SFLY051114-347

Danette and Jack

We hope that our family book shares a sense of who we are and what is important to us.

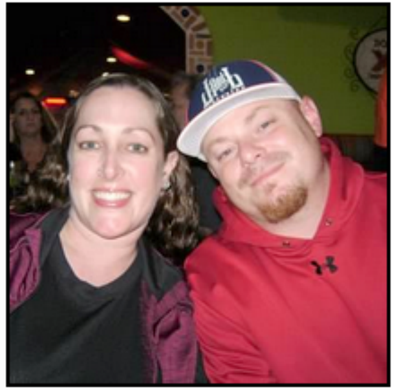
Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us.

Our Relationship

We met in 2004 at a social event. Danette's outgoing friend made our meeting possible by introducing us, even though she didn't know Jack. After the first time we danced together, we knew there was something special. We had our first official date at a local restaurant a few days later, and we quickly realized there was a connection that could not be denied. We were inseparable for 5 years before Jack proposed. We were married at a destination wedding in Lake Tahoe, CA with family and friends on 07/17/09.

We share many of the same values, and also have our differences, which we believe gives us a stronger foundation as a couple. We both love spending time with friends and family. We enjoy going out to dinner (especially Mexican food!), and going on vacation to Las Vegas, California and Florida. Our favorites spots have been San Francisco - Pier 39, Disneyland, California Adventure, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World.

We also love watching movies together. Sometimes it is difficult to choose one since we both have such different tastes. Danette loves horror movies and chick flicks and Jack loves true stories and sports movies. Our favorite time together is just relaxing at home hanging out with our animals while Danette makes one of her many new Pinterest recipes.



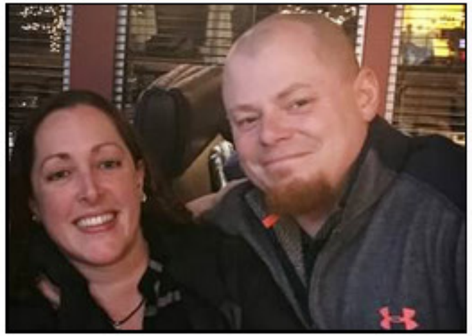
A Little About Us

Danette is caring, loving, nurturing, a great cook, loves all animals and is compassionate both in life and through her work, which involves helping others. Danette will make a fantastic mother and is so excited to embark on parenthood.

Jack is a hard worker, generous, a loyal friend, loving, and encouraging. Jack always thinks of Danette before himself and appreciates her for who she is. He has worked his whole career in Social Services helping others. Jack loves everything about baseball and the Atlanta Braves. He will be a great father who will always be supportive of our child.

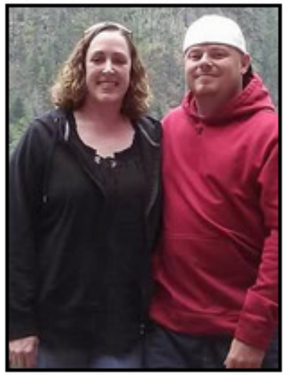
We have always wanted a family. Six months into our marriage we were very excited to start trying to have a baby. After 8 years and many medical procedures we embraced that it was time to find a different path to make our dream of having a child a reality. Dealing with infertility was definitely hard, but we've never doubted our shared desire to grow a family together.

Travel Adventures

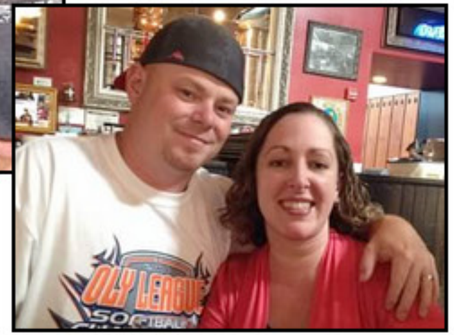


Trips to Ocean Shores, Florida, Oregon Coast and Seattle

Thanksgiving at Danette's parents



Lake Cushman



Dinner with friends

Meet Danette

Hello, my name is Danette and I live in Olympia, Washington and work as a Program Manager for the State of Washington. I grew up in Billings, Montana, and moved to Washington when I was 11 years old. I grew up with my mom, dad and younger brother. My parents have been married for 47 years. I respect the commitment they have made to each other and strive to follow in their footsteps.

Growing up, my father was a salesman and my mother was a stay-at-home mom. My brother and I would play outside with all the neighborhood kids. We would ride our bikes in the summer and play in the snow in the winter. We lived in a very close-knit neighborhood where we would go from house to house and play all day. Everyone looked out for one another and it was like a big extended family.

One of my favorite memories growing up is going to Fairmont Hot Springs in Montana every summer with my mom, dad, brother, grandma and grandpa. We would spend the week swimming, horseback riding, golfing, shopping, playing at the arcade, eating out and just enjoying being a family and spending time together.

I am very close to my mom. We talk every day on the phone and spend most weekends going to lunch or going shopping together. She is my number one supporter. She is excited for us to become parents and has already offered to provide child care for us. She currently watches our niece who is 3 years old. She is retired from working as a para-educator for an elementary school and has always loved kids.

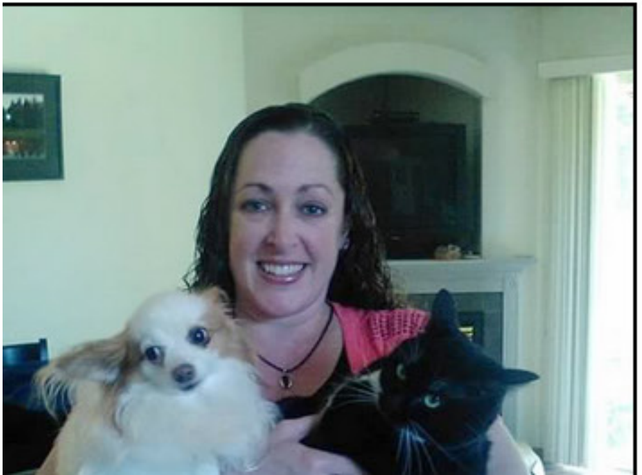
Hobbies and Interests

Cooking Baking Reading Music

Comedy Gardening Theater

Dance Movies Animals

Cirque du Soleil



I have always been kind of shy, but once I get to know someone I open up. I have a group of girlfriends who I have been friends with for over 20 years. Their friendship means a lot to me and we try to get together at least once a month. Many of them are raising kids and are looking forward to supporting me as I become a mom. Family and friends are very important to me. I also have a dog and cat whom I love dearly - we absolutely consider them part of our family!

Fun Facts About Danette

1. I had my picture taken with my favorite rap duo Salt-N-Pepa after their concert
2. I hit a hole-in-one 116 yards on a par 3 golf course. Funny thing is I don't even golf!
3. My favorite holiday is Halloween
4. I love sock monkeys - my collection gets bigger every year!
5. My favorite movies are Once Were Warriors, Beetlejuice, Grease and Rocky Horror Picture Show
6. I am obsessed with Scentsy warmers/scents - they are all over our house!
7. I love owls
8. My yearly Christmas tradition is attending the Nut Cracker ballet with my good friend and my mother
9. I enjoy gardening and having fresh produce to eat all summer long

Meet Jack

Hello, my name is Jack and I was born in Lacey, Washington and was raised by my mom and grandparents. We moved to Tumwater, Washington when I was in the 2nd grade, and my mom remarried a couple of years later. I was an active kid and always loved playing outside with the other neighborhood kids. I grew up playing baseball, basketball and football. As long as there was daylight we played outside.

I was very fortunate to grow up in a neighborhood with many children my age who also shared a love of the outdoors. My favorite memory as a child was going to Riffe Lake each summer. My aunt and uncle had property on the lake, and my family would invite one or two of my best friends to come along each time. We would play catch, fish, swim, hike, roast marshmallows and camp in a tent together.

My mom has been hugely influential in my life. She taught me the values of hard work and compassion. I learned that if you set goals and work hard every day that you can be successful in life. She also taught me that I can only control my own actions, and if you stay true to yourself everything will fall in line. These values are what I live by today and have helped me become who I am.

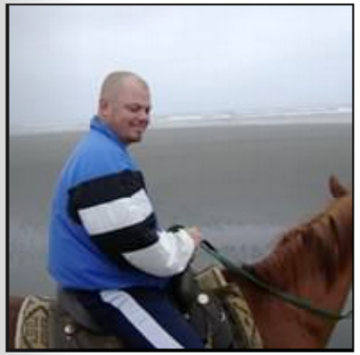
Danette and I try to remain positive even when life throws us curve balls. As a social worker I try to seek the truth in every situation and remain compassionate towards every one of my clients and their life experiences. I've been a Social Worker for the State of Washington for many years, and have loved working with all kinds of people, from teens to the elderly. My easygoing nature and positive attitude have been great assets to me in this challenging and meaningful work.

Hobbies and Interests

Softball Basketball Bowling Fitness

Music Fantasty Baseball/Football

Softball Fundraising Events



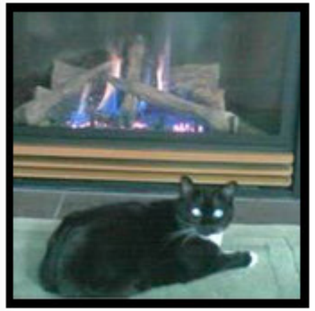
Jack and his friend Jeremy having fun at the Mariners game. Jack and Josh, "his best friend/best man", at our wedding in Lake Tahoe. Jack has had a lifelong love of playing baseball. He was awarded a scholarship for college baseball, and he still keeps up with the young guys he plays with in several softball leagues.

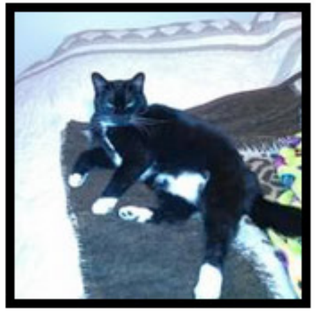
Fun Facts About Jack

1. I love helping people and I am proud of my career as a social worker
2. I also work part-time as a security guard (AKA - Paul Blart) at a local community college
3. My favorite singer is Garth Brooks
4. My favorite band is Def Leopard
5. My friends and teammates have given me the nickname "Jackie Softball"
6. When I was 10 years old I met Ken Griffey, Jr and got his autograph
7. I have an extensive collection of football, basketball and baseball cards which includes a Michael Jordan rookie card
8. I have traveled to Thailand with my buddy and enjoyed trekking in the mountains, golfing, and eating exotic foods

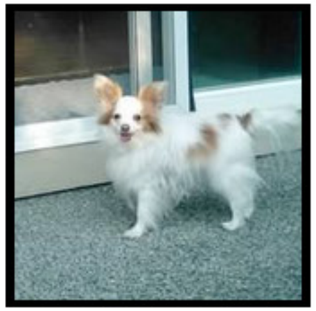
Our Home

Our home is our sanctuary - it is a place we can truly relax and unwind. We both love hanging out at home with our fur babies, Little Bit and Romy. We also enjoy watching movies, gardening and barbecuing with family and friends. Danette was excited about expanding her garden this year with the addition of strawberries and a variety of new vegetables. She is looking forward to trying to recreate her grandma Anna's dill pickles - Danette, unfortunately, was the only family member who enjoyed them, and she LOVED them! Living in Olympia, we have excellent school districts and a variety of children's programs including sports, arts and theater. We are looking forward to becoming regulars at the Hands on Children's Museum and taking advantage of the many amazing activities Olympia has to offer families.





Little Bit (dog) and Romy (cat)



Danette's Family

My parents have been married for 47 years. They have a great relationship after all these years. Jack and I really look up to them. My family, including my parents, brother, sister-in-law and 2 nieces, always spend Christmas Eve, Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and birthdays together. We really enjoy eating delicious meals, and playing cards and silly board games.

My favorite holiday is Halloween and I love shopping for costumes, making Jack dress up (he is not a fan), decorating our house and participating in our annual work costume competition.

My brother and I like to prank each other, too. We are always trying to out do each other. (Ask him about the fish...)

Our nieces, Danette's brother and his wife, and Danette's family on our wedding day

Jack's Family

My mom and step-dad live in Tumwater. It is a tradition that we go to dinner at Red Lobster together for birthdays every year. We always go to my mom's house on Christmas morning for a breakfast feast and to open gifts. After breakfast we go to my aunt and uncle's house for dinner and for the white elephant gift exchange, which has a different theme every year. The competition is fierce!

I also take Danette on a special trip each year for her birthday. We have traveled to Las Vegas, Disney World, Disney Land, San Francisco, Ocean Shores, Long Beach and the Oregon Coast. We look forward to making fun vacation memories with our child.

Friends

We really enjoy spending time with our friends. We enjoy going out to dinner, watching Seahawks and Mariner's games, and attending concerts and comedy shows. We often go bowling, vacation together and barbecue as well. We have great friends who have been a part of our lives for many years. We deeply value these lifelong friendships. Several of our friends have children who will be great playmates for our child.

A few of our closest friends enjoying our time together.

Danette and her Grandma

Danette - 15 months old

Danette and her Grandpa

Dreams for our child

We are very excited for the wonderful opportunity to raise our child and build a lifelong relationship with their birth family. We value the concept of open adoption and strongly believe that the more love and support our child has, the better.

We want our child to have the freedom and flexibility to pursue his or her dreams. We want to instill the values of hard work and determination to help them grow up to become a successful, happy and well rounded adult. While we realize there will be challenges ahead we look forward to embracing these experiences and accept them as learning opportunities. Most of all, we want our child to know that they are loved unconditionally.

Jack in kindergarten

Jack as a baby

Jack - 3 years old

Open Adoption Aspirations

Open adoption is an opportunity in which we can all come together and grow in the best interests of our child, supporting and loving him or her together as a family. We want to build a lifelong friendship and have you present in our lives. You have given your child the gift of life and we want you to see them grow and prosper.

We want our child to always know that the decision you made was made out of love. We will value and respect you as you remain an important part of our lives. We hope that you will forever feel that you are a respected part of our family.