

Gretchen

Hello...

My name is Gretchen and I want to thank you for taking the time to look over my profile. I am thinking of you during this difficult decision process and thank you for considering adoption. Your child is precious and deserves all life has to offer. I hope that this letter gives you a window into my world so you can begin to see if your hopes match my dream of becoming a mother. I cannot fully appreciate the challenge of your position, but I am wishing you strength and wisdom as you seek the best possible result for you and your child.



In VA with my sister Jen



Hiking in Arizona

About Me

I am a dedicated, caring and thoughtful person. I work hard to accomplish my life goals, but like to enjoy it all along the way. I love the outdoors. A long walk in the park, puttering around the yard or sitting on my front porch rocker reading a good book are a few of my favorites. Health and exercise are important to me. I plan healthy meals and enjoy walks on my treadmill and through my neighborhood. I have a great system of friends and family through church and work. I enjoy spending time with friends and being involved in community activities, such as park clean-ups, art shows and lectures. I have had the good fortune of knowing many compassionate and considerate people. I am always looking for ways to give back to those who have blessed me with their presence. I am a good listener and a warm, loving person. I am committed to providing a safe, loving home.

My Job

After obtaining my Bachelor's degree in Industrial and Labor Relations I began a career in Human Resources in the energy industry. I have had the opportunity to progress over the years and remain with the same stable company for the last twenty years. I am now a Human Resources Manager in northeast Ohio. I have a great boss, peer and staff group who are very supportive of my adoption. My job is close to home and offers me the flexibility to adopt as a single parent.



Topsail Beach, NC with Mom & my Niece

My Family

I grew up in a suburb between Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY in a family of five. My father, a dentist, and my mother a nurse/homemaker, married 46 years, were hard working and instilled love, character and values into the lives of my two older sisters and me. While we all live in different states now, we are never far away. My parents, retired now, live in North Carolina and travel frequently to visit their children and grandchildren. Daily calls keep us close as they are a guiding light in supporting me through life's joys and challenges. The yearly trip to the North Carolina Apple Festival is one of my favorite visits that we share together. Holidays and significant events are always celebrated with family and are full of fun, music, and lots of good food. Four cooks in the kitchen are always accompanied by lots of laughter!

My sister Jennifer, her husband Rick and their three children, live in Virginia. I enjoy frequent weekend visits full of adventure...everything from cherry picking, to hiking and garage sales. As a reading teacher, Jennifer will be a great help on education issues.

My sister Amy, her husband Chris, and their two children reside in Arizona and are special people in my life. We share a love for reading and cooking and as a great mother; I know I can count on Amy for child-rearing tips and support of challenges ahead.

I have been blessed to partake in the lives of my three nieces, Hillary, Megan and Brandi and two nephews, Rick and Peter. We've taken trips together, attended band concerts, and I have been able to participate in milestone events in their lives. I am better known to them as "Aunt G" since as children they couldn't pronounce Gretchen! They will be great role models and fun cousins. My family supports my decision to adopt a child and to have a new addition to love.



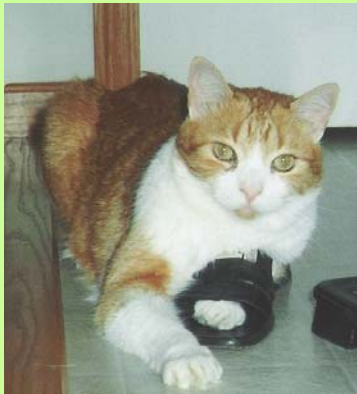
**My Parents
Albuquerque Balloon Festival**



My Nieces & Nephews in AZ

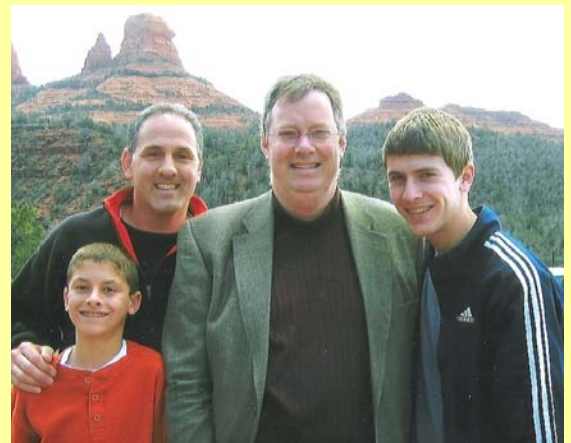


Sisters & Mom in VA



Henry

My ten year old tabby cat, Henry, is pictured here wearing one of my sandals. I rescued him from a hotel parking lot in New Orleans and he's been a joy ever since. Many nights he curls up on my lap in front of the fireplace while I read or watch television. He loves to sit on the windowsill in warm weather and watch the birds in my gardens!



My 2 Brother-in-Laws & Nephews

My Home

My home is a two story, four bedroom house that resides in a subdivision of newer homes in a township in Northeast Ohio. My home is surrounded by families with small children and teenagers. It is a safe, friendly neighborhood where my neighbors socialize and support each other. It's a quiet area, but close to schools, parks, hospitals and shopping areas. The backyard opens to a large hill and an extended green-space, which is great for sledding, Frisbee and outdoor activities. My yard is bordered with trees and lots of flowers/gardens-one of my hobbies! My family oriented city offers a good educational system and many activities for children including recreation sports and art.



Home Sweet Home

Yard & Gardens



My Flower Hobby

Hobbies

My hobbies are simple, but an enjoyment for me. I love the outdoors and spend lots of time in my yard, working with my flowers and vegetable garden. Spring is evidenced with daffodils and tulips, planted by my own hands, coming in after the snow. In the summer, I take after my late grandfather from Italy, planting a large vegetable and flower garden. This year I had a bumper crop of zucchini, peppers, tomatoes, squash and herbs which led to loads of zucchini bread, soups and fresh salads! This also feeds my love of cooking. With a background from Italy and Poland, I enjoy home cooked meals the most!

I love to travel and have been lucky to see so many places...from our family camping days as children throughout the east coast and Canada, to trips as an adult to Paris/London, Chicago, San Diego and the southwest. However, my favorite trip is our annual family beach escape to Topsail Island, a small beach town off the coast of North Carolina. The week is full of sun & sandcastles, strolls with my nieces and nephews, Scrabble games, laughter and lots of good food and family time. As an avid reader, I especially enjoy the many trips to the tiny book store/coffee shop! I look forward to being able to share my love of the beach and travel with a child.

Growing up in a musical family I played piano and saxophone as a teenager. I was a member of the marching band, concert and jazz bands. I still enjoy listening to all kinds of music, including symphony, jazz and country western! Some of my favorites are Keith Urban, John Tesh and David Sanborn. I also enjoy attending the symphony and musicals. My favorite musical is Phantom of the Opera. I sing soprano in my church's contemporary choir. We sing everything from traditional songs to Christian rock music. We're a tight knit group who prays and plays together!

I have a love for reading and my favorite authors include best seller James Patterson, and old time Daphne du Maurier and John Steinbeck. I also love any books about cats,

since they usually make me laugh as I compare their anecdotes with Henry's! For fun, I started a quarterly book club with my nieces and am currently involved in a monthly ladies' book club, where we read a variety of books from best sellers to classics. I look forward to reading with a little one someday...



Ricky's Graduation in VA



Contemporary Choir



**Brandi & Peter's
Confirmation in AZ**

My Faith and Values

My faith is an integral part of who I am. I am an active member of a Catholic Church in my community, involved in the music program, small faith community and volunteerism programs. "Give unto others..." has been a phrase I try to live by. To be able to share with others my time and offerings is personally very rewarding and keeps me grounded! I currently serve on the Board of Directors for an organization that provides programming for children and adults with disabilities and have worked with the teen organization through my church. My upbringing and close knit family develop a strong value system which I will work to instill in my child at an early age. Trust, integrity and compassion for others are important values I try to live by in my daily work life, home life and social interactions. I am honored to be godparent to a niece and nephew and serve as a positive influence in their lives.

My Hopes for a Child

Love...I have tons of love to give a child and will share my values and beliefs so they grow up knowing they are loved and respected. Being supported by an extended family and other role models will show a little one how much they are treasured.

Faith.....raising a child in God's eyes is very important to me. He/she will be raised in a home where active faith and respect for others are a way of daily life.

Opportunities....I want to be able to give my child opportunities that I have been afforded. Experiencing different things, meeting a variety of people and choosing a path in life are essential pieces to building good character and happiness.

Education...Lifelong learning, reading and education are important to me, so I will encourage my child along this path toward higher education.



Megan, Aunt G and Hillary

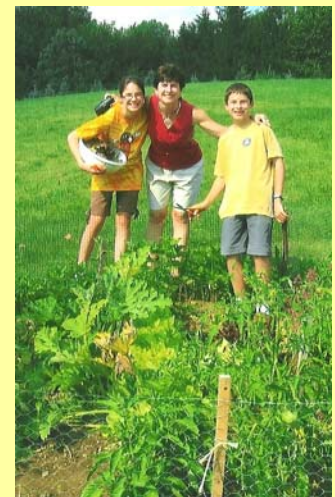
At Home with Henry



Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to review my profile. I am so excited to be a mom and share all this love I have inside with a child...it is a dream I have always had. My promise to you is that your child will be loved unconditionally and will be offered a life full of opportunities. My prayers are with you as you make very important decisions. I admire your courage and the love you have to make this decision for your child. I wish you peace and health as you consider what is best for your child.

Best wishes,
Gretchen



**My Vegetable
Garden**