



Ray & Donna Chaffee

Family Profile



CHAFFEE FAMILY PROFILE

With hopeful blessings, we are grateful for your consideration in reviewing our family profile.

Answering the dreams of an adoptive couple demonstrates your gift of selfless love. This gift is only strengthened by the compassion and foresight for your child and measures our respect for your decisions. Your love fills an empty rocking chair, chases away tears of past disappointment and most importantly cherishes a hope that our family's love and commitment will meet your wishes for your child.

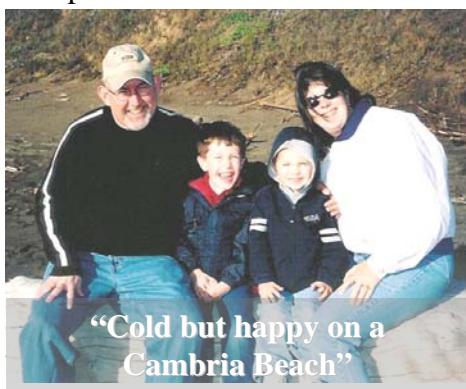
Our desire to become an adoptive family is a meandering journey of infertility struggles, self reflection that family love and sharing shapes our actions and truly defines us as "good souls", and that we have the heart for a larger family.

WHY WE CONSIDERED PRIVATE ADOPTION

While the pregnancies and births of our two boys were shadowed with medical uncertainties, each child brought a greater sense of joy and desire to extend our family. Unfortunately not even prayers could stop our biological clocks from frustrating and interrupting our dreams. Desires to extend our family led us to become licensed foster parents for Kern County. Fostering played a pivotal role with regards to handling the responsibilities of a newborn and how a newborn would fit in our existing family structure. Having a newborn in our home rekindled the innocences and challenges we loved when our two boys were born. We had hoped to adopt through the foster system by requesting long-term placement. Unfortunately, the newborn placed in our care was only transitory while social workers found a more convenient home for this baby. We emotionally were stunned because our family relished the nurturing and bonding with this baby only to have the child removed based on mercies and the conveniences of deceitful social workers.



The foster care system has taught us to seek a mature and open discussion with an expectant mother who seeks resolution and permanence for their child rather than to subject the future of their child to a governmental agency who has little respect for a child's rights.



GETTING TO KNOW US

We have been together for 13 years and married for 9 years. Ray grew up primarily in California but enjoyed the benefits of traveling with his family to Europe and Asia before earning a business degree at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. I am your typical mid westerner who was raised and grew up

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in Minnesota and naturally attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. While Ray and I grew up in quite different economic and social cultures, we bonded because we both were involved in primarily a small family owned industry of telephone answering services. Answering services provide doctors or customer support companies with the assurance that their calls will be handled and dispatched after hours and on the weekends or holidays. I worked for a medical answering service in St. Paul, MN, while Ray worked for his family business in California. We had a mutual respect for each others' talents and spent hours on the phone discussing "shop" until he offered me a job in San Diego. I jumped at the chance to manage one of his family's offices because it also gave me the opportunity to finish my Master's degree in Business.

With time, our respect for each other in the office melted into a deep sense of love and commitment as we grew to know each other and discovered that we had so much in common, especially a hope to someday raise a large, happy, and loving family. Both of us had been married before and knew making a commitment to have a family required time, long discussions about our hopes and dreams and most importantly, dedicating our marriage to Christ. This dialogue gave us the foresight to insure that this union would be filled with grace and the duty that we needed to make a lifetime bond.



While the answering service business provides limitless flexibility to concentrate on our family, we felt confined by the congestion and the lack of space living in San Diego. Our goal was to find a big house with a big yard in a neighborhood that has a lot of kids. Four years ago, we found our dreams in Buck Owens "Hillbilly Heaven" – Bakersfield.

Seriously, Bakersfield is a diverse community that has the resources of any Southern California community while maintaining small town values. Our Bakersfield community values what neighbors should be to each other. Our neighborhood holds a Fourth of July extravaganza, a Halloween parade and Holiday Christmas light show. The neighborhood is minutes away from a city river walkway where we ride our bikes and a park that allows endless fun with our kids. Most importantly, the neighborhood elementary school has been awarded the "California Distinguished School Award". We truly feel that our neighbors sense the same pride and concern in our community, and that their actions mirror an extended family.

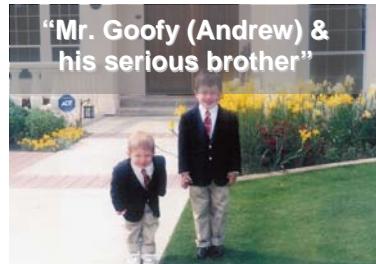
WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

While we married in the belief of love and long-term understanding, our foundation is based on a partnership to support and improve each others lives while dedicating all of our love and attention to our kids.



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We are financially secure and can enjoy spending money on luxury items without much consideration to a monthly budget. Conversely, we have invested in rental properties and savings accounts to provide a backbone for our children's education. Retirement does not exist for us in the traditional sense, since the business has continual recurring revenue and a hard working management team handles the day-to-day operations. Our valued employees understand our dedication to family activities whether they occur on a Tuesday morning or a Friday afternoon. I can manage the company accounting from



home while Ray's oversight for the business may include a weekend afternoon or evening at the office.

We are certainly blessed with the economical freedom to answer all of the children's wants but these child desires are only befitting if the child understands the sacrifice made for it.

We focus our giving on volunteering to improve other children's lives. I am active in a Community Foundation that educates teen girls and young women on health and social risks. I have provided fundraising for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) that assist legally disenfranchised kids and I'm a board member of our children's pre-school. Ray participates on various school



district committees as well as spearheading the adoption of a disadvantaged elementary school whose students primarily come from families who fall below the poverty line and/or are "at risk" from gang violence.

Our local Episcopal Church strengthens our family by reassuring us of God's will and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our daily actions. Both Ray and I teach Sunday school for the parish children between the ages of 4 and 7. In addition, I am the president of the Woman's Auxiliary (ECW) and a member of the Episcopalian prayer order (Daughters of the King). Ray also loves his duties as volunteer in charge of games and playtime for the church's summer vacation bible school.

Aside from our volunteer work, my hobbies include the care and love of my quarter horse named "Norm" and an insatiable desire to make sure our yard is filled with flowers and vegetables. Ray enjoys golf and endless walks with our golden retriever, "Jessie".



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Our family joy is defined by experiencing the wonderment of our two boys. We are amazed at the differences of the two children. Mathew (six and a half) is an emotional soul gifted with a creative spirit for art and music. He is unusually bright and serious for his age while excelling in swimming with the local swim club. Although Mathew prefers living with order and structure, his younger brother Andrew (four) thrives on chaos and unpredictability.



"The annual stomping of the puddles"

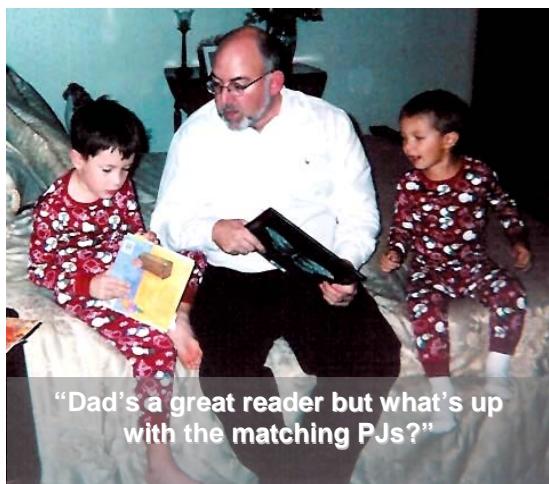
Andrew will demolish a tidy toy-room only to expect hugs and kisses from us for his unbridled mess. Ray and I humorously speculate that Andrew was born only to drive his brother nuts. Though Andrew and Mathew exhibit opposite characteristics, they are perfect loving companions. We were touched by the boys' affection and lack of any jealousy when we introduced the foster newborn into our family. Now, our boys are excited about sharing their worlds with another baby.

In addition to a horse and a dog, the kids love our two cats, Riley and Bayla; our two rabbits, Cutie and Baby; and three turtles. The boys also had some frogs but the turtles decided that they would make a great dessert and ate them!



OUR LONG TERM GOALS

Ray and I plan on building a vacation home in the Tejon Mountains to provide a getaway and enjoy the four seasons. We also dream of taking the whole family on more extended vacations to Europe and beyond to enrich the children's lives in history and culture.



"Dad's a great reader but what's up with the matching PJs?"

Most importantly, we will use every resource available to open as many doors as possible for our children and never compromise their future. Even though our boys are young, we have stimulated their creativity and imagination by enrolling them in art and sports camp, providing weekly music lessons and organizing the evening around reading books or playing games. Equally as important, the kids have had diversity as we hosted African orphans and had them participate in fundraisers for the local homeless shelter.

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We hope to teach our children a sense of self-reliance and that education is not only a commitment but also a powerful tool that can change lives. The value of working hard is not measured by how much we have or relishing the win, but by understanding the journey of being a success.



WHY CHOOSE US?

Simply put, we respect a process that allows thoughtful and open choices for the expectant mother and encourage an open dialogue between parents. Secondly, our lives are guided by a biblical verse that we should not worry about anything, but pray about everything and that thanking God for your blessings will give you peace. We know in our hearts that growing our family is God's plan. If you wish to be part of our family, please contact us. Ray and I would love to meet you and talk more. Our hearts are open.

Sincerely,

Donna and Ray Chaffee