



MATT & JEFF



Dear Birthparents,

We are Jeff & Matt and we would love nothing more than to provide your child with a lifetime of love and support in our home. We have both wanted to be fathers for as long as either of us can remember and we believe that we would make fantastic dads!

We are grateful that you have made the loving and courageous decision to consider adoption.

We wanted to take a few minutes to introduce you to us and to the life that we presently share together, the life that we hope to share with your child.



Matt's college graduation

Matt is warm and genuine, with a playful and charming personality. He is curious and smart, always interested in learning about old and new things. His joy for life is infectious and he loves nothing more than to share his talents and experiences with his family and many friends.

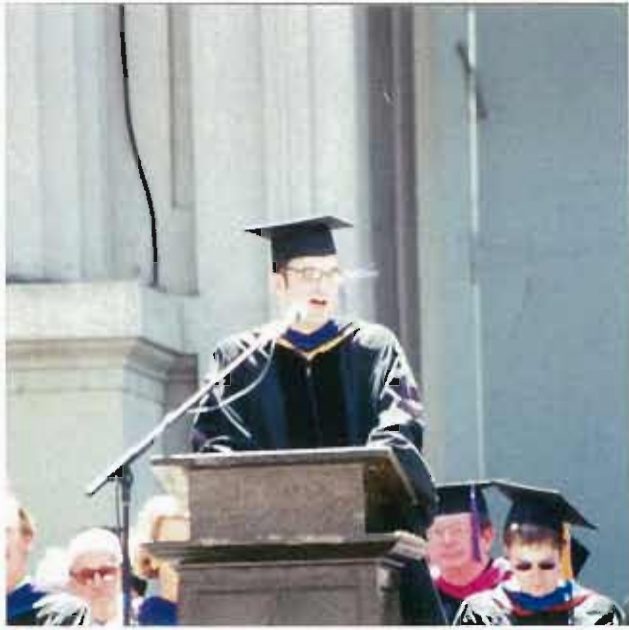
MATT

Matt is an architect who works on redevelopment projects in New York City parks. He rehabilitates historical buildings and renovates park land to make it usable and enjoyable for children and adults.



Matt & his dad on Cape Cod

JEFF

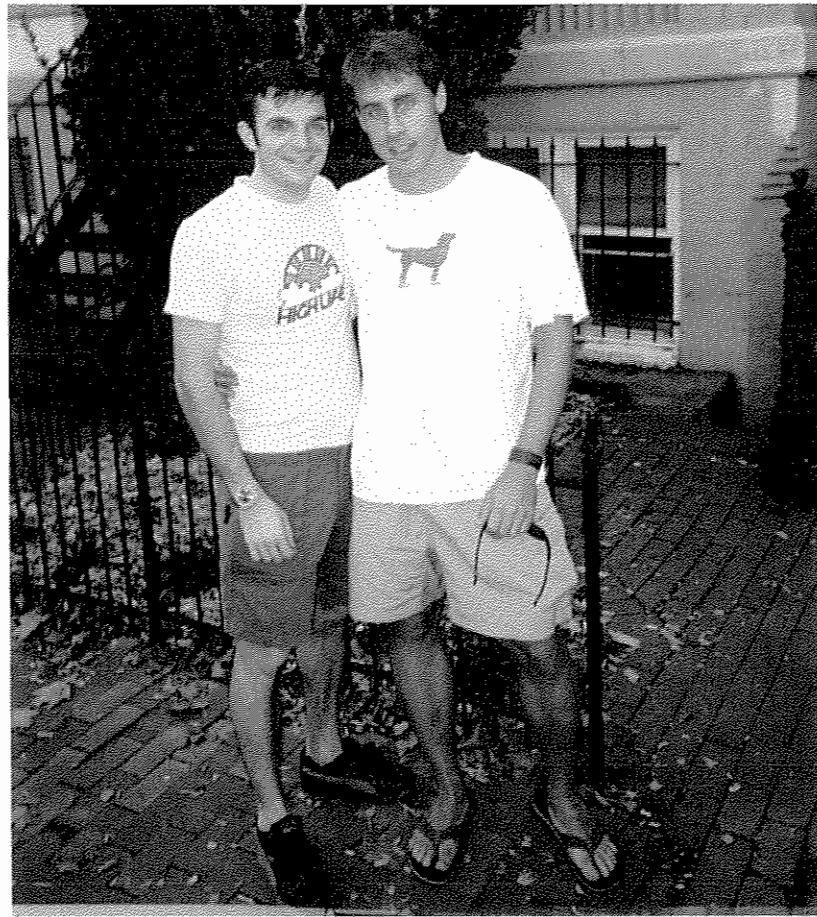


Jeff's law school graduation

Jeff is a kind and loving guy with a quick sense of humor. He is adventurous and willing to try anything once. He has a very close relationship with his family and a great group of friends.



Jeff's family at the Boston Marathon



After our first date!

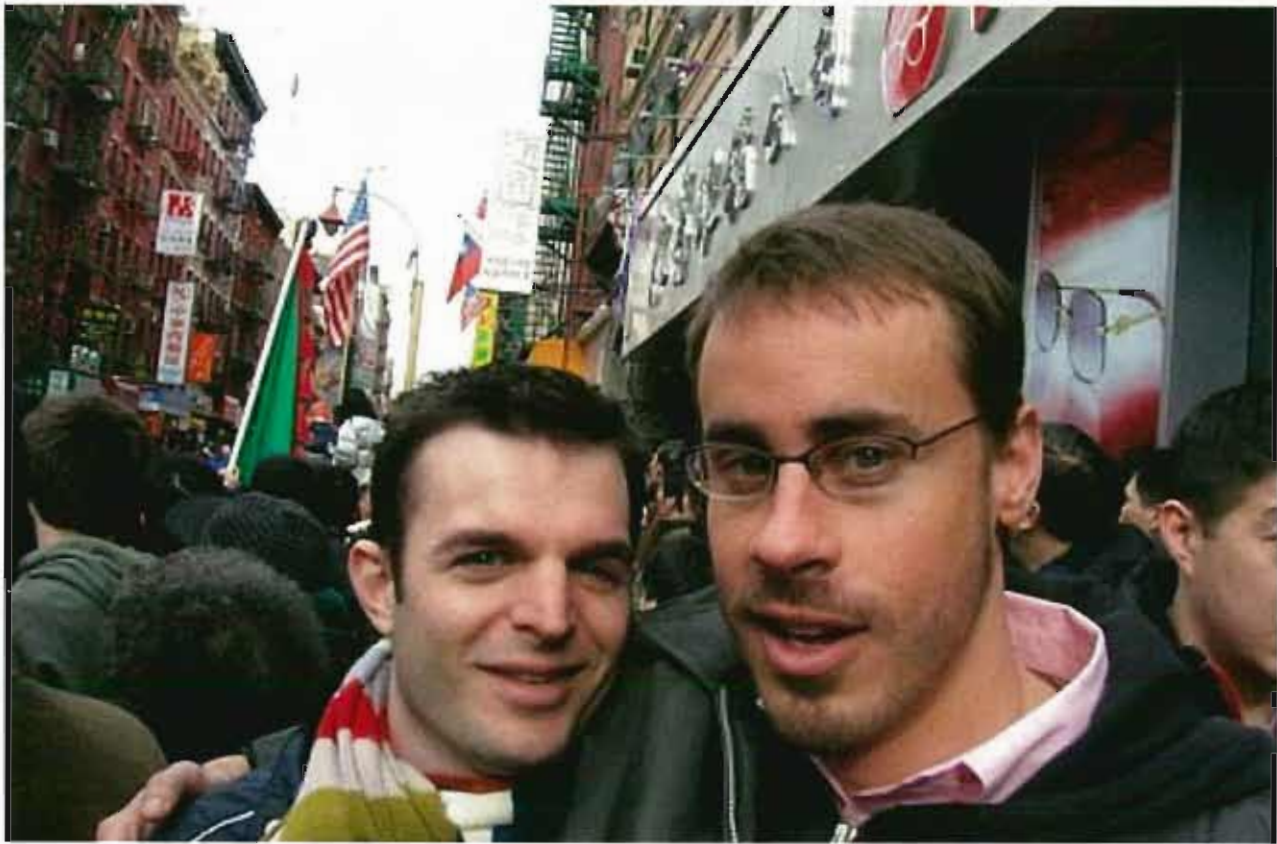
Our Relationship

We met eight years ago in Washington D.C. when we were in our 20's. It was Halloween and our friends invited us to a television-themed costume party. Matt dressed as “Freddy” from “Scooby Doo” and Jeff was “Larry” from “Three’s Company”. We hit it off at the party and started dating. We have been a couple ever since, enjoying our life together.



Four years ago, we held a civil union ceremony, attended by our friends and family, where we declared our love and lifelong commitment to one another.





At the Chinese New Year celebration in NYC.

Our relationship is strong because we work at it and are truly committed to one another. We are fun-loving and enjoy one another's sense of humor. We work well together, promoting each other's strengths and supporting one another's weaknesses. We certainly don't always agree, but we recognize the importance of having different points-of-view and we try hard to always communicate openly with one another. We will continue to make ourselves and our relationship better in order to be role models for your child.



At the top of Coit Tower in San Francisco



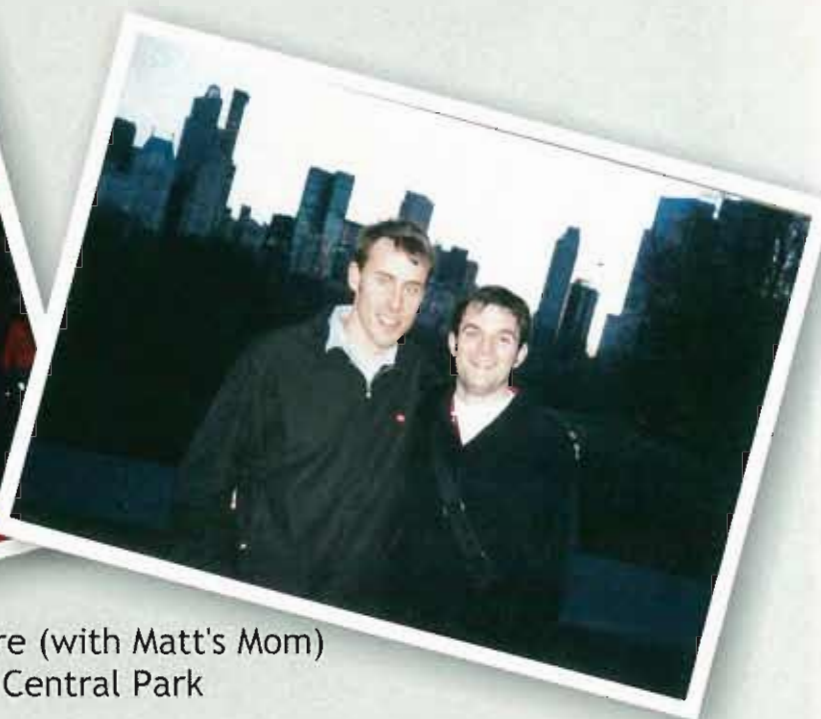
On a hike in the Berkshires



After a day at the beach on Block Island



Enjoying a candlelit dinner



In Times Square (with Matt's Mom)
and in Central Park

We have lived in New York City for the past six years. New York is a wonderful place to live and will be a great place to raise a child. We love living in a city that provides so many cultural opportunities and we intend to expose your child to these opportunities. We have many friends in New York who have become part of our extended family. These friends will be there to support us when a child comes into our lives.

Our neighborhood is very diverse and it would be a great place to raise a child of any race. We would consider ourselves lucky to be parents of any child, and would be happy to raise a child of a race different from ours. It is our intent, and we believe we have the network and resources, to raise your child with a strong understanding and appreciation of their heritage.



We moved into our current apartment this year. It is four floors up from the street, gets great sunlight, and has views across the rooftops. There is a large park three blocks away (middle photo) and many playgrounds nearby filled with children of all ages and races.

When we are lucky enough to adopt, we both plan to take parental leave from our jobs to spend time bonding with your child. We have many family members, especially our mothers, who have offered to come and assist us with childcare in the beginning. Once we return to work, we both plan to work a reduced schedule and then look into daycare or a childcare professional during the days we are working.



Jeff's family reunion



With Matt's cousins



Our Families

Jeff is originally from Ohio and his parents still live in the house in which he was raised. (middle photo) Jeff has a younger brother, Jason, who lives in Florida, and is a teacher in a charter school that caters to kids with learning and developmental disabilities. His parents have been married for over 35 years. They both come from large families, and so Jeff has over 20 aunts and uncles and 30 cousins!!

One of Jeff's cousins has adopted two children from Guatemala. We have learned a lot about adoption-specific issues from discussions with them and they will be great role models for your child too.



Matt was born and raised in Connecticut. His mom (pictured left along with Matt's brother) and dad were married for 41 years and spent their retirement living on Cape Cod. Sadly, Matt's dad passed away five years ago after battling cancer. Since then, Matt's mom has remarried.



Matt's older brother Chris is married and has three children with his wife Heidi. The three children are Mackenzie (8), Ashley (6) and Cody (2) (pictured left). They live in California. We adore spending time with the kids, and visit them as often as we can. We also talk to them on the telephone and Skype regularly. They can't wait for us to adopt a baby.



Both of our families are extremely loving and supportive of our decision to adopt a child. Jeff's parents are excited to be grandparents for the first time, and Matt's mom is looking forward to having a grandchild closer to home. Both of our mothers will be strong female role models for your child and they have provided us with positive parenting styles that we can imitate.



Matt and our nephew Mackenzie



With our families at our civil union



With Matt's brother in California



Celebrating Christmas with Matt's grandma



Our Friends

We are blessed with many wonderful and caring friends with whom we spend a lot of our free time. Our friends come from many different backgrounds, races and cultures and each of these people enrich our lives tremendously. Many of them are parents themselves, including parents of adopted children. They are role models for us and we know that they will be terrific role models for your child.



Enjoying dinner with our friend
Jason



Our friend Lucio is one of the
many friends who join us for our
annual holiday party



Five couples enjoying Matt's
birthday dinner in Vermont



Relaxing after a walk in the
woods with our friends'
daughter



Our Interests

Skiing - We absolutely LOVE to ski, and we spend a large part of the winter months on the slopes in Vermont! Jeff had never skied before meeting Matt, but Matt was such a patient and helpful teacher that Jeff learned rather quickly. Skiing is not only a great way for us to spend quality time together, but also to enjoy time outdoors and to get regular exercise.

Biking & Hiking

We spend time during the spring, summer and fall on our bikes and in our hiking boots setting out on adventures and explorations in the great outdoors. We hope to eventually teach your child to ride a bike and to take him or her on some of our outdoor adventures.



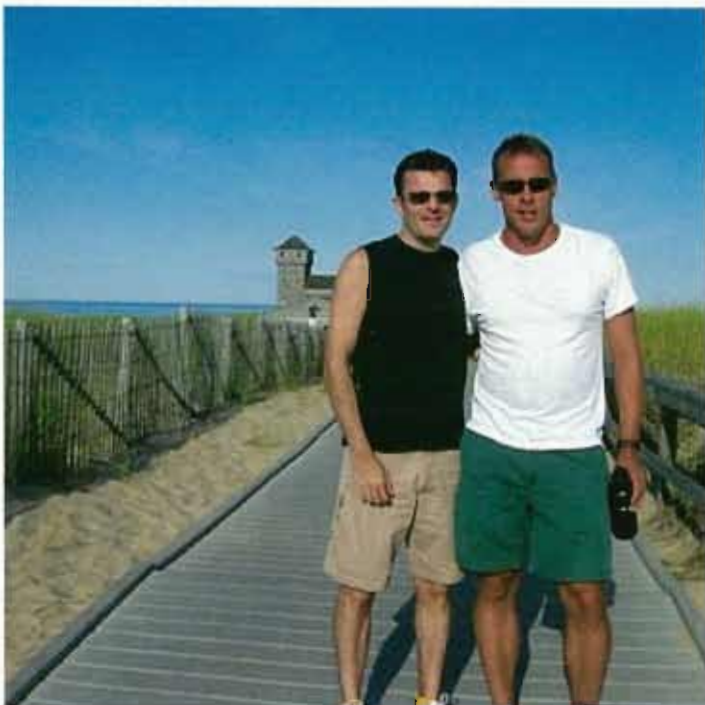
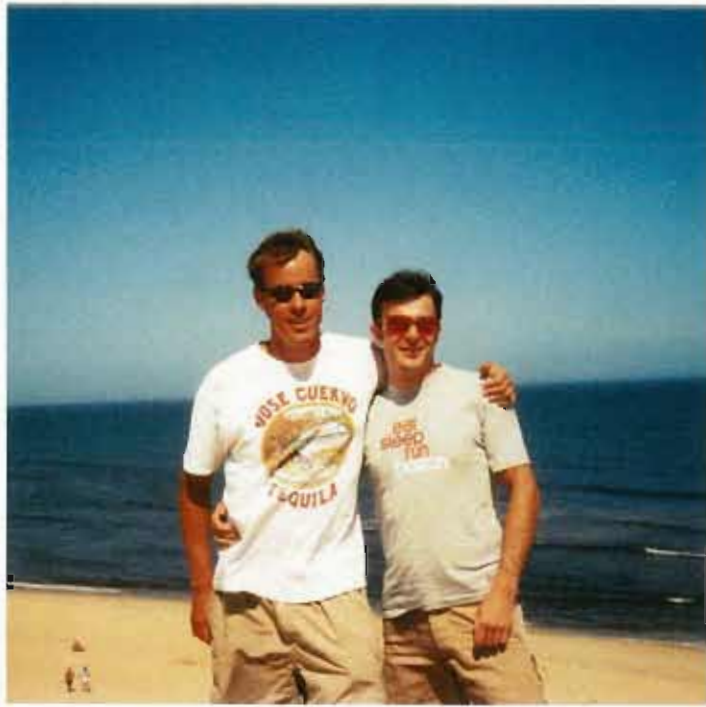
The Beach

The summer has always meant many days at the beach for both of us.

Every summer, Matt's family spent two weeks riding waves, playing mini-golf and soaking up the sun on the shores of Cape Cod.

Jeff's family headed south to the beaches of North and South Carolina.

Since we've been together, we have spent time with each other and our families in both places, maintaining old traditions and creating new ones for ourselves.





Jeff also spends some of his free time working with a non-profit organization that helps young artists realize their dreams of becoming professional Broadway actors.

We both recognize the importance of the arts, especially providing children with an outlet for artistic expression.

Theater

We also take full advantage of the many theatrical offerings available in New York. Jeff is the true theater buff, and he has turned Matt onto spending time with him attending Broadway musicals and plays.



Thank you for taking the time to read this “book”. We hope it has given you a sense of who we are and of what type of life we can offer your child. We know that nothing about the decision to make an adoption plan for your child is easy, but we are eternally grateful that you may be giving us the opportunity to be parents.

Should you decide that we are the right couple to raise your child, please know that we will love them unconditionally, will provide them with a safe and comfortable home, and will give them our time and our talents for the rest of their life. We will do our best to raise a happy and healthy child, who learns to love and respect themselves and others, and who develops their talents to make them and those around them happy and fulfilled.

You should also be comfortable knowing that we will speak with your child regularly about their adoption and we will always speak to them about you with respect and admiration about the difficult choices you made. Finally, to the extent you are interested, we are happy to share photos and letters of your child with you and keep you involved in their life.



If you would like more information about us or would like to speak with us, you may call our adoption agency, Forever Families Through Adoption toll-free at 1-866-922-3678.

Whatever you decide, we wish you the best.

Jeff & Matt

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