Matthew & Jennifer

About Us

We are one of those success stories you hear about on dating website commercials. We met on Match.com five years ago, and Jennifer knew almost immediately that Matthew was the one. Still, it was several weeks and long nightly emails before we ever met in person. Three months after finally meeting each other and starting to date, we got engaged! Jennifer then followed Matthew across the country to live. Matthew's job took us to five states in three years, but we have finally landed and have made a house our home.

We can be outgoing and adventurous. Ziplining, bowling, mini-golf, white water rafting, skydiving (that was a one-time adventure!), canoeing, hiking and snowshoeing have filled our past adventures together. But they also like a good night in- watching their favorite television shows and movies, playing scrabble, putting in one puzzle piece at a time, and playing with their two dogs, Bella and Whale. And we can't forget about all the family dinners, activities and vacations, which are always fun and exciting highlights of our life.

Jennifer on

Matthew

Matthew is incredible. He is kind, caring, genuine, self-sacrificing, funny, smart, and the best husband I could have ever asked for. He selflessly worked long hours six days a week to put me through my Masters' program, he takes me painting because he knows I love it, he lets me vent about a hard day at work. Matthew is not afraid to cry when his favorite teams win, or show affection in public. He can make friends with anyone. He is in many ways still a child at heart, with his love of all things Disney and Charlie Brown, and his excitement for spending time with family and decorating like crazy over the holidays. He loves to play games with the children of our friends, and I know that he will be the most wonderful father to a child.

Matthew on

Jennifer

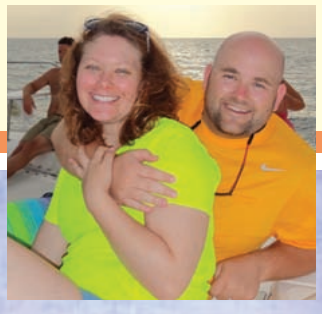
Jennifer is my best friend. For the past five years, she has been by my side, always offering a warm embrace in low times and a celebratory kiss in good times. She has an adventurous soul and always wanting to try new experiences, from unique cuisine to horseback riding thru Civil War battle fields. She is also incredibly creative, which is evident from the sewing and painting projects that adorn our house. I am so blessed to have her strength and resolve in my life. She delayed starting her career as a teacher to move around the country with me and my previous job. No matter where we were living, Jennifer was always able to make our house a home, which we she continues to do now that we are settled. Most importantly, Jennifer was meant to be a mom. She is wonderful with children of all ages, and may even like reading kid's books more than the children! But the thing that shows me the most that Jennifer would be a good mother is the look in her eyes when holding a child. There is genuine love in those eyes with children not related to us. I cannot wait to see her eyes when we can call a child our own.

Our Home

We recently purchased our first house, a beautiful 2-story, 4-bedroom home in a quiet neighborhood. With only one bedroom occupied, we have room to grow as a family, as well as spare rooms for games and activities. Flowers adorn the front and back yards, adding splashes of color throughout the property, and we recently planted our first garden, with hopes of a bountiful summer and fall. We also have a large, completely enclosed backyard, with plenty of grass to toss a baseball or kick a soccer ball. We also both catching ourselves looking out the back windows and imagining a playset set up for our child's enjoyment. Our community has been developed for 30 years, so large trees line the roads and sidewalks, providing shade in the summer and beautiful autumn colors in the fall. It is not unusual to see a stroller rolling down the sidewalk, or a group of kids riding bicycles to their next adventure.

One of the main factors we took into consideration when purchasing our home was the school district our future children would attend. Our school district ranks in the top 3 districts in our city and boasts almost a perfect graduation rate. Our children will have the opportunity to participate in numerous school activities or sports as well as receive a great education in hopes of preparing them for their future.

We are blessed to have many amenities and attractions close to our home. We are located within walking distance or short car ride to several parks in the area, which offer wooded bike trails, baseball and soccer fields, elaborate jungle gyms and lakes to do a little fishing. We are also fortunate to have multiple shopping centers, movie theaters, and restaurants within a mile of our home. Finally, several hospital systems are within a 5-10 minute drive of our house, including one of the best pediatric hospitals in the country. On the weekends, farmer's markets, sporting events, zoos, art and history museums and a variety of parks are all within a short drive into the city. With safety, access to amenities and the opportunity for a well-rounded education available to us, we could not have asked for a better home to live and start a family in. We are beyond excited to share this home and city with our future children.



About Jennifer:

Occupation: Elementary Teacher
Education: Master's in Education
Favorite Color: Purple
Favorite TV/Movie: Teachers/My Big Fat Greek Wedding
Favorite Food: Sushi
Favorite Vacation: Seeing the Northern Lights in Iceland
Favorite Holiday: Christmas
Favorite Cartoon – Hey Arnold!
Favorite Childhood Memory: My first banana split with my Dad
Hobbies: Reading, painting, traveling, bowling

About Matthew:

Occupation: High School Engineering Teacher
Education: Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering
Favorite Color: Orange
Favorite TV/Movie: The Big Bang Theory
Favorite Food: Mom's Meatloaf
Favorite Vacation: Disney Cruise to the Bahamas
Favorite Holiday: Christmas
Favorite Cartoon – Anything Mickey Mouse
Favorite Childhood Memory: Playing catch with my Dad
Hobbies: Reading, traveling and snow skiing

Our Family & Friends

Here we are with Bella and Whale

Surprising Jennifer's Mom for Christmas in Las Vegas

We are both very blessed to have loving and supportive families. It all starts with our two fur-babies. Whale, a 7 year old beagle/retriever mix and Bella, our Lhasa Apso, show us what true unconditional love is, always there to cheer us up after a "ruff" day or humoring us when we are feeling goofy. Both dogs were rescued at an early age, Whale by Mathew and Bella by Jen, and met each other on our second date. They have been inseparable ever since. We love going on walks in the parks, rolling in the backyard grass, and going on family road trips to new locales with our girls. They are both looking forward to having a human baby in the house to snuggle, protect and love, no questions asked.

Matthew's parents live a few miles down the road and are always over at the house helping us with our projects. Mathew's father is a high school teacher and his mother is an orthopedic surgeon, working for the local university's medical school. They are two of the most active people we know and they are ready to have a grandchild to coach, travel to, and spoil. Matthew's sister currently lives on the West Coast and works as a physical therapist. Even though we may only see her a few times a year, we stay in touch via texts and phone calls, so when we do meet up, it's like we haven't missed a beat. Matthew's extended family live around Ohio and family reunions and dinners are always exciting to go to!

Jennifer's parents live on the West Coast, still in her home town, where we met. Her mother is a hospital director at one of that city's hospitals; while her father owns an electronic recycling business. Jennifer's sister, Meghan, is a recent college graduate and is a marketing temp at a social media site. Jennifer's brother is the only other family member outside of Jen's home state; he is currently working as a pilot on the East Coast. Jennifer's siblings are excited to be the "cool" aunt and uncle to our children, while her parents are equally thrilled for grandchildren. There are also many cousins/aunts/uncles/grandparents residing in her home state, so it is always a big family reunion when Jennifer comes home to visit.

We also have a loving and supportive group of friends and coworkers who are fully behind us in our adoption adventure. We look forward to joining Mommy and/or Daddy groups, as well as meeting with other adoption families.

Shain family with Rocky in Philadelphia

Matthew with his sister

Kickball Champs

Hahn Family Snowshoing in Utah

Dear Birth Parent

From the moment we met, we knew we were right for each other immediately. We learned very early on that we had common interests and goals for our lives, and couldn't imagine spending our lives with anyone else. Over the past five years, we have shared many experiences, grown stronger as a couple and made an almost perfect life together. There is just this one adventure that we have yet to partake in: the adventure of being parents. Even before getting married, we both knew we wanted to be parents, and that the other would make a great Mommy or Daddy. Physically becoming parents isn't in the deck for us, though.

Yet if Jennifer's own life has taught her anything, it is that a biological connection is not necessary to make a parent. Her step-father has always been "Dad". He took her to dance class, coached in swimming, ordered her her first banana split, and walked Jennifer down the aisle. Whether he shares her genetics has never been the point. He has always loved Jennifer as his own.

So we both know that this love is possible for us, as well. We also know that both of our families will love this child as their own too, and never as "adopted". Love doesn't need any special vocabulary to describe it. Love is love. And we have so much love to give to your son or daughter. Whether we share the same ethnicity of come from completely different cultures does not matter to us and will not change how we feel about your child. We will embrace and celebrate these differences, and make sure as your child gets older, he/she understands and remembers their culture and history.

We feel we are uniquely qualified to be parents. Jennifer is a fourth grade English and Social Studies teacher, with 6+ years of teaching and working with children of all ages and abilities. She has also babysit for numerous families, taught swim lessons for countless summers, and tutored reading and writing on the side. Matthew is an engineer and teacher, with a love of sports, all things Disney, and an eagerness to build the best pillow fort! Matthew cannot wait to coach Little League baseball or softball, cheer on the sidelines as our child makes their first goal or participate in their first recital. We are ready to share our lives with a child, to be hands on and encouraging in whatever interests they take on, and to love them unconditionally. Thank you again for considering us as adoptive parents for your child a for letting us share a glimpse of our life with you.

Matthew & Jennifer

What does adoption mean to me?

Jennifer: Simply put, adoption means that I can be a mother to a child I am otherwise never able to have. It means having the ability to love a child as my own and watching them grow into a wonderful person.

Matthew: When I hear the word "adoption", the first thing that comes to mind is opportunity. Opportunity to grow our family by accepting a wonderful gift from another person. Opportunity to call a child my own, to love them unconditionally and share our lives with.

Why do I choose adoption?

Jennifer: I decided that adoption was the natural choice for me after having fertility issues. My husband is unable to father children and I had contradictory test results when we considered IVF, which was a procedure I already wasn't comfortable with. I know I want children and I believe adoption is the best way for us to start our family.

Matthew: For me, adoption was an easy and logical choice after finding out I was unable to have children. I have several friends who were adopted and watching them interact with their family, one would never know they were adopted. They are part of happy and loving families, and I know Jennifer and I will share the same love and affection with our future child.