



*Chad and Jennifer*

Once upon a time . . .





# Dear Birth Family,

We are humbled by your gracious, loving decision to choose adoption for your baby, and we want to thank you for considering our family for your child.

Our names are Chad and Jennifer. Chad is a soldier and Jennifer is a teacher. We are best friends and consider ourselves amazingly blessed that we really are each other's favorite people in the world. Our friendship fills our house with happiness and laughter. We love being silly, with each other and with Chad's two older sons when they visit.

Their names are Nathan and Trenton. They live in Oklahoma, but are close enough they visit during school breaks and long weekends throughout the year. We spend our summers enjoying family trips, barbecues and swimming in the pool.

We live in a cozy three bedroom home on a cul-de-sac in Texas. The neighborhood is friendly, full of children of all ages and close to good schools. Our yard has plenty of running room for children and our puppy, Maggie. She is very loving and so sweet.

Due to a medical condition, Jennifer was not able to have children biologically, so we always knew adoption was how we would add to our family and are very excited to meet the new little person who will become part of our family. Both of us are the type of people who just love children and we can't wait to share all that love with a child. Nathan and Trenton are also excited about being big brothers. They can't wait to have a little sister or brother to play with.



Our family strongly believes that God has a plan for our lives. He has brought us together and will bring to us the child we are meant to care for. We think it is important to share our faith in a loving God with our children and the peace and joy a relationship with Him brings.

In addition to our faith, we look forward to sharing a love of learning whether it is from storybooks or the woods by the lake. We are active people who enjoy the outdoors in many different ways.

We have so many things we want you to know about our family that it's hard to fit it all in this letter, so we hope the next few pages can show you who we are. Thank you again for making the bravest, most selfless decision anyone could make, and choosing to share your child with a family just waiting to know the joy of raising a child together..

Once upon a time . . .

There was a man named Chad. He grew up in a small rural town in Illinois with his mom and dad. His dad was a teacher at the local high school. He has one younger sister.



Chad, Trenton and Nathan at a nearby pond

He spent his childhood exploring nature. He learned to love the environment and became an avid hunter and fisherman. Friends and family know he is the one to pick up critters to try to understand all types of living creatures.

During his senior year of high school, Chad decided



Starfish on our honeymoon in Jamaica

that his path was to serve our country in the military. While his job is sometimes demanding, he can't imagine doing anything else. He loves knowing that what he does makes a difference. He has been a soldier for twelve years and plans on finishing a full career in the army.



He has been stationed in Texas for several years.

Chad in Iraq with local children he befriended on his daily missions.

And not too far away . . .

Was Jennifer, who grew up in the suburbs outside of Chicago, Illinois. Jennifer grew up playing outside, riding bikes with friends and walking to the nearby playground. Jennifer's parents were loving and attentive. Jennifer has two younger sisters with whom she is very close.

As a little girl reading and drawing were her favorite things. She was often caught with her nose buried in a book walking to school.

After high school, Jennifer went to



Jen's childhood home



Jen with her good friend Lisa.

college. Her whole life she had been playing school, tutoring classmates and creating imaginative games. Teaching was a natural choice.

Jennifer's first job after graduating was at the high school where Chad's father taught. She has been teaching ever since, fifteen years. She loves teaching. Her biggest joy comes from

watching children learn and grow to be

the best people they can be. She plans on teaching for many years.

In Texas, far away from home for the first time, Jennifer was blessed to make some great friends at her new high school. They started a running club together and began entering races. Eventually, Jennifer entered



Jennifer with her medal at the finish line.

And then . . .

They met. Chad was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, but came home to visit his family in Illinois, where Jennifer was now living and teaching. They met through mutual friends and spent the whole night talking.



A few weeks after we met, at a concert. It rained. Everyone around them could see it too.

During a deployment to Iraq, Chad planned a big surprise for Jennifer when he came home for his two weeks of leave.

He had the local sheriff pull her over after school in a pretend traffic stop. With the T.V. cameras rolling, Chad surprised her first by being home, then by asking her the big question.



They didn't know if a long distance relationship would work, but they just kept talking on the phone, night after night. Soon, they knew this

was



It was like fairy tale. Jennifer was so surprised, but that didn't stop her from saying yes. All of her friends from school and his family were surrounding them. It was the start of the rest of their lives together.

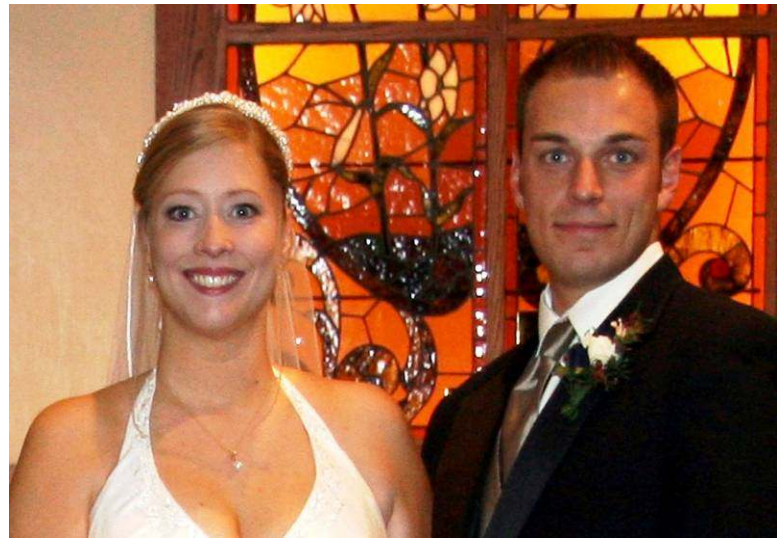
Then . . .

After two years of dating, they were married. Chad's and Jennifer's theme was that their lives were two paths becoming one journey for a lifetime.



Our unity candle

And that the wedding was just a day, but a marriage was a lifetime of love and commitment -



Chad and Jennifer on their wedding day.

to each other,



Chad, Nathan and Trenton at the wedding.

to Nathan and Trenton,

And

to the family they were creating together.

And they lived happily . . .

While our story certainly isn't over, we do know it will be happy. We both try to always look on the bright side no matter what life throws at us because the obstacles in our way are just the hills God is teaching us to climb.



Our honeymoon in Jamaica



Chad with his mom, Linda

Our family is our first priority in everything we do.

As a teacher, I am lucky enough to be home almost one day for every one I work.

Our extended family is very important to us as well. Even though we often live far away, we visit frequently, call

often, and do our best to have the closest relationship we can with all of our parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

often, and do our best to have the clos-



Jennifer with niece Meredith.

## Our home . . .



is on a small cul-de-sac in a quiet neighborhood, where children play up and down the street.

We spend a lot of time outside in the beautiful Texas weather, sprucing up our garden or enjoying the sunset on the

back patio Chad built with help from his dad, who lives in south Texas and visits often.



Chad, Nathan, Trenton and Grandpa

Spending quality time together is very im-

portant to us, so we make a point to sit down to dinner together every night and

look forward to sharing family traditions with a child.

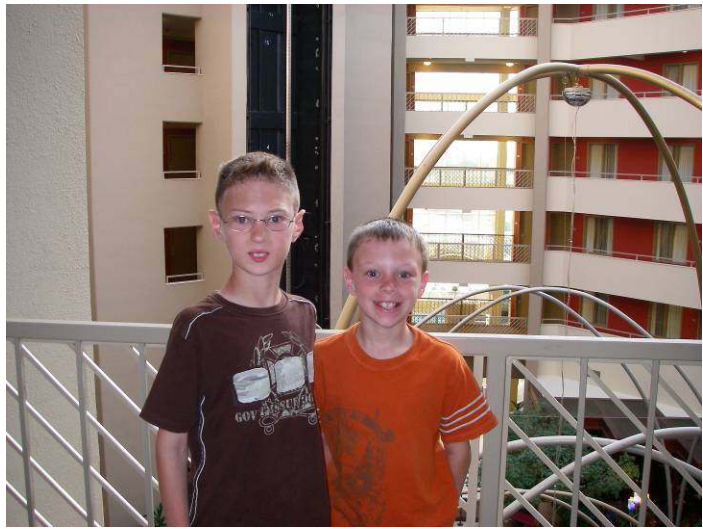
We also like to take our puppy Maggie for walks or jogs together. She loves to run and plays well with the boys. Trenton will laugh and laugh while he plays with her.



The big brothers . . .

Trenton is eleven and will be twelve in July. He is very sweet and loving, especially with younger children. He loves to play in the backyard with his tractors and catching grasshoppers. He takes after his daddy like that.

Nathan is ten and will be eleven come June. Nathan is very energetic and loves to read. We encourage him to do



Trenton and Nathan in Dallas on weekend getaway

his best in school so he can grow up to be whatever he wants to be.

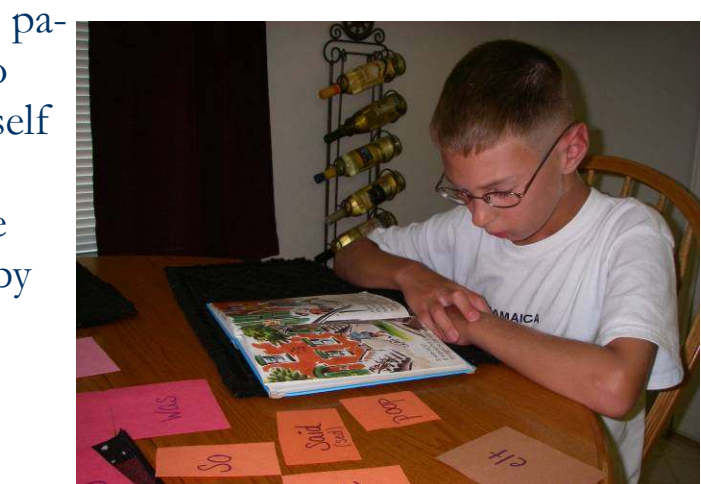
We love spending time with them. Museums, parks and zoos are favorite family activities. The boys loved the Chicago museums last summer.

Jennifer is very close to both boys and loves them just like they were her sons. She spent last summer

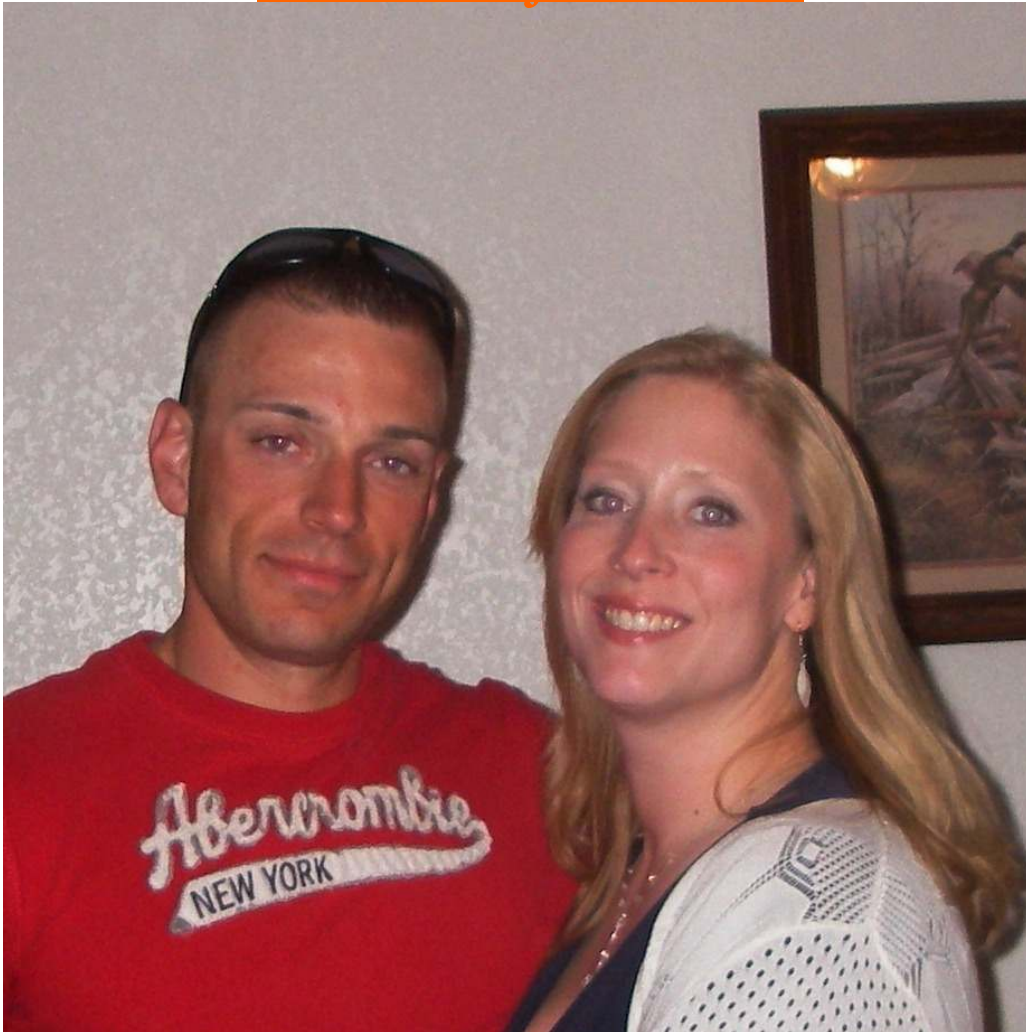


Chad explaining he used to build these bins at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

patiently helping Trenton learn to read. He was so proud of himself when he could read the whole book by himself. Both boys are very excited about having a baby sister or brother soon and will make great big brothers!



## CHAD and JENNIFER



We feel like we are very ready to add a child into our family. With the nearly six years we have been together and the maturity necessary to maintain a deep, loving marriage in the military life, we truly feel we can provide a baby with a stable, supportive, caring home and give he or she the room to grow into a happy, healthy person with roots in our family and wings to fly into the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read about us, Chad and Jennifer, and considering our family for your baby. If you choose us for your child, please know that he/she will always know how much you loved him/her and the wonderful gift you gave to our family. Should you wish to receive pictures or letters, we would be happy to share them with you on a regular basis. Bless you for the courageous decision you have made to share the greatest gift of all.