jeff
&
lora

about us

Chilly morning on our Alaskan cruise

Vacation in Punta Cana

We met our senior year of high school at a friend's bonfire and started dating shortly after. We have been married for 13 years now and still love spending time together.

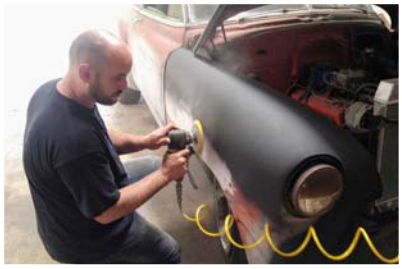
One of our favorite things to do is to travel and explore new places. Last year we were thankful to be able to go with Lora's parents on a cruise to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. Whale watching and kayaking in Alaska were some of our favorite experiences from the trip. Our favorite vacation spot is still somewhere on a beach relaxing and exploring the local town. Jeff's family is part of our regular crew we camp with every summer and some of Lora's family joins us occasionally too. We both grew up camping with a love for the outdoors and we're thankful it's something we enjoy doing together. We love spending lazy summer days at the lake on our boat with family and friends.

As a Realtor, Lora enjoys meeting new clients and helping find the home of their dreams. Jeff is a machinist and specializes in precision metal work. We love to tackle little projects around the house from remodeling plans to building the occasional furniture piece. Usually the furniture piece is Lora's idea and Jeff brings it to life!

Our faith is a huge part of our lives and we are active in our local church. Lora is a greeter and an integral part of the church Christmas program and Jeff is an usher and member of the security team. In the past we have served as youth leaders and Sunday school teachers.

We have dreamed of being parents for a long time and while we don't understand the twists and turns our journey has taken, we are sure of the fact we are exactly where God wants us to be: on the journey of adoption.

about jeff



Jeff doing some body work on the hot rod

Jeff is one of the kindest people I know. He is a man of his word and a man of integrity who doesn't waiver with circumstances. His calm personality has been my rock through our relationship and I know he always has my back and our family's best interest at heart. He is a provider and protector and always puts others needs above his own. His selflessness spills over to our family and friends as he is always the first to volunteer to help someone no matter what the need. His gentle strength is one of the things I most admire about him.

Jeff is very talented and can build or make just about anything. He loves being outdoors and working with his hands. Some of his favorite things to do are boating, fishing and working on his Jeep or beloved hot rod. Jeff and his dad worked on cars together when he was a kid and I can't wait to see him share the things he loves with our children. Seeing Jeff interact with our nieces and nephews lets me see how great of a father he will be. Our nephews especially adore their Uncle Jeff and he's been teaching them how to fish this summer!

about lora

Lora and sister at the Color Run 5k

Loyal is probably the first word anyone would use to describe my wife. She is a peacemaker and can bring calm into most any situation. She is passionate about life, selfless in her relationships and a natural leader. She is outgoing, loves to laugh and is one of the best storytellers I know! Yet she's also a great listener, it's not unusual for friends to reach out to her for advice or just to listen to what problems they might be dealing with.

Lora is very active and enjoys a challenge. She loves playing co-ed softball with a team of longtime friends, running local 5k's through the summer and loves her gym and the friends she's made there. Our nieces and nephews love her and when our oldest niece hears of a concert she wants to go to, Aunt Lora is the first person she texts! She makes an effort to have a special relationship with each of them and they love her for it. I know Lora is looking forward to sharing these things with our child – teaching them how to field ground balls and maybe running a 5k with a stroller!

some of our favorite things

	lora	jeff
Favorite Movie	Hope Floats	Goonies
Favorite TV show	This Is Us	NCIS
Favorite singer/ artist	Amos Lee	Brothers Osborne
Favorite season	Summer	Spring
Favorite dessert	Cheesecake	Chocolate & peanut butter shake
Favorite holiday	Christmas	Thanksgiving

Weekend trip to Tennessee

things we love!

Spending the day on the boat
Outdoor concerts
Bike rides
Our two dogs
Cheering on our favorite teams
Weekend camping trips
Traveling
Mexican food

Hanging out with the bears in Alaska

Top: Our niece's soccer game
Bottom: Boating with the nephews

our home

Dozer cooling off in the pool

Our old girl Shelby

We are thankful for the small town community we live in. The local park, community pool, library and bike trail are just minutes from our home and there is a farmers market on Saturdays through the summer. Family movie nights at the local park and holiday parades are always big events. Our community also has great children's sports programs as well as opportunities in children's theater and music programs. We live close to our schools and there are several private school options as well.

We live in a traditional ranch style home with a basement situated on just under an acre of land. The house has an open floor plan allowing us to entertain family and friends and plenty of room for the kids to run. We love spending time outside on the deck and grilling out for dinner. Our neighbors have several acres and horses and we love seeing them every morning, they're the best kind of neighbors! We have two sweet dogs we adore, Shelby is 13 and Dozer is 6. Both dogs are lab mixes but look nothing alike! We look forward to enjoying our home and community with our son or daughter.

our family & friends

Jeff grew up in a small neighborhood and lived on the same street as his grandparents and an aunt & uncle. Summers consisted of bike rides and endless hours playing with his younger sister and brother, cousins and neighborhood kids. As they got older they traded bicycles for dirt bikes and ATV's and loved riding together. Jeff's family is an advocate for adoption and his younger brother, as well as two cousins, were adopted. They are a close group and see each other frequently with the extended family still getting together for holiday dinners in the family home which his grandpa built back in the 40's. At our most recent camping trip there were over 60 family members who came for the cookout that weekend!

Lora grew up with an older brother and younger sister and loved being outside, backyard baseball games with the neighborhood kids were a regular occurrence through the summer. Lora's parents just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and they enjoy being a close family. Lunch together on Sunday afternoon is a standing invitation for whoever can make it. We see each other frequently and seem to have a constant group text message going to keep in touch. One of our favorite traditions is on Christmas morning when Dad reads the Christmas story from Luke 2 as we all sit around the tree. Even as adults we cherish this tradition and cannot wait to have our son or daughter as a part of it.

We are blessed all of our family live in the area. Lora's parents live about a mile away and Jeff's parents are only 15 minutes from us. Jeff's grandma and all of our siblings still live in the area which allows us to spend a lot of time with our nieces and nephews. From band concerts and baseball games to picking them up for a special night out with us, we love spending time with them and thankful they enjoy spending time with us! Holiday weekends through the summer we spend camping with our family and look forward to those weekend getaways together.

Our families and friends are so excited we are adding to our family through adoption! They can't wait to add another grandchild/ niece or nephew into the mix. Our nephews (4&6) were so excited when my sister told them we were adopting they called us asking us a million questions and how excited they were to have another cousin!

Jeff and his mom camping

Visiting with grandpa

Jeff and his grandma

Our crazy nephews

Lora and niece at a concert

Dad and the girls

Weekend at the lake with friends

Our youngest nephew

Jeff and his siblings

Memorial day camping trip

Movie and ice cream night

Jeff and dad with Paula Deen

Some gym buddies

Easter Sunday morning

Christmas at Lora's parents

Christmas festival with friends

dear friend,

We are honored you have taken the time to read our story and about our lives.

Why Adoption?

We met our senior year of high school through mutual friends and dated for several years. We were married in 2003 and waited a few years before trying to start our family. Things didn't happen as quickly as we expected and after a couple years found ourselves in the middle of infertility treatments. After multiple miscarriages we took a step back from treatments and over time we saw what we desired wasn't so much to be pregnant, it was to be parents. Adoption stirred in our hearts for quite some time and we are convinced this is the plan God had for us all along.

We were both raised in Christian homes and our faith is very important to us. Our families are close and we are thankful for their support on this journey as well. Jeff's family is a huge advocate of adoption and his younger brother was adopted as a toddler. We are open to a child of any race as our families are diverse and multicultural.

We have successful careers in real estate and manufacturing we truly enjoy. Lora has been a Realtor since 2004 and Jeff has been employed as a machinist for over 17 years. These professions provide a very stable income for our family.

There are many things we are looking forward to about being parents: our first trip to the beach with our son or daughter and building sandcastles; teaching them how to ride a bike; family camping trips; Saturdays at the baseball fields. Everyday life with a child is what we can't wait to experience as parents.

Know we are praying during this time – for you, for this baby and for every decision being made. We know God will give direction, peace and comfort to all of us.

Sincerely –

Jeff & Lora

Exploring Mayan ruins in Tulum

Cave snorkeling in Mexico

Cold kayaking trip in Alaska

Aquarium and dinner in Florida