestyles and would love to share these activities with a child, whether it be going to the park or a cross country trip when they are old enough.

Melissa has worked with children since she was very young and knows how to handle their different behaviors, developmental phases, wants, and needs as they grow up. Matt has great organizational skills and a calming personality that people gravitate to. We are great supporters of each other in all that we do. We know when to laugh and make jokes, and we are not afraid to cry and show our emotions. We bring high moral values, a massive support system of family and friends, and unconditional love as our strengths as future parents. We will offer a child a lifetime of guidance, support, fun, great experiences, knowledge, and a lifelong commitment to their development as a person.

### Our House & Neighborhood



We live in a family friendly community located an hour outside of a major city. Our home is unique in that it was built in the 1800s. It's a two story house with 4 bedrooms, two of which have fireplaces. We have a large kitchen that also has a fireplace, where we often entertain friends and family. Our favorite part of the home is the staircase that goes from two of the bedrooms to our downstairs family room.

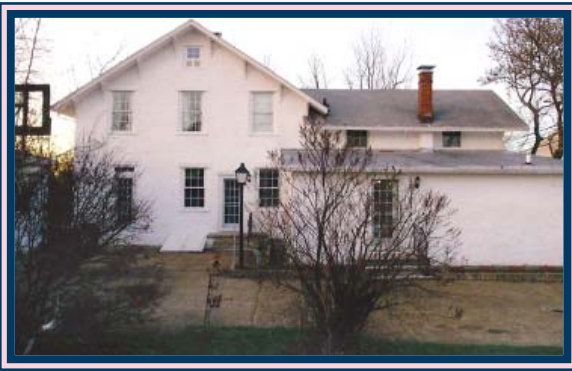
We love the charm and beauty of our small town. In the spring and summer months the town is booming with activities such as numerous festivals, movie nights on the square, classic car cruises, small concerts, and so much more. Our local library hosts different events throughout each month for school age kids and their parents.



Our Home

The well groomed village square quiets down only slightly in the snowy winter months. Also, our town is filled with so much history that we have our own museum! Our house is centrally located so that we are within walking distance from the village square, library, schools, parks, locally-owned shops, hiking trails, and our frequently visited ice cream parlor. In the winter months we do a lot of sledding in a nearby park which has loads of great hills. In December, our town decorates the square with Christmas trees and lights. Each night we walk around the square with our dogs and look at how each tree is uniquely decorated.

## House & Neighborhood, (continued)



### Our Backyard

activities in the summer months, but our favorite is being just a hop, skip and jump away from Cedar Point, the rollercoaster capital of the world! Our family and friends will visit often and spend entire weekends just going to Cedar Point.

We love living in a smaller town that encourages community spirit with family events. We also have a wonderful group of friends that live in and near our neighborhood and come by often for barbecues, game nights, or just to hang out. We think it's important that children spend time outdoors and have friends that live nearby. Our neighborhood has a lot of children with a wide range of ages.

We love the location of our town because it gives us the best of both worlds. Having a major city only an hour away lets us enjoy the things we love such as Broadway shows, delicious restaurants, sporting events, music concerts, and several museums. We are also very close to Lake Erie, which gives us plenty of time to enjoy water sports and

## Our Extended Families

**Melissa** lived in France for part of her childhood, and then eventually moved to Ohio when she was in the second grade. We often go to France and visit with her Mother's French family, during the summer or winter months. As a child, she learned French and English which gave her a great appreciation for both her French and American background. She is also very close to her family here in the states. Her siblings live just a few hours away and get together often. Her father and step mother are retired and live in North Carolina. Melissa and her parents are very close and talk frequently. When her family gets together they are always trying to find ways to make each other laugh! When we're not laughing, we're playing cards or Rummikub (a game we love), cooking new, adventurous recipes, or just sharing in long conversations. Every other year we get together for a week-long vacation, usually somewhere warm and close to the ocean.



Melissa's Extended Family

**Matt's** parents were involved in numerous volunteer organizations during his childhood, which took them around the world, even to central Africa! Eventually his family planted roots in Ohio when Matt was in the third grade. He and his parents are very close and have a great relationship. His mom and dad have always stressed the importance of strong family values and the joy of community service and volunteering. He has a younger sister who was recently married. One really great aspect of Matt's family is that nearly all of them, including his parents, are just a short drive away. We get together quite frequently with his family for birthdays, holidays, and baking cookies, but mainly just for fun. Matt's aunt and uncle own a farm nearby with a large lake that Matt spent many



Matt's Extended Family

summers swimming in. Matt has a close cousin who recently adopted a little girl. She has been greeted with nothing less than uncompromising love and affection by everyone in our family.



Molly, Rumble the Cat, and Baxter (bottom)

## Our Pets Are Important In Our Lives

Our pets are very important in our lives. They have brought us such love, laughter and joy over the years. We chose Molly and Baxter from a nearby shelter almost 6 years ago. Baxter is a humorous and loving Spaniel mix, and Molly is a sweet soul who wants nothing more than to be everyone's friend. Both make great watch dogs and are equal partners in crime. A recent welcome addition to our family is Rumble, the cat, who was rescued by a friend of ours. Rumble loves to lie out in the sun and amuse himself with Molly and Baxter's tails, and then the chase begins! Both dogs are great friends, and find it hard to be apart. So, we make sure that when we are away they share a kennel. What amuses us most is their love for chasing one another. They will run at top speed for several minutes around the yard, and then sleep on the driveway for a few hours, then repeat. It is always a blessing to come home after a day at work to be greeted by wet noses, wagging tails and a loud purr.

Our extended families are also big animal lovers, every member of Melissa's extended family owns at least one 4 legged creature, some having more than 5! It really helps that we have a veterinarian in the family!



Our Chicago Vacation



Niagara Falls, Canada



Relaxing Together

# Matt & Melissa



Our Trip to Madison,  
Wisconsin



After Matt's Skydiving Adventure



Playing with Our Niece

## Dear Birthparent(s),

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell you more about ourselves. We believe that potentially entrusting your child with the right family shows tremendous courage and selfless love. We want you to know that our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this most difficult time, and our greatest hope is that you find happiness and peace of mind with whatever decision you make.

We have been together for over 10 years now, and every day is filled with love, tons of laughter, and some practical jokes! We met our freshman year in college and shyly pursued one another for 3 years before we found the courage to ask each other out. Since then, we have become inseparable. We always knew we wanted to be parents, and each have large extended families, so we started trying right away once we were married. After several years of trying to conceive, and a couple of dogs and a cat later, we knew God had different plans for us. Our love for one another and our dream of becoming parents has led us to choose adoption.

We live in a charming community just a short drive from Lake Erie. Our town is constantly organizing activities for families, whether it is a movie night on the square, arts and crafts at the public library, or pool parties at the recreational center, there is always something to do. We are also just a hop, skip and jump away from Cedar Point, which keeps us busy most of the summer. Our favorite activity is sitting outside the ice cream parlor in our town square with our neighbors, watching all the kids play games and have fun.

Melissa has always worked with children, whether it be in a school setting, camp counselor, coaching, or helping at risk kids. Currently, she works part-time as the head teacher for an after school program, which will allow her to be a stay-at-home mom in the future.

Matt works as a lineman for a major electric company. He enjoys his job immensely because it keeps him close to home. We both have a lot of vacation time throughout the year, and we take full advantage of it. Since traveling is so important to us, we do not limit ourselves to just summer vacations. We've enjoyed traveling to destinations such as North Carolina in the summer, Niagara Falls in the spring, Chicago in the fall, and France in the winter. Traveling is a wonderful reminder of how big the world is, and it is also invaluable in learning about new countries, regions, and cultures.

Both of our extended families are so excited that we have decided to start building a family. As soon as we expressed interest in adoption they started helping us get ready! It was a great reminder of how supportive and full of love our families are. They also understand the importance and the impact you will have as your child moves into adulthood. Melissa has several cousins who were adopted, and Matt has a cousin who just recently adopted their first child. Having them as supporters and advisors has been a tremendous help already, and we know they will continue to be in the future. Both sets of parents are just as excited, if not more, to welcome a new addition to the family, but most excited would be Matt's parents since it will be their first grandchild! We are so lucky to have such supportive, loving people in our lives.

We are excited about the possibility of an open adoption, but we know that the amount of openness will be your choice. We want you to know that your child will be loved and cared for more than words can express. We also know that the connection you and your child have will always be there, and having the ability to know their past will only help them be stronger as they grow into adulthood. We understand that this is a very important and difficult decision for you. We hope you will take comfort in that we will be completely open and honest with your child about their adoption from the very beginning. And, if it is your wish, we will make certain that they have the opportunity to communicate with you through letters and pictures, so that he or she knows that they have more than two parents that love them.

We want to thank you again for taking the time to read our letter and possibly considering us. We can't express enough how excited we are to start this amazing journey with your child, but most importantly, that you know our thoughts and prayers are with you regardless of what your decision is.

With deepest sincerity,

**Matt and Melissa**

