



## Troy

## Jen

### Job Description:

Teaches English as a Second Language to High School Students

Business Process Auditor

### Education:

Bachelors Degree in English, Masters in TESOL

Bachelors Degree in Linguistics

### Favorites:

#### Hobby

Video Games

#### Hobby

Cooking/Baking

#### Thing to Cook

Meat on the Grill

#### Thing to Cook

Bruschetta

#### Dream Job

Food Critic

#### Dream Job

Book Editor

#### Holiday

Thanksgiving

#### Holiday

Christmas

#### Childhood Memory

Family Trip Out West

#### Childhood Memory

Trips to Ocean City

### Children:

None

We both have been raised to have strong work ethics, good morals, and enjoy life. These values are a part of our daily lives and will be a part of your child's life as well.

## Qualities We Admire in Each Other

**Jen about Troy:** When we first met, Troy caught my eye immediately with his red hair and fiery personality. We spent time overseas working with a volunteer organization, and I learned more about his heart for others. His ability to get along with anyone, make others feel comfortable around him, and continuously encourage others made me fall in love with him. Not to mention his corny sense of humor!

**Troy about Jen:** When we first met, Jen's intelligence stood out as well as her blue eyes that glistened when excited. She is very easy to talk to, but she also responds with intelligence. I could tell very quickly that this blonde did not follow the stereotype of blondes. Early on, we had the ability to joke with each other's mistakes. I love the fact that she does not just take my smart comments but has a retort. I respect her high moral integrity which challenges me to be a better person. She also displays a strong work ethic, an ability to analyze people and situations, and a willingness to serve without a desire for praise. I love our shared desire to serve God, others, and each other.

## What Strengths We Will Have As Parents

Family has always been extremely important to both of us, and we've always wanted to have a family of our own. Our parents have provided great examples for us and are still very much involved in our lives. Throughout our lives, our experience of working with children of all ages has shown us that we are able to relate well to and care for children and confirmed our desire to be parents.

In our relationship, we balance each other out. Troy enjoys going out with friends frequently and Jen prefers staying at home sometimes. Troy enjoys dreaming big and Jen is more organized and grounded. Jen tends to bring structure to a situation while Troy is flexible and rolls with the punches. These differences have helped strengthen our individual weaknesses and let us appreciate one another for who we are.

Our differences, and specifically the ability to work with them, have become a strength in how we relate to children. Troy enjoys entertaining and teaching, while Jen focuses on nurturing the relationship and encouraging the child to express himself.

## Our House & Neighborhood



We live in a quiet subdivision of a suburb of a larger city in Ohio. Our neighborhood has a large percentage of young families and it's fun to get to know our neighbors. We enjoy the wooded area behind our house and the privacy of our backyard, but still have the opportunity to drive downtown for various events and festivals and walk to the grocery store. There are also many educational opportunities close by including the zoo, library and child-focused entertainment.



Our Home

## House & Neighborhood, (continued)



**Back Porch and Yard**

Our home is an 1800 square foot house with three bedrooms. We have a fenced-in back yard and small salsa and herb garden. We enjoy grilling on our patio and laying in our hammock in the back yard. Our neighborhood has a playground within walking distance, and a walking path and pond behind our house.

We have a cat, Mollie, who has been part of our family for the past six years. She is mostly an indoor cat, but enjoys lounging on the patio occasionally. She's very independent, but is always there to welcome us home.

## Our Extended Families

We both come from close-knit immediate families and large extended families. While some of our immediate families live in other states, we make it a priority to visit and remain a part of each other's lives. Troy has two brothers who are both married, a sister, and a one-year-old niece. Jen has one younger brother. Jen's parents are divorced and each remarried, and we have a great relationship with both couples. We are also close to our extended families, and combined we have over one hundred first cousins! We have family members who have fostered and adopted and everyone is completely supportive of our decision to adopt.



**Troy's Extended Family at Grandma's 90th Birthday**

Jen's grandmother is from Germany, and her family has carried on many German traditions over the years, including St Nicklaus Day, Christmas advent, and hiding a pickle ornament on the Christmas tree. The first person to find the pickle gets an extra gift! Her mom's Christmas tree is usually about twenty feet tall, so it takes awhile to find it!

Both of our families enjoy competition and run family fantasy football leagues. Jen has won the past two years (one year in each league), and is ready to win this year in both leagues!



**Jen's Extended Family**

## Family Traditions

Jen's family has many traditions that have been a highlight for us each year. Each summer the entire family goes to a cabin for a weekend of four-wheeler riding, hiking, campfires and cornhole. Easter is also a big festivity, including an Easter egg hunt for the kids and an Easter egg roll for everyone. The challenge is to decorate an egg that won't break while rolling down the hill (and over a sidewalk). Duct tape, shellac and glue have made the competition more challenging in the past few years. Christmas is also full of traditions, including exchanging names, hiding a pickle ornament in the tree and having an ornament party. Throughout December we have five different Christmas celebrations with different extended families. Troy's family puts a high importance on birthdays and so we always try to get together for each of our birthdays.

## Our Leisure Time



**Enjoying the Sights in India**

We enjoy learning and experiencing new things and believe in the importance of being exposed to the differences in the world. We regularly attend cultural festivals such as Irish Festival, Oktoberfest, Asian Festival, International Festival, etc. Our time living overseas opened our eyes to the beauty of other cultures and gave us a desire to learn more about them.

In addition, we enjoy going to sporting events, concerts and plays. Troy plays in two community softball leagues, and Jen is involved in a book club. We are actively involved in our church, where Troy teaches Middle School kids and Jen teaches 3-4 year olds.

Because of the busyness of our lives, we make an effort to take a walk around our neighborhood each evening to connect and discuss our days. We also enjoy reality television and movies to relax.



Out on the Lake Boating

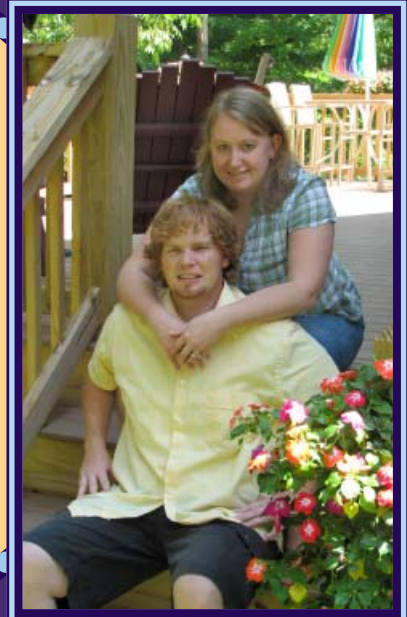


Husking Corn with Family



Our Church Photo

# Troy & Jen



Visiting Jen's Mom's  
Log Cabin in the Mountains



With Our Neice, Lanay



Our Cat, Mollie,  
Playing with the Paper

## Dear Birthparent(s),

Thanks for choosing to get to know us through our profile! We are excited about beginning the next phase of our lives, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. Family has been a very important part to both of us throughout our lives and we're excited to start our own family to carry on our traditions, from visits from St. Nicklaus to Easter egg rolls and yearly vacations. Our extended families are also very excited to welcome this child into the family.

Should we be chosen to raise your child, be assured that your child will be proud to be adopted and know that your decision was made in love. From an early age, we will be more than happy to take pictures and keep a life book to provide you with a window into their life and assure you of your child's happiness. If you would like to share pictures and letters with your child, we welcome you to do so.

We have been married seven years, and after several years of trying to get pregnant, the doctor told us that we will likely never have biological children. We have always talked about adoption later in life, so this news simply confirmed the path to take to start our family. We both have a heart for children, and have always felt that God has given us the abilities to interact well with children for a reason. We believe that God cherishes your child and will be sure to let them know throughout their lives.

We feel that our home is a loving and safe home, following the great examples our parents have given to us. Our families know that our door is always open to them, as family is one of our top priorities. The same is true for our families, and we always have felt welcome and loved visiting them, as your child will be. We believe that parenting does not end at age eighteen, and therefore we look forward to your child being a part of our family for the rest our lives.

While we both are employed full time, Troy's job as a high school teacher allows flexibility and the chance to be at home for the summer. It also allows for ample travel time around Christmas and Spring Break. Jen's job is also flexible and allows for the option of working from home. We are certain that your child will be our priority in every aspect of life. We believe in a home built around strong communication, active lifestyles, and educational opportunities. Your child will be provided chances to participate in various activities including sports, music, and creative arts. Our desire is to create a home where your child feels appreciated and loved everyday no matter what.

We both have been raised to have strong work ethics, good morals, and enjoy life. These values are a part of our daily lives and will be a part of your child's life as well. Humor is a big part of our interactions with each other, our families, and our friends and we whole-heartedly believe the saying that "Laughter is the best medicine." Being able to laugh at ourselves has equipped us with the ability to stay sane through the trying times in life. Our sense of humor brought us together and continues to strengthen our relationship.

Thanks for taking the time to get to know to us! We hope that we'll have the chance to meet you, however we respect your decision regarding your child. We admire you for exploring your options and putting your child's needs first. We pray that God will bless you and your child with the perfect family.

## Troy and Jen

