



Andy & Jennifer

About Us

We were brought together after college when we were both working at the same hospital. Our strong friendship laid the foundation for what would become a life-long partner and friend in one another. We were married in November 2013, and we haven't spent a single day without laughter filling our home (even through some of the more difficult days). Making the most of our free time and adding to our memories are the most important parts of our days. The greatest gift we have both been given is the ability to be parents. We had our son, Benjamin, in September 2014, and we haven't been the same – in the very best way - ever since! After Ben's birth we tried to add to our family, but we were diagnosed with unexplained secondary infertility. There was no doubt in either of our minds or hearts that adoption was the next step in our hopes to expand our family.

Andy has a master's in health administration. He oversees the allergy, pulmonary and sleep departments at a local children's hospital. He has a strong passion for health care, and has really appreciated his ability to work around children on a daily basis. Jennifer has a master's degree in journalism and new media. She left her corporate communications job to stay home with their son after he was born, and being with him during this time has been such a blessing. She currently is doing some part-time work for a local family website, which allows her to visit local children's events with her son and write reviews.



Favorites....

Andy:

Occupation: Operations Manager at Children's Hospital
Education: Master's in Health Administration
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite TV/Movie: The Shawshank Redemption
Favorite Food: Pork chops
Favorite Vacation: London (Honeymoon)
Favorite Holiday: Thanksgiving
Favorite Cartoon: Batman: The Animated Series
Favorite Memory
From Childhood: Family vacations
Hobbies: College basketball, reading and family walks

Jennifer:

Occupation: Stay at Home Mom/Part-time Communications Contributor
Education: Master's in Journalism
Favorite Color: Carolina Blue
Favorite TV/Movie: This is Us
Favorite Food: Lasagna
Favorite Vacation: Disney World!
Favorite Holiday: Christmas
Favorite Cartoon: The Little Mermaid
Favorite Memory
From Childhood: Our family trip to Ireland
Hobbies: Weekend family adventures, writing & photography

More about us



Andy (written by Jennifer)

Andy is a rare breed that they just don't seem to make anymore! He has a goodness about him that runs through every vein in his body. He puts his family first, and we are so lucky to call him ours. Andy also has a hilarious sense of humor. His calming presence with his ability to make light of some of life's more difficult situations make him a perfect life partner. Watching him become a father has been one of my greatest blessings. Ben just thinks that he hung the moon, and they already share so many fun activities together. He's the Dad who gets on the floor to play, gives the best piggy back rides and reads bed time stories every night (character voices included). I know whatever phase or challenge we face in life, Andy will be there to help us through. More than anything though, I'm incredibly thankful to have Andy as my best friend and partner in life.



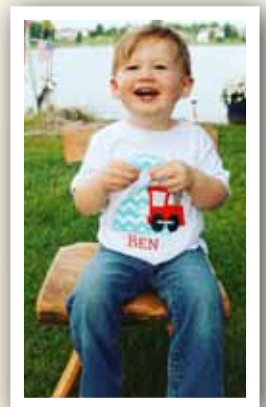
Jennifer (written by Andy)

Jennifer is an amazing mother to Ben and the most supportive and loving wife. I feel extremely blessed to share my life with such an incredible person. Her warmth and affection with Ben is so natural and it always brings a smile to my face to see them laughing and playing together. She loves reading to Ben, singing bed time lullabies and dancing to the latest songs they learn at story time. Whether out in the backyard or on a big outing to the zoo, she finds a way to make each experience an adventure. She is the love of my life and I cannot wait to grow our family together. She loves to find opportunities to get our family out on the weekends and enjoy special events in the community. She is a great communicator and is always willing to lend an ear and share her thoughts when I need her. One of my favorite things to look forward to each day is just listening to her laugh and share the stories from the day as we sit down together at night. Jennifer has such energy and passion for life that always inspires me.



Ben

In September of 2014, we welcomed Benjamin into the world. He is a 2-year-old ball of energy and excitement. He is always on the go, and constantly warming our hearts with his earth-shaking giggles. We just know what an incredible big brother Ben is ready to be. He asks about the baby that will be joining the family and pretends his teddy bear is his new sibling; giving it hugs and helping put him to bed.



Our Family



Jennifer's extended family on their annual Christmas Eve celebration!

We spend our nights eating together as a family and playing with our sweet dog Otis until bedtime. Our weekends consist of every family-fun community event you can think of! We are regulars at our town's parks and hiking trails, and we have a strong-knit neighborhood of friends. Building memories together through vacations, town activities and the simplicities that make up our home are fundamental to who we are as a family.

Our big families are our core support system. Andy is the middle child and has two brothers. We see his family about once a month with trips to them or visits from them to our home. His oldest brother has three children, two girls and a boy. Trips to see them always consist of lots of cousin time and Ben loves learning from his big cousins. Jennifer is the oldest and has a sister. Her Mom and sister are her best friends and she doesn't go a day without talking to both of them. We visit her parents or have them staying with us a couple times a month. Jennifer's sister has a baby girl, and we are regularly visiting to watch her reach new milestones and Ben adores teaching her everything he knows.

Both sets of our parents are the epitome of doting grandparents. They are the type of grandparents that always have a fun new activity to try and plan our visits for weeks in advance. When they found out we were adopting they were both ecstatic for a new grandbaby and they just can't wait to add to our families. Family is the backbone of our lives and that is why it is extremely important for us to add to our family.



Andy and Jennifer ringing in the New Year with both sets of their parents.



The family on Fourth of July at Jennifer's parent's lake house.



Andy's family together on the dock at their family camp!



Andy's family celebrating Christmas.



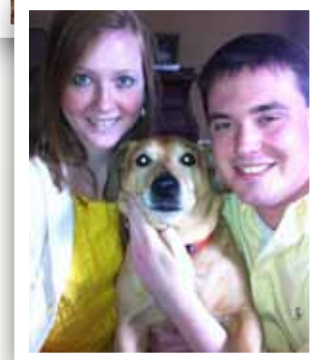
Jennifer's Mom and sister at Ben's first Birthday!



Andy and his Dad sitting on the tree swing in our backyard.



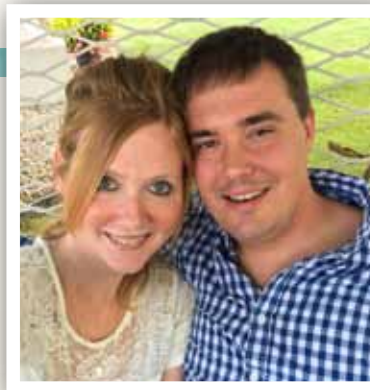
Jennifer's Mom, sister and Grandma on a trip to Chicago!



Our Home

We are incredibly thankful for the close knit and family-oriented community that we live in. We are regulars at our local library, farmer's market, summer festivals and dozens of parks. Conveniently, a national park is nearby, which offers amazing hiking trails, waterfalls and even a scenic railroad. Our home is a five bedroom colonial, with

large kitchen, where we spend time cooking, dancing around and eating together. One of our favorite features of the home is our large backyard. We live on almost an acre lot with a flat, wooded and fenced in yard, which is perfect for Andy to grill out back while Jennifer and Ben play on the swing set. Our neighborhood has weekly summer BBQs with all of the families, and our big ice cream social even includes a real, local firetruck to lead us on a neighborhood parade to the cul-de-sac. We are also happy to know that the local schools are rated in the top of the state, which was a major selling feature for us when we purchased our home.



Dear Friend,

Words can never describe how grateful we are to you. We are thankful for your courage and compassion through this difficult situation. No matter what you got from this profile, we hope finish reading it with an understanding of how truly important family is to us.

We're thankful to live in a strong-knit community with top-rated schools, resources, support systems and tools that allow children to truly flourish. Diversity and learning about different cultures is important to us, and we are open to welcoming a child of any race or ethnicity into our home. We will always do whatever is in our power to give your child every possible opportunity in life.

We both grew up in strong Christian families, and our belief system and values are a major parts of what drew us together. There was no question when our son was born that teaching him to be kind, forgiving and compassionate would be some of our primary goals as parents. Our children's health, education and hearts will always be our top priorities. No matter what though, we want our children to know that they always have a safe place to call home and parents who unconditionally love them.

We know it is difficult to express ourselves in this short amount of space, but please know that we are thinking of you during this process and sending prayers your way.



Love,

Andy & Jennifer