



Thank you for taking the time to get to know us better. We hope that we are the parents you are looking for to provide a loving and nurturing home for your child. You can rest assured that we will love your child unconditionally and make his/her happiness, health and wellbeing our number one priority. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this understandably difficult time in your life.

Rick

Jodie

Job Description:

Technical Consultant

Stay-at-home Mom/Human Resources Professional

Education:

Associates Degree, Architectural Drafting

Bachelor's Degree, Business Administration

Favorites:

Hero
Dad

Hero
Grandma

Hobby
Photography

Hobby
Reading

Sport to Watch
Stockcar Racing

Sport to Watch
Football

Food
Steak

Food
Pizza or Pasta

Subject in School
History

Subject in School
Astronomy

Children:

Connor (2)

Qualities We Love, Admire and Respect in Each Other

As told by Rick: Jodie makes me feel I can do anything. She is sensitive and caring and has taught me to look at life in a new way. She can do just about anything she puts her mind to. I've really worn off on her, there are days I know she'd rather lay on the couch and read a book but in a matter of minutes Connor and I have her rolling on the floor with us laughing and playing just like a bunch of little kids. Of course she keeps both of us out of trouble reminding us that it's not a gymnasium so no throwing balls in the house.

As told by Jodie: Rick is my best friend. I can always count on him to be there for me whether for a shoulder to lean on or to kill big bugs! Rick is a fantastic father! He loves playing with Connor, be it crawling around on the floor with him or reading him stories. I'll never forget the day we brought Connor home (at 10 days old), and Rick carried him through the entire house showing him around...it was adorable! Rick has already begun to show Connor the ways of the world, from NASCAR to home improvement, he enjoys teaching him all of the things that his father has taught him. He anxiously awaits the day he can help his kids pick out their very first car, and teach them how to fix it. Not to mention having permanent video-gaming partners! He is a wonderful, giving person and I am proud that he is my husband.

How Adoption Has Affected Our Lives

After three years of trying to conceive, we realized that God's plan for us was to grow our family through adoption. Rick has two adopted brothers, so adoption has always been a part of his life. Having this connection with adoption has provided us with an understanding of the difficulties adopted children may be faced with and how to handle those issues.

After years of waiting to start our family, Connor was born on June 24, 2006, and came to our family through adoption ten days later, on July 4. Never have we been as thrilled as we were the day we received the call that he was our son! Meeting him was so surreal. He is such a joy, and we just love watching him change everyday. While we have been around children for years, it's so different when you see them everyday. Seeing all of the firsts, encouraging his development, making him laugh...it's all so wonderful! He has a terrific outgoing personality and a smile that lights up the room! We've been spending more time with children his age or younger, and he's so inquisitive, just walks right up to other kids and says "hi!" with this big grin on his face. So we're really excited for him to be a big brother, showing his little sibling the ropes! Having Connor in our family has provided us with firsthand experience of loving a child unconditionally and we eagerly await the arrival of a second child to welcome into our hearts.

Our House and Neighborhood



We recently purchased a new home with Jodie's parents. Growing up, Jodie had her grandmother right next door, and had a very close relationship with her until her death last year. It is very important to us to encourage our children to have close relationships with all of their grandparents, as we value them so much. Jodie's parents are our "day-care" providers, and we are grateful to give our children the opportunity to be at home versus in a day-care setting, especially during the early years. Jodie's mom and dad adore Connor, and have provided him with a loving and educational environment, and are equally excited for a new grandchild to love.



Our New Home

Our House and Neighborhood, continued



A Day at the Zoo

The new house is beautiful, located in a safe, family-oriented neighborhood in a suburb of a large city in Ohio with an excellent school system. We've had the opportunity to meet some of the neighbors, and everyone is very welcoming and friendly. We've seen a lot of strollers and kids playing outside, so we know that our children will have a lot of opportunity to build friendships close to home. The home allows for our children to have their own rooms, as well as a great big yard to play in throughout the year.



Celebrating Rick's Parents' 40th Wedding Anniversary

Our Extended Families

We have both been blessed with wonderful, loving, generous parents, who have beat the odds...they will each celebrate 43 years of marriage in 2008. They have been excellent role models as parents over the years and we continue to look to them for guidance. We are part of a large family that we live close to and are able to spend time with regularly. There always seems to be some family function going on (birthdays, holidays, weddings, baptisms, etc.) so our children will never want for family interaction!

Rick has three sisters, two brothers, two brothers-in-law and a future sister-in-law and five nieces and nephews. **Jodie** has a brother, sister-in-law and niece. We also have a number of aunts, uncles, cousins and a grandmother who live nearby. Our children will be blessed with a big family and lots of love! They have all welcomed Connor into the family with open arms and all anxiously await the arrival of a new baby to shower with love.



Jodie's Family

We were both raised in very loving homes with tremendous opportunities to learn and grow as individuals. We plan to provide our children with those same opportunities for education and family values. We will teach our children to treat others with respect, to be accepting of others, to act with integrity and to have fun! We were both raised in the Christian belief and attribute a lot of who we are to our faith. While we plan to baptize our child in the Catholic Church, we will provide an understanding and appreciation of both the Catholic and Lutheran faiths.

Our Interests

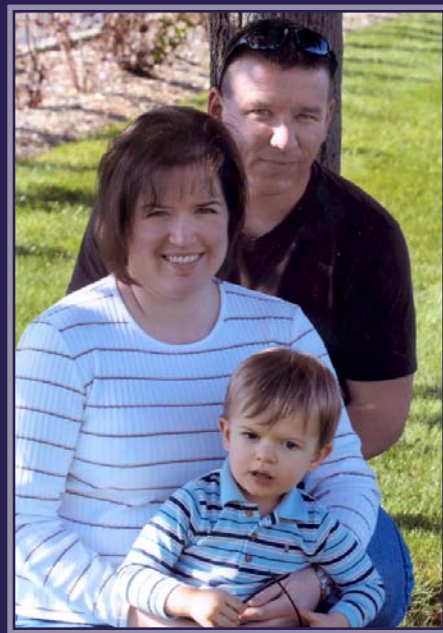


The M&M's Store in Las Vegas, NV

While we tend to have a lot of family functions going on, we do like to spend time on our own! Generally we love time at home, especially during the summer months when we can enjoy the outdoors. Since Connor's arrival life has changed a lot, so most of our activities involve stuffed animals, sloppy wet kisses and reading and re-reading the same books over and over and over (which we never tire of)! Jodie is pretty much a city girl, but loves country music and NASCAR, both thanks to Rick's influence! We also enjoy bowling, attending sporting events and spending time with our family and friends. We have had the opportunity to take many vacations with our families from Disney World to South Carolina and Las Vegas to camping, and can't wait to see our children experience the ocean for the first time.



Vacationing at Hilton Head
Island, SC



A Trip to the Park



Fun at the Park

**Rick
&
Jodie**



Celebrating Rick's Sister's Wedding



Celebrating Connor's 2nd Birthday



Our Niece's First Communion

Dear Birthparent(s),

Hi! We are Rick and Jodie, and we are very grateful to you for taking this courageous step of considering adoption for your child. What you must be going through is unimaginable, and we hope that you have the support that you need to get you through this challenging time in your life.

We'd like to share a little about ourselves with you. We met June 29, 1991 at a dance club. Jodie made the first move and asked Rick to dance, he then asked for her phone number, and the rest, as they say, is history. We were both still attending college at the time, and less than two months after we met, distance separated us when school resumed. We developed a strong relationship during the first two and a half years due to the long distance, which made us realize two things. First, to appreciate every moment we spend together, and second, that while we love being together, we are individuals and maintain our own interests. After Jodie graduated, and moved home, we had to adjust to the nearness, which was a challenge! But we were able to adjust and support each other as we began our careers. Rick proposed on Christmas Eve, 1995, and we tied the knot on September 6, 1997. We spent our honeymoon in Disney World, and have been anxiously awaiting the day that we can go back with our own children!

Our marriage has grown strong over the last ten years. The fact that we have been faced with infertility has been a challenge that we've overcome together. We have been so fortunate to bring Connor into our family through adoption, and are honored that you are taking the time to get to know us while considering adoption for your baby.

Our family has been completely supportive of our decision to adopt, and have fallen in love with Connor as easily as we did. Everyone was so excited when we announced our decision to adopt again, and can't wait to welcome another new addition to the family. We both grew up with so many opportunities, from excellent private education to fun-filled family vacations. We are looking forward to the years ahead with our children, and providing them with the same love-filled lives that we have had.

We will be open and honest in sharing your child's adoption story with them, and answering any questions they have regarding their adoption. Most importantly, we will share with him/her your unconditional love in giving them life. We hope to have as much information as possible to share about his/her birth family so they always know where they came from. We are very open in discussing adoption with Connor, and while he doesn't understand it yet, we want him to always know about the love that brought him to us.

We feel so incredibly blessed to have Connor in our lives, and while he is a dream come true for us, we are so excited to make that dream come true again! Thank you for taking the time to get to know us better. We hope that we are the parents you are looking for to provide a loving and nurturing home for your child. You can rest assured that we will love your child unconditionally and make his/her happiness, health and wellbeing our number one priority. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this understandably difficult time in your life.

Thank you so much for considering us!

Sincerely,

Rick and Jodie

