

Melissa and John



Dear Birth Parents,

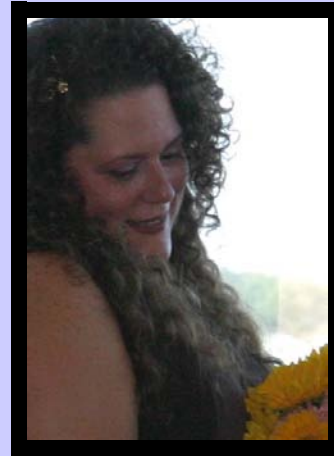
Hello, our names are Melissa and John. First we would like to say Thank You for taking the time to learn more about us.

We would like to begin by stating that we are both ecstatic regarding the prospect of becoming parents someday soon. This has been a lifelong dream of ours and for it to come into fruition would truly be a blessed miracle. We want to give a happy home, an extended family, and love to your child.

We have both been through a great deal of disappointment and hurt thus far in trying to have a child. Melissa has endured years of fertility treatments and had a few unfortunate miscarriages. We went through a great deal of pain during this time, but always knew things would work out eventually. Staying positive and maintaining a great sense of humor has helped us through this tough time.

We realize that raising a child is quite challenging. We assure you, we have the intellectual capacity, nurturing sensibility, compassion, patience and love to help us through any child rearing issues that may arise. Due to our ability to communicate with one another, we have an extremely strong bond. We have each other to turn to for support, love, and guidance; we also have an excellent support system consisting of many family members and friends. We realize we have a great deal to be thankful for, especially each other. However, there is a void in our lives due to the absence of a child. We would love to have a family.

We hope the following pages will give you some insight regarding who we are, who our family (support system) is and a glimpse into our life as it actually is.



About Us

John and Melissa were introduced by mutual friends and decided later to meet at a local coffee shop to talk and get to know each other. It was love at first sight and they have been happily married ever since.



John

John was born in Jersey City, NJ and grew up in a small town at the Jersey Shore. After High School, he served in the U.S. Coast Guard and later the U.S. Navy. Upon leaving the military, John had a career working outdoors doing such things as a park ranger and was captain of an oil spill cleanup vessel. Since then he moved to the technology world as a Network Administrator and is currently working for a major telephone company as a Technical Support Technician.

When not working, John enjoys spending time with the family, reading, working around the house, getting in the car with Melissa and going on adventures, traveling, riding his bike, eating ice cream (Ben and Jerry's Peanut Butter Cup) and walking on the boardwalk.



Melissa



A large coil pot Melissa made. She also works on the Potter's Wheel; she loves CLAY!

Melissa was born in Northern New Jersey and raised at the Central Jersey Shore. Melissa always loved art and decided to pursue a better understanding of art after high school.

Melissa received her BFA from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA and her MFA from The University of Washington, in Seattle. Ceramics and Sculpture were her main concentration and continue to be.

Melissa currently is a High School Art Teacher and has been at the same school for the past 11 years. She is also a working artist/ceramicist and has a studio in the basement of their home.

When not working in her studio she loves to go to the beach, putter in her flower garden(s), spend time with family and friends, go to the movies, play with her dogs while singing songs that she made up about them, dance like crazy when no one's around, sing loud in her car and cook; meatballs are her specialty...

Fun Facts about Melissa and John

Melissa

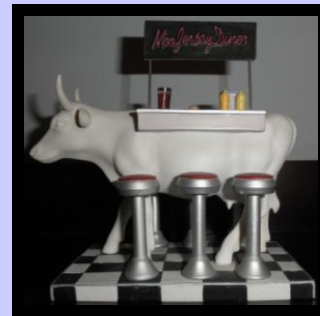
- Favorite Movie: "Slum Dog Millionaire"
- Favorite T.V. Show: Project Runway
- Favorite Musician: Neil Young
- Favorite Past-Time: Make art
- Favorite Family Activity: Go to the beach
- Favorite City: Manhattan and Seattle
- Favorite Book: Any "Harry Potter" book
- Favorite color: Purple
- Favorite Childhood Memory: Any time spent with my Grandmother
- Favorite Sport: Football
- Collections: Vintage Cookie Jars

John

- "Major League"
- House
- Louis Armstrong
- Read
- Go to the Beach
- Alexandria, VA
- "Lucky You"
By Carl Hiaasen
- Red
- Any time spent with my Father
- Baseball
- Ceramic Cows



Two of Melissa's cookie jars in her collection.



"Moo Jersey Diner"

Maggie and George

Melissa and John can't leave out these two members of their family; they have two English Bulldogs, *George*, who Melissa and John adopted from an animal rescue and *Maggie*, who they have had since she was a ten week old puppy. They are extremely friendly, docile and sweet! They are awesome with children too...



Maggie



George



Melissa and Maggie going for a walk to the beach



John and George

Our Family

Our family is extremely excited about welcoming a new baby into the family and is very supportive of our decision to adopt. We cannot begin to describe how much this means to them because they know how much it means to us.

We have a very large extended family that plays an important role in our lives. We enjoy spending time with each other and frequently get together for "soup parties", outings to jazz concerts, the movies, the beach and Sunday dinner at Moms. Christmas is always the best time of year, because our entire family spends time together beginning with a Christmas Eve dinner at our house; everyone helps with the cooking and baking. Let the festivities begin!!!

John's sister and her family live close by. His brother lives in Northern NJ. John's Mom and Step-Dad also live nearby.



John's brother, his sister and John at their favorite Restaurant "The Pita House" in Alexandria, VA.



John's sister, her husband and their son



John's Mom and Step-Dad

Melissa has a brother who lives in Connecticut with his wife and their children.



Melissa's brother, his wife and their children camping



Melissa and John's Nephew and Niece

Melissa's Mom lives close by and her Dad lives in Northern NJ.



Melissa's Mom



Melissa's Dad

Our Home and Neighborhood

We live in a small town on the New Jersey Coast where we wake up each morning grateful for the beautiful sights and sounds of the seashore. Our town, of 1600 residents, is very safe and child friendly. There is an elementary school, library, baseball field, playgrounds, various places of worship and a riverside boardwalk all within a few minutes walking distance from our house.

We own a three bedroom house on a large fenced in lot. Your child will have his or her own room.



"Our Home"



Our Dining Room where many gatherings occur



Our Family Room



Around the corner and one block away from our house



Thank you so much for reading our letter and considering our family for your baby. We are sure you can probably tell how excited we are; words simply can't describe how we feel. If you choose us to be the adoptive family for your child, please know that we will love him/her unconditionally and forever. Your child will always know how much of a sacrifice you made and what a miracle we received. If you wish to receive pictures, progress reports or letters over the years, we would be honored to share our gift with you.

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