

YOU CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE TODAY!

# Our Family Is Now Complete



Clockwise: Caitlin, Sean, Ronnie, and Matthew

All we ever wanted out of life was to have children. We couldn't wait to start a family and thought if you wanted to have a baby, you simply got pregnant and had one. That wasn't the case for us and it took us years to realize it.

We knew firsthand the heartaches of infertility. Joe and I had no luck conceiving even with numerous infertility treatments. After five long years we were emotionally, spiritually, and physically drained. We felt we had two choices. We either kept trying or adopt...

I was very open to adoption because I myself was adopted. I had grown up with three siblings who were also adopted - all from different biological families. So, Joe and I then decided that adoption was our way to have the family we had always wanted and began the process.

We decided to go with a program from Romania. In, 1999 we came home with our 16 month old boy, Matthew. He gave us so much joy and healed so many years of hurt. Adoption allowed me to satisfy the desire in my heart to be a mother.

A couple of months later, my heart was mended more than I thought was possible with the news that I was pregnant. In, 2000 our daughter, Caitlin was born. We were blessed yet again in September 2001 when our son Sean was born.

Five years later our family was so full of love. Joe and I had both worked so hard at helping Matthew overcome the many obstacles he faced being autistic. We greatly desired to share our love with another

child. Our children were so excited about adding a brother or a sister and prayed to God, for one every night.

In September 2007, we got a phone call that would once again change our lives. The state of Texas called to say they had chosen our family to adopt Ronald, a five year old boy who had been in foster care since age two. He was born with fetal alcohol and addicted to methamphetamines. He was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, PICA (appetite for non-nutritive substance), and autism and had a lot of behavioral problems. He had trying to run away and was not potty trained. Ronnie had numerous screaming and crying fits a day and very bad nightmares. While it might have scared off the average person, Joe and I wanted to make a difference in this little boy's life.

As we drove home after meeting him in Houston for the first time, neither of us wanted to leave him. We couldn't wait to get back to New Mexico and tell the other three kids all about Ronnie. We had talked to him so much on the phone it felt like he was part of our family already. Ronnie finally came to stay forever in February 2008. He fit right in and the kids were so willing to help him feel comfortable. Because of the bad nightmares, he was very afraid to go to bed, or sleep and wanted someone to stay with him. He also had trouble eating because of problems with food texture and the first two weeks cried at every meal.

Now after being a part of our family for seven months, Ronnie's changes are unbelievable. He is potty trained, loves to eat, and is in kindergarten with the help of an aid. He now receives therapy - physical, occupational and speech. He goes to bed every night with his special bunny; the nightmares have stopped. While he did test his limits at first, I feel that he truly does not have major behavioral issues. He can count to thirty, knows his ABCs, his new last name, and is able to write it as well. Ronnie loves to go to church and behaves very well. He says his prayers every night and before meals. I feel that God lead us to Ronnie and our family is now complete!

*"Without the help of AAN we would have been unable to adopt Ronnie. The state of Texas requires a contracted agency and there wasn't any [near us]. The state was not willing to move forward with the adoption with our private agency. Our agency would have had to start a new contract with Texas and they were not willing to do so. The promptness and value of service that we received from AAN was priceless. We wish to thank AAN for everything they did to bring our family together. Without them, Ronnie would not be here and we will be forever grateful."*  
— Heidi

## How You Can Help

Adopt America Network has helped place over 3,500 children with loving families in the last 25 years - 909 in the last 4 years without charging fees to families. You can help in two ways:

- Share your love, talents and time by adopting a child and giving them a family of their own to whom they belong.
- Donate to Adopt America Network so that we may help more waiting children find their forever family that they deserve.



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Please visit [www.adoptamericanetwork.org](http://www.adoptamericanetwork.org) to learn more about the 129,000 children who through no fault of their own have been abused, abandoned or neglected. They wait on average over 3 years in the U.S. foster care system for someone to pick them out and cherish them.