



Your child will be at ease raised knowing that his or her birth parents made the greatest sacrifice of all for them. If you choose to place your child in our hands, know your child will be loved unconditionally and be supported in every aspect of his or her entire life.

## Ray

## Jennifer

### Job Description:

Operations Manager for a Home Building Company

Quality Assurance Clerk for Worldwide Packaging Company

### Education:

Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Management and Marketing

Associate's Degree in Computer Science

### Favorites:

#### Childhood Memory

Family Trips to Kings Island

#### Childhood Memory

Playing with Family Pets

#### Hobby

Wood Working

#### Hobby

Reading

#### Thing to Cook

Steak

#### Thing to Cook

Pancakes

#### Family Activity

Going to Amusement Park

#### Family Activity

Playing a Board Game

#### Form of Exercise

Bike Riding

#### Form of Exercise

Walking

#### Children:

None

## Qualities We Admire and Respect in Each Other

**By Ray:** The strongest quality we enjoy in each other is humor. Each day we can make each other laugh at the things many other people may not find funny, but to us, strengthens our relationship. We are each other's best friends and prefer to be together than with any of our other friends. Jennifer has a huge heart full of compassion and a deep empathy for other people's feelings.

**By Jennifer:** Two of Ray's best qualities are his sense of humor and patience. He always finds ways to make me smile and laugh. He is quick with his wit and can come back with something funny in no time flat. His patience is second to none. It has to be to have put up with me for so long!

## What Takes Priority In Our Lives

When we ask ourselves what takes priority in our lives, the first thing that popped out was the word "Family". Whether it is Nana that needs help with something that has broke in her home or a pet that needs to be taken out because Grandma and Grandpa were delayed in getting back into town, family would always step in to help out. We are each other's support system; family is who we can count on in the good times and also the bad. Shoulders you can cry on and one's to laugh with. We will always take care of our family.

## Our Leisure Time

We both have a variety of hobbies that we love to do, both alone and together. Ray likes to tinker on cars, build things in his wood-working shop, and play video games. Jennifer likes to read, research her family's history, and cross stitch. Together we love to see movies, play with our dogs, and target shoot. We feel that hobbies should have no boundaries. If a little girl would like to work on fixing something with her dad, she should be able to. Likewise, if a little boy wanted to learn to cook, he should be able to also. If they would like to try something new, we might find a new thing for us to enjoy as well.

## Our House & Neighborhood

OHIO

We live in a new home development in a small city in Ohio. Our neighborhood is a full of families, many with children, who can be seen often on the community walking/biking trails or playing in the pocket parks located throughout our neighborhood. We have soccer fields, a bicycle park and large amounts of green play space within walking distance from our house. The view from our back patio overlooks the rear entrance to our neighborhood full of trees and beautiful landscaping and the fishing pond located just inside that entrance. The road behind our house is protected by beauty mounds, concealing the street from our house. We have a fenced in back yard where our two dogs run and play. Our covered front porch is where we sit and look out over the neighborhood.



Our Home

## House & Neighborhood, (continued)



Backyard View in the Fall

The community pool, local schools, park and library are within a short 5 minute drive. The community park hosts outdoor movies which can be a lot of fun on a warm summer night. We live in a house with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. The bedrooms on the second floor are currently being used as the master bedroom, guest bedroom, study and, for the last couple of years, a nursery. We live just between each of our extended families which is a prime location for us, being within 15 minutes from each of our jobs.

## Our Extended Family



Ray's Family at Thanksgiving

**By Ray:** Growing up, I had a family that kept me very grounded with good values and respect for other people. We have remained close as my two brothers and I moved away from home and started our own families. I am the oldest brother, and the first to be married, but not the first to have children. My younger brother got married a year after Jennifer and I and he and his wife have three children, all boys. They live on adjacent property to our parents combining about seventeen acres to play on. Our youngest brother is not married, but is very dedicated to our family. He has a house not far from where we grew up and sees our other brother every day since they work together.

We spend each holiday together at our parents' house, including each of our birthdays, but the Thanksgiving holiday is the one the entire family looks forward to each year. My entire extended family comes together to enjoy my mom's traditional thanksgiving feast; Aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents all together for a great meal followed by the traditional hay ride through the fields and woods. Summer picnics at mom and dad's are a lot of fun when we can go fishing, swimming or boating on their pond. No matter what the occasion, the entire family spends the time laughing and enjoying each other's company.

**By Jennifer:** I have one older brother, who is married and has three children of his own. My extended family all live fairly close to us. I am extremely close with my parents and we call to catch up at least every other day. While the rest of my extended family (including many aunts, uncles and cousins) get together on all major holidays; sharing and catching up with all that is going on in our busy lives. When the weather is warm enough you may find a Frisbee being retrieved from a roof or out of the woods. In cooler months, we have been known to have a friendly game of Monopoly going. My whole family is very excited about our intention to adopt. They are looking forward to a new addition to our family.

Animals have always been an important part of my family's lives. My parents are involved in a Golden Retriever rescue group, where they help out in many ways like transporting animals to veterinary visits, helping out at fund raisers and fostering dogs that are awaiting homes. They admit that they are failures at fostering because the dogs always seem to find a permanent home with them. They have four dogs of their own and are currently fostering one that has become quite cozy. My mom and my grandma also volunteer for an organization that sews, knits, and donates items to nearby birthing hospitals for new mothers in need. I have been recruited many times to help out in these organizations from bagging groceries for tips to trying my hand at sewing a newborn sleeper.



Jennifer's Family at Thanksgiving

## Our Pets



Jennifer with Daisy

Pets have always been an important part of our lives. We currently have two older beagle mixes, Dolly and Lady. Dolly, our oldest at thirteen years, is fighting a losing battle with bladder cancer and will not be with us much longer. We rescued her when she was about a year old a few months after we married. She was to be a companion for my beagle, Daisy; I had brought to the marriage. When Daisy got sick, we decided to rescue another older dog to help Dolly with the loss of her friend. Lady was 6 years old and in terrible need of help when we adopted her. She was fifty percent over weight and could not do basic tasks, such as going up stairs or taking walks. Now three years later and forty percent lighter, Lady has taken her lead helping our special Dolly through life.

We have come to realize, after raising both puppies and taking in older dogs, that older dogs and ones that have a difficult time finding homes bring a certain light into our life. They know what their life has been like and appreciate the comforts that we provide them and in return they show us unconditional love and laughter. We truly believe caring for a pet teaches empathy towards life and a house is not a home without at least one.

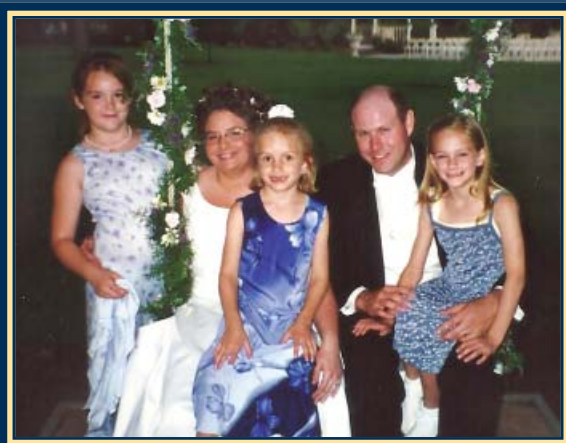


October in Brown County, Indiana



Game Night

# Ray & Jennifer



With Our Little Cousins



Visiting with Mom and Grandma



Ray and His Nephews at the Park



Aunt Jenn with Our Niece at Christmas

## Dear Birthparent(s),

What do we write in a letter that could possibly give us the answer to our prayers? It is a hard thing to put down on paper. So we have chosen to write it straight forward and from our hearts to give you a better perceptive of who we are and what you could expect from us in the upbringing your child.

We have been married for eleven years and have a strong and secure foundation in our marriage. No one on either side of our families has been divorced and we are proud of that fact in today's world. We have had many good and bad times together. But when it comes down to it, we are each other's best friend. We have been seen by more than one infertility specialist over the past nine years, with no success. And our odds are not favorable, even with their help, of having our own child. This is why we are now looking down a new avenue for one of Life's greatest gifts. Ray has a talent for being a magnet with children. They love him and flock to him, whether at family functions or out to eat at a restaurant. Jennifer tries and tries but, for some reason, can't get the upper hand on this! It would be unbearable going through life not given the opportunity to be parents. We have so much of ourselves to give and I know we will be great parents.

Our employment gives us the flexibility to work around obstacles that may block our path. We are very good at "tag" teaming to get things done. When the time comes, Jennifer plans to decrease her hours to spend time at home with the baby, and even stay at home full time, if possible. We have loving and supportive family and friends excited to be a part of your child's life. Both "Grandmas" have happily volunteered to step in when a sitter is needed. No outside daycare will be necessary, but since socialization is important, other forms will be sought out until they become school aged. We plan to have the child attend our local public school district that has been given an "Excellent" rating and has many extracurricular activities to get involved in, if he or she would like to.

We are not an overly religious family. We believe in God, but have not found a church that fits our needs. We were both raised Catholic, but are no longer practicing. We are currently looking for a church that we are comfortable with. We hope by the time a baby arrives we will have found our place somewhere. We feel this is an important experience that should not be forgotten about when raising a child. Have no fear though; your child will be raised with strong moral, ethical and spiritual values. We are excellent role models for showing what tolerance for others is and empathy for the life and world around us.

Even though we like a fun day out and about, we also love to spend quality, quiet time at home. We already have a tradition of take out and TV night one day a week. Where we get into our comfies, eat some take out brought home by Ray, usually, and not do anything else but bond and watch TV the rest of the night.

We know that the uncertainty of the future is a scary thing and we admire your strength in making one of the toughest choices of your life. Thank you for considering adoption as part of this decision. Find peace in knowing that adoption is not an end unless you choose it to be; Letters and pictures will be waiting for you. And remember, the phrase "open adoption" can mean many different things. Your child will be at ease raised knowing that his or her birth parents made the greatest sacrifice of all for them. If you choose to place your child in our hands, know your child will be loved unconditionally and be supported in every aspect of his or her entire life.



**Ray & Jennifer**