

Mathew and Jessica

Dear birthparent(s),

We admire your strength and courage to consider adoption as you decide what is best for your baby.

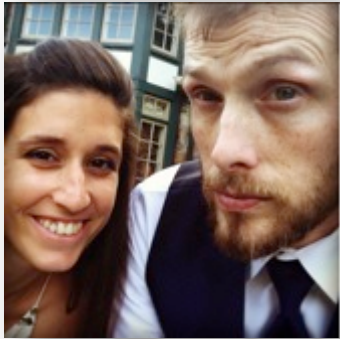
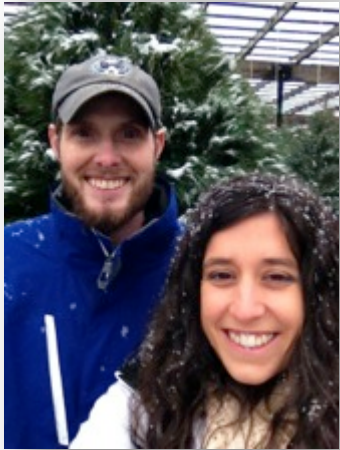
It is our hope that we are able to paint you a picture of what life would be like for your child in our home. Thank you for considering us and know that you are in our prayers.



Our marriage is built on our love for God and He is the center of our relationship. Daily we strive to show each other love and respect in our words and actions. One of our strengths is our ability to talk through our disagreements without getting angry. We always try to give each other the benefit of the doubt. We love spending time with each other and laugh every day.

We often refer to ourselves as a team and we view life as an adventure we get to experience together. For us, having children will grow our team and the types of adventures we get to have.

Our story:



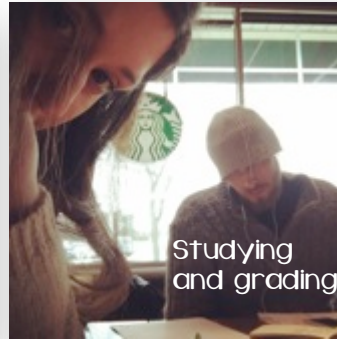
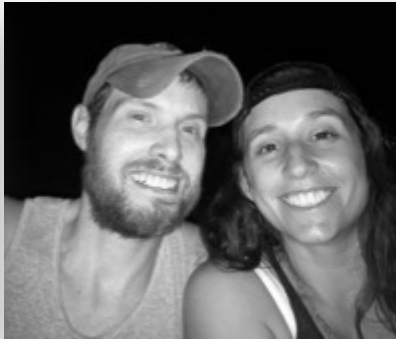
Jess: To tell our story, we need to go all the way back to high school. We both actually attended the same high school together and had homeroom together every day for four years. Mat was on the football team and I was a student senate nerd so, needless to say, we never hung out together. (I actually thought he was pretty cute, though.)

Mat: After high school I joined the Army and went into Airborne school. After my first jump out of an airplane, I felt sick so I went to the hospital. It was there I found out that I had Leukemia. After a year of treatment I was sent home to have a bone marrow transplant. As I was recovering from my transplant, my mom and I ended up living across the street from Jess and her family.

Jess: After high school I went to college at Miami University. After college I wasn't sure what to do so I moved back home. There I found out that the cute guy from my homeroom had moved in across the street. I actually had a dream that I would knock on his door and that we would fall in love and get married. One day I was complaining about being bored so my mom told me to see if Mat wanted to hang out. I wasn't sure about it so she dared me to do it. Being the competitive person that I am, I marched across the street and knocked on his door. We have been together ever since!

Mat: After beating Leukemia, I considered myself damaged goods. I prayed one night for God to bring me a girl who could see past the effects of my treatment. I asked for a girl that had a strong immune system, was good looking and could cook. Jess had all these things and about a week after I prayed, she just showed up at my front door. We both believe that God wanted us to be together.

Jess: I have always had it on my heart to adopt, even from a young age, so when Mat told me we probably wouldn't be able to have biological kids due to his cancer treatments, it didn't even phase me. We dated for a little over a year when he proposed. We were married a few months later and we have now been married almost 9 years.

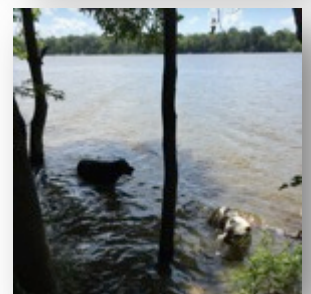


Hobbies and Interests

We are very involved at our church and we love using our house to practice hospitality. We lead a church family group and often have family group dinners around our dining room table. We often open our home for baby showers, bridal showers, and Christmas parties. Spending time with friends is a big part of our life, but some nights we just love to hang out by ourselves and order pizza and watch TV or movies. We love the Goldbergs, Harry Potter, The Walking Dead and Jimmy Fallon to name a few.

We are both jeep people and we each have our own jeep (Mat's is black and Jess has an orange one that fits her personality). We love to argue about who has the bigger, better jeep. We love taking the doors off in the summer and going on drives, especially to the river with our dogs. We also love coffee and hanging out at Starbucks and talking to people there. Mat can talk to anyone about anything so we know a lot of people at the different places we go.

Last summer we got to go on our first big vacation together, just the two of us. We went to NYC and then to the Dominican Republic. It was Mat's first time flying over the ocean. We got to hang out and read on the beach and practice our Spanish skills with the locals. In the future we hope to go on more vacations to the beach and other places. Since neither of us work in the summer we look forward to spending that time travelling as a family.



About Mat

Growing up I lived with my mom and my stepdad and three younger brothers. We have some crazy stories from our childhood that we retell every time we get together. We were always outside camping, riding 4-wheelers and dirt bikes and playing sports. I hope to share my experiences with my kids and encourage them to have their own. The Army retired me 9 years ago, but I stay active by working out every day. I am excited to be a stay at home dad.



Mat bought his niece a tiara

Eric church concert

Mat through Jess's eyes:

I cannot even begin to express how amazing my husband is. He is passionate, disciplined, and outgoing. He is supportive of my ambitions and is always extremely patient with me (I can be very stubborn!).

Despite all that he went through battling his cancer, he has a positive outlook and doesn't complain. He is able to use his experiences to comfort others who are hurting.

He makes me laugh on a daily basis. When I see the way he has fun and interacts with our nieces and nephews, I just know that he will be an amazing father!

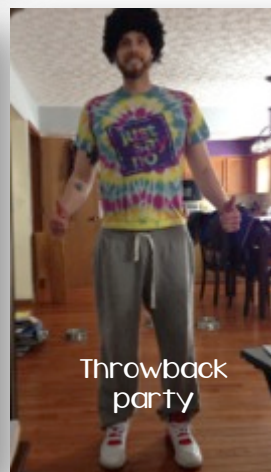


Being goofy

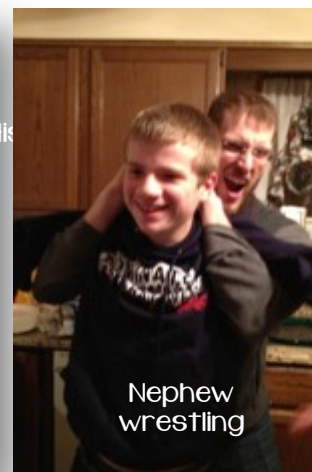


Mat

Mat's brothers



Throwback party



Nephew wrestling

Jess through Mat's eyes:

Words fall short when I try to describe my wife. She is my answered prayer, she is kind and loves unconditionally. She is able to bring the best out of me and the people that surround her. She has the unique talent of seeing and meeting needs in other people's lives.

She is kind of nerdy, but that is what makes her such a blast to be married to. Her unconditional love, passion & even her lovable nerdiness makes me excited to watch her be the great mother that I know she will be.



With a giraffe in Africa



Penguins in South Africa

About Jess

I grew up the oldest of 3 and I have a brother and sister who each have children. I have been a high school biology and environmental science teacher for 10 years now. I got my master's degree through a program that allowed me to study ecology in different countries like Namibia, South Africa, Belize and Mexico. I was able to feed a jaguar, pet a cheetah and swim with whale sharks. I have always been curious about how the world works and I look forward to sharing that passion with my children.



Sunrise hike in Mexico



pool day



Jeep ride

Our Home



Our climbing tree



Blake

Tommy



Our table for family dinners

We live in a large suburb in a house that has hardwood floors throughout. We have neutral gray walls with lots of colorful accessories including a pink rug in the dining room and giant prints of flowers from Jess's travels (She takes like 5000 pictures on every trip!).

There is a beautiful tree in our back yard that would be great for climbing. We have a fire pit that we love to use to roast marshmallows for S'moreos (s'mores made with Oreo cookies!).



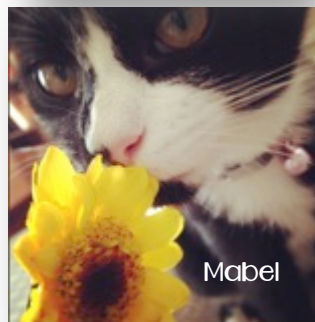
Malachi



The fire pit

Jess's parents live across the street and behind their house is a large pond with a bike path around it and a playground. It is a great neighborhood for families. The neighborhood schools are ranked as some of the best in the state.

We share our home with our 2 dogs and 2 cats. Tommy is a stubborn bulldog who likes to be involved with everything. Blake is a big softy who loves to roll over for belly-scratches. Malachi is the talk of the neighborhood because he loves to follow us on walks and say hi to everyone. Mabel is just a big cuddle bug.



Mabel



Mat's mom and sister



Jess's family



Mat's Dad, stepmom and sister

We will raise your child in a home where they will know they are believed in and loved. We hope to teach them to be a person of strong character, full of generosity and compassion for others. It is our desire that they will grow up to be confident in who they are and what they have to offer the world.

We are blessed to have a huge support system of friends and family who are excited about our adoption and will be there for us as we venture into parenthood.

We want you to know that your child will always know where they came from and the selfless choice that you made for them. We are more than happy to provide you with pictures and letters on a regular basis.

Thank you again for taking the time to learn more about us.