



Our Families

Real Donor Concierge clients share their paths to parenthood through egg donation, sperm donation and surrogacy.

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conciierge

Two dads

Two moms

Parents via
egg donation

Parents via
surrogacy

Parents via
egg donation &
surrogacy

Single mom

Single dad

donor conciierge



We started this series of interviews with one goal: to show people that there are many amazing, diverse paths to creating a family. *Our Families* is a collection of real stories from real Donor Conciierge clients, sharing their experiences through infertility, family building, working with our team, and the family they have today.

So many people reach out to us and just want to know that it's okay on the other side of donor conception and surrogacy. People come to us with the goal of building their family, but they often don't know anyone else who has used egg donation, sperm donation, or surrogacy to conceive.

All parents are similar in wanting to feel that they're giving their child the absolute best chance in life. But sometimes they aren't sure what exactly they should do to ensure that, when they're on such an unknown path.

Our Story

THE BIRTH OF DONOR CONCIERGE

The experience we have seen time and again with our clients has been consistent: after you have your child, all of those fears and worries fade away. The path to parenthood is no longer an obstacle or a question, but a unique part of your family's story.

Before conceiving, parents ask us: How will I feel about this process once my children are born? Will there be issues with bonding? How will my children feel about our journey? And most of all: Will everything be okay?

After 25 years in this field, and helping thousands of parents through this journey, I can say with certainty that the worries do subside. But it's been helpful for our clients to hear from other parents who have been through this process. I hope you read their stories and know, "It's going to be okay." It's been okay for so many other people.

“After you have your child, all of those fears and worries fade away.”

Thank you to the amazing parents who have shared their stories of love, perseverance and family with us.

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My husband and I have been together for quite a while. Tomorrow is our 7th wedding anniversary. We've always thought of having kids at some point. We always told ourselves it was two years away and then a year would pass, and it would still be two years away, and the year would pass, and it would still be two years away.

We travel a lot and value our flexibility, which definitely becomes harder when you have children. The pandemic was part of it, and we decided that now was the right time for us.

We wanted to be about the age that we are right now when we have kids. Or, at least, when we start the process of having kids. So, it seemed like it was a good time.

Some of our friends have been through the process of surrogacy themselves, and they could give us information about the timeline and the costs. It's not a quick process and it's the kind of thing that really can take a while.

So, we thought it was a good idea for us to get started. A lot of other of our friends, even the ones who aren't having surrogates, are having kids at the same time. We thought it would be really nice if our kids grew up with that friend group around them.

We started out by contacting some fertility centers, and we ended up going with one close to us in San Diego that one of our friends used and had a really good experience with.

At that point, we started looking for egg donors. We started out by looking into it ourselves using the database that was affiliated with our fertility center. It would have been the most economical option to pick someone that they have on their database and accept them but, we weren't that happy with the people we were seeing. They didn't look like they were the kind of egg donors that we would personally be interested in.

We value things like good educational background and a lot of signs of intelligence. The database was small enough that people who fit that profile were being swooped up very, very quickly. And the people that were left weren't people that we were really interested in.

We started looking a little bit more broadly but we got a little bit overwhelmed by the number of databases, and didn't quite know what to look for. And that's when I came across the advertisement for Donor Conciierge.

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When I first contacted Donor Conciierge we were in the early stages, so we put the search on hold while I got my medical testing. We kind of jumped the gun a bit. But, we had that lined up for when we were ready to start looking for an egg donor.

It turned out to be really good because the donor we ended up with had genetic sequencing already. So the process was very smooth. We were really happy with the results that came in. Carrie really went above and beyond. There was a first round of donors that she sent us and some of them looked good, but there was room for even more improvement. She didn't even wait for the second round. She found someone who she thought was going to get swooped up really quickly and emailed us independently and that was the egg donor that we ended up going with. And the donor checks all the boxes that we had. We're really happy with that.

“It's almost a process of self-discovery...”

We have a surrogate and we're talking to her in a couple days. We found the surrogacy agency ourselves, or through the fertility center that we're working with. We've turned down two so far, for different reasons but, the third one looks like a better fit for us. In some ways, I think, we were relatively well informed because our friends have been through the process themselves.

We knew roughly, what the costs were going to be, what the timeline was going to be, that didn't come as a shock to us at all. I had been told that during the there was a big wait list for surrogates and so we expected, or feared that, that would be the case for us. Luckily, so far that hasn't been a problem. We're still working on our egg donation.

We should have some embryos by the end of this month. And it looks like a surrogate will be lined up roughly at that time as well. Hopefully, this one works out. If anything was a pleasant surprise, we expected that process to take longer than it actually did.

Our advice to anyone going through this process would be to just be honest with yourself about what your expectations are. It's almost a process of self-discovery when you try to figure out what you're looking for in an egg donor and a surrogate. The kinds of things that matter to you, you might not even be aware of, until you start looking at potential candidates.

And that was one thing that did stick out to me. In some ways, it reminded me of looking at a profile on a dating website, but instead of going on one date you're choosing the biological mother of your child.

Be prepared for that, and follow up with questions, and try to get the information that you need in order to make the most informed decision that you can. I was really happy with the results. I would definitely recommend Donor Conciierge anybody else going through this process. I'm really happy with how things turned out.

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Jesse and I met back in 2018. We were doing yoga teacher training together and we became good friends. I moved out to LA to be with Jesse and we've been together since then. We got married in April, but we knew before we got married that we wanted to get this process going.

We decided very early on that we wanted to have a family. Being a same sex couple, it's one of those things where it can come up even earlier in dating because, okay, do we wanna go through this process together or not? We've talked about having as many as four children which is exciting. Then the decisions came down to, how are we going to make that family? How are we going to find a sperm donor?

We started looking at some sperm banks ourselves but quickly became frustrated. It was incredibly frustrating that you'd see someone who looked great but weren't available, or if they were available, you have to buy immediately.

We thought there has to be another way to have an exclusive sperm donor or someone who can help you through this process. Then we found Donor Concierge and we realized this was exactly what we were looking for.

Our experience was phenomenal from the start. Donor Concierge is a company that just is really consistent with their word. Anything that you all told us, for example, you're going to get an email by Friday at this time. We got an email on Friday at that time.

From the beginning when we were connected with our case manager Cynthia, it felt way less daunting. Cynthia talked us through what all the stages would look like. We both always felt this care and compassion from Donor Concierge.

“One thing that we've learned is that there are just so many options and so many different paths you can go down, and there isn't one right path.”

There's so many emotions that go into this process and not just seeing us as like a number, felt really great. Even when candidates were coming in, Cynthia or someone else on the team would email us and give us synopsis and say, this looks like a great candidate. That was really helpful, because we thought they're actually paying attention and they really care.

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We had a lot of great candidates. There was a point where we were like, how are we going to pick all of these guys who are so great? And then our donor came through. We were like, oh my gosh, he's gorgeous, but is he going to think he's too cool for school? The level of detail in the profile and all the questions that Donor Conciierge asked, it was really clear from the beginning that he was such a kind and caring person as well. Of course the physical aspects were important, but we agreed, if there was a gorgeous person who didn't seem like a nice guy, we wouldn't go with that donor. He had some personal experience with members of the LGBTQ+ community within his family. It was really heartwarming to hear that he was interested in specifically helping us because he resonated with our story as well.

When we talk about our sperm donor to our future kids, I think we're both extremely proud that we picked him. He has this thoughtfulness, compassion, insight and understanding of the world that would be amazing to pass on to anyone. If we had gone to sperm banks, the amount of information given would be his picture seemed okay and he didn't have health issues. It makes us just feel really good about the decision we made because it was such an informed decision.

I wish we just knew about Donor Conciierge sooner. There were a few months when we were really frustrated as we were looking at sperm banks and thinking about our options and didn't really know what the path forward would look like. It was important that we went through that because then we were so grateful to Donor Conciierge and then how we ended up going through the process.

One thing that we've learned is that there are just so many options and so many different paths you can go down and there isn't one right path. Someone gave us the advice, "There isn't a perfect way to do this, but you just have to jump on a train and you're staying on that train and commit to it".

"I wish we just knew about Donor Conciierge sooner."

When you're in a same sex relationship people almost feel like they're privy to all this information. And so people often will ask us, "What are you going to do for a sperm donor?" Being able to navigate those questions in a way that feels good to you and not oversharing just because you feel like other people need to know because frankly, everyone has their opinion. We had to be proactive and had to learn a lot about this just because we are a same sex couple, but I wish, and I hope that there's a culture where everybody is proactive about their fertility.

We are looking forward to our family and having children running around. I am very interested to see some of the characteristics that are passed down from the sperm donor. I don't want to say the hard part is over, and we don't know what our journey will bring as we try to get pregnant, but I'm really happy that we have this part behind us and we don't have to worry about the sperm aspect, and now we can just navigate, what our path will look like.

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*“I felt like I was heard
and listened to.”*

So, I was about 35ish or so, when it was time to start thinking about starting a family. We started trying the natural way and nothing was happening. And both my husband and I were traveling frequently for work. So, coordinating the 72 hour window was not exactly the easiest thing to do. We weren't worried about it, until I started getting more and more pain during my period. My OB saw a large mass in my abdomen and referred me to a fertility specialist to take a closer look, because something was going on with my ovaries.

The specialist called me, and said, “We need to talk. You cannot have children naturally. And oh, by the way, you have a growth attached to your ovaries that we have to remove. And you can't have kids naturally. So, think about how you want to start a family. If you want a family, is it going to be adoption or whatnot? And then we can talk about options for surgery.” And I was just like, “Wait, what happened?” It was a huge shock. I found another doctor and suddenly was taking antibiotics, going through surgery. But then my surgery site was still causing problems, so I had part of my fallopian tube removed and did two cycles of IVF.

We ended up doing another cycle before being introduced to Donor Conciierge. So, I reached out to Donor Conciierge and had a fantastically positive experience. I talked about what we're looking for, which was very flexible.



The case manager I was working with was very responsive, very respectful, very kind. I felt like I was heard and listened to. So, we found an egg donor, and at this point, fertility doctor number five.

The fertility doctor worked with Donor Conciierge, made the arrangements for the donor who was from Texas to fly to the clinic in California. We hired a lawyer to take care of all the contract details. The fertility doctor told me things about my donor like, she's such an absolute sweetheart, it's a pleasure to work with her, best wishes, and whatnot. So, we got 11 eggs, nine fertilized normally, six were healthy, three boys, three girls. And the first that we transferred became our daughter Zoey, and the second one we transferred became our son Bobby.

So working with Donor Conciierge and getting that help from your company was hugely, hugely helpful.

Danny & Loren

PARENTS VIA EGG DONATION

donor conciierge

*“...we know that
it was all worth
it every time we
hold our
children.”*

Our advice to intended parents? Be patient. Be prepared for delays, stumbling blocks, and unforeseen costs. Although our journey to parenthood took us 3 years, we know that it was all worth it every time we hold our children.

Our case manager at Donor Concierge is the best. She went the extra mile to find us the perfect egg donor, after we struggled for years. We are now so, so grateful to have happy, healthy twins.



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Rohit & Allison

PARENTS VIA EGG DONATION &
SURROGACY



Our family building journey has been about 10 years in the making, so it's been a very long time. We had a lot of difficulty getting pregnant, so we went through IVF between 8 to 10 times. I was successful once and unfortunately miscarried.

*“The support from Donor Conciierge...
The empathy, the love, the
understanding was just incredible.”*

The decision to pursue parenthood via egg donation, and later with surrogacy, was gradual. We were healthy young adults so we thought it just had to be possible to conceive the “traditional way.” It was disappointing that we couldn't get pregnant naturally or even with IVF. We kept trying because of what I thought I was giving up, which was my genetics and possibly carrying.

But then I started to realize that I wanted a child more than I wanted my own genetics. That's what I cared about more. I really wanted motherhood. So that's when we started considering other options and learned about third-party fertility at a conference here in Australia. We met an amazing doctor there and worked with him to have our first child via egg donation.

Then, COVID hit. That changed everything. We hadn't been able to see our family for a couple of years. We had always wanted to have a second child. COVID was creating such an obstacle, but we decided we were going to do it now. When we came to Donor Conciierge to discuss surrogacy, we were in a pretty bad state of anxiety. We were losing hope, struggling to believe that it was possible for us. And we were just desperate to find some solution and try one more time.

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Rohit & Allison

PARENTS VIA EGG DONATION &
SURROGACY (CONTD.)

Having Donor Conciierge's help was so phenomenal. Looking for a surrogate was like looking for a needle in a haystack, and I think we must have saved 12 months of time with Donor Conciierge. Within a couple of weeks we met our surrogate, who we're now friends with. She's amazing. Fast forward and our son came early, and he was in the NICU, and we were flying to meet them. That brought challenges, but we learned we had to let all of that go, wait and see what happens, and then deal with it all. We're so lucky that it all turned out well.

“Coming out of this process, we honestly feel like we've got some miracle children.”

On a positive note, the support from Donor Conciierge and all of the practitioners that we came across, who were there on the other side after we'd tried and it'd been unsuccessful, was amazing. The empathy, the love, the understanding was just incredible. It gave us the strength to go to that next stage. When you've almost given up, it was that love around us that just made us think: Yeah, we can do this. We can do this.



We've already started talking to our daughter about everything and included her in conversations about egg donation and now surrogacy from the start. We were open with everyone, including our daughter, about surrogacy, and we're going to continue that with our son. We think honesty is important, and we will continue having those conversations. We've owned it: we've got this journey, this is our journey to parenthood, and it's OK if it's different.

It's been really amazing talking to other people in our shoes. We know people struggling with infertility, and we were able to sort of have a conversation with them around, "Hey, you can do this, you can do that." I've emailed some friends all the information from our IVF and our surrogacy journey. Our advice to other parents is to do the research and know your options. Don't give up hope. You've just gotta try other possibilities. For the women that may not be able to carry, or they may have to choose a donor egg – You're still a mother, and you'll still always be a mother.

Coming out of this process, we honestly feel like we've got some miracle children. We could not have done this without Donor Conciierge and you guys being part of our journey. Thank you.

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I was diagnosed with premature ovarian failure at 32, which was a confusing diagnosis to receive. I went through a round of IVF that was just a miserable failure, and then I actually got spontaneously pregnant several times but never was able to continue carrying the pregnancy. Staying pregnant was a real problem for me.

And then as soon as we started with donor eggs, it was absolutely on. The first transfer worked, I have my son and I'm currently pregnant with my second child.

I'm 42 now, and I talk to so many other women about it. So many of my friends are also highly educated, professional women who are either waiting or didn't find a partner. Many of them have gone to freeze their eggs at 40, and they find out it's no longer an option. I find it so important to talk to them about the option of egg donation.

To be ready for egg donation, you have to get to the point where you're really done with trying to do it the way that you originally hoped it would be. You are completely done with the grieving process, ready to get serious and be a family and do what it takes. And that process is so long. Sometimes you have to go through really hard, terribly hard stuff, and you have to kind of be born again on the other side and then be ready for it.

I went into the transfer with a sort of spiritual attitude, thinking that this time it was going to work. I had no reason to believe I could stay pregnant at that point, but we'd also never had good embryos before. So they put in two, they told me it was working, and from the minute those embryos went in, things went well.

"I'm the biggest cheerleader of anyone making this choice."

The baby was always growing normally, the size was always good. My numbers were always good. I was shocked because I haven't had good news from a doctor in a decade. It was crazy. So it felt kind of meant to be.

There were so many joyful moments, between getting the news, the first sonogram, and hearing his cry for the first time. Our minds were blown, and I know everyone feels like that, but I didn't know how that was going to feel. And so those were super memorable moments. I also get really excited every time I hear that someone I know has used a donor successfully after years of failure. I love it. I'm the biggest cheerleader of anyone making this choice.

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“We’re really excited. It’s going to happen!”

I was an IVF baby myself – I think that’s why it’s so easy for me to talk about this process. We began speaking to fertility lawyers during lockdown, but couldn’t find our donor on our own. I heard about Donor Concierge on a podcast, and then we decided to sign on.

We were initially planning to freeze both our sperm, and we were just trying to find an egg donor that would fit our family. After genetic testing, we changed course. We decided to go with Jerry’s and started looking for a donor that looked more like Brian. Someone blonde, but we knew we really just wanted someone who would fit our family.

Our case manager was awesome. We checked through the donor profiles each night as they were added to our portfolio, and we let her know what qualities we were leaning towards. Within two weeks we were deciding between our top candidates, and then we were done in three weeks.

Our donor is cycling soon, and so far everything looks amazing. We’re really excited. It’s going to happen! Thank you so much, Donor Concierge, for helping us do this. You’ve helped us start our family!

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I always knew I wanted to have a family and have a traditional family structure. I pushed it off for a long time, waiting for the right time, before deciding to have a child as a single mother. Because of medical conditions, surrogacy was the path for me. It seemed like the way that I could actually move on and try to have a child. I realized surrogacy was the way that I could have my dreams of a family, even if it wasn't what I had originally pictured.

I found Donor Concierge through a web search. And my surrogacy experience was very smooth. I matched with my surrogate in an extremely short amount of time, and everything went smoothly with her. So I think that my experience was great, especially compared to friends' stories that I've heard since then. Finding a sperm donor also went very smoothly. So I feel like my experience was uniquely good.

I think it's hard to feel grateful on an everyday basis. But I think I know how lucky I was, and I am incredibly grateful. It's easy to get wrapped up in the day-to-day of life, but I think I had such a lucky, incredibly swift journey.

“Just having him, this incredible little being, has brought so much joy in my life.”



Looking back, that whole year was crazy because I did three additional cycles to try to retrieve more eggs. But I was “beyond to the fertility cliff” as they say. So it was a very intense year, but I'm very happy. I feel very lucky that I went through the journey the way I did, especially with COVID happening when it did. Going through Donor Concierge was really the right decision. Finding my surrogate took maybe a couple of weeks, and I'm really grateful for the parts that went smoothly. And I'm very happy with my life now.

Just having him, this incredible little being, has brought so much joy in my life. I think now my only worry is now what happens when my son becomes older and he's not as cuddly and doesn't want to hang out with me all the time!

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It took me about 8 years to go the donor route. I had been going through fertility treatments up until that point. And after losing a pregnancy, I was distraught. I took time away to think, because I just couldn't commit to going the donor route. I went on a trip, and decided if I came back and still wanted to do this, I was going to call Donor Conciierge and make the appointment. And I did.

When I started the egg donor search, I kept looking for someone like me. At first, no one jumped out. I was hoping to find someone with spirit, pizzazz. When I found my donor, her personality jumped out right away. She had a similar ethnic heritage to me, which I thought was good. And we talked on the phone, and I just really liked her personality. She was plucky. She was studying engineering, learning French, and she mentioned that she could change a tire. She just had spunk, you know?

During pregnancy, I had twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome. There were risks of neurological issues. But we ended up being okay. Oh my gosh. It was so amazing when they were born. When I heard them cry, I started to cry. They sounded perfect and normal to me, and I was so relieved. They're perfectly healthy.

Now that they're a little older, I've started telling them about their conception. I'm upfront with them about their origins. I don't think it means anything to them right now. But I would advise that, to be transparent. You don't want them to find out later, on their own. I practice telling the boys every birthday, just so it's easier for me. I tell them the story of their birth.

I think the only other advice I would share is with respect to egg Donor Conciierge in particular. I had no idea that you could hire a service like this, to do a lot of the legwork. And for people that are trying to overcome fertility struggles... I think it made all the difference for me.

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I found Donor Conciierge through a referral from my clinic. It was a long road even to get to that point. I had tried to get pregnant naturally for many years when I was younger, around 25. I have very severe endometriosis, and I was only born with one ovary and fallopian tube. At that time, I was just finding this out and having many surgeries for the endometriosis. We were trying to conceive naturally, but it never happened. Years later, I met my current husband. I was in my late 30's and knew I would have to do IVF due to my condition. So we started right away.

I did nine cycles of IVF in all. Eventually, I had to take a break. We looked into adoption and fostering but weren't eligible. At that point, I felt like I had exhausted all the options. But donor conception was still in the back of my mind. I knew I still wanted a family more than anything. So we said, "Let's go for it."

I knew I was searching for someone roughly like me, and most importantly, someone kind. Our clinic didn't have many options, so they referred us to Donor Conciierge. Then we started seeing far more candidates. Their personalities started to really jump out, and we got excited.

I knew we picked the right donor, because I kept coming back to her profile and what she had written. I remember thinking, "If I met her, we'd be friends." I really liked that. That was the main reason we chose her. She was very chatty and friendly, not just formally filling out the form. She seemed like a lively person, which I liked. And she resembled me, which was a bonus.

We went through one round of DEIVF and I knew I was pregnant right away. We had failed nine times, and I just knew this one had worked. I actually had a really difficult pregnancy due to hyperemesis, complications with delivery, the whole thing. But my son was perfect. He's about to start kindergarten now.

To anyone fighting an infertility journey, I would say, keep going. And also talk to people. If you can't talk to your family, talk to anybody else – find a support group, find somebody through your doctor who's been through this, or a therapist.

At the end of the day, I'm just so grateful. I'm so grateful that this wonderful person donated their eggs for us, and I'm so grateful that I found Donor Conciierge, honestly. And I'm so grateful that I went to the clinic that I did. There is not a thing I would change. There's not a thing I would change, because I had my son. This child completed my life.

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“Try to keep the long-term family vision in mind.”

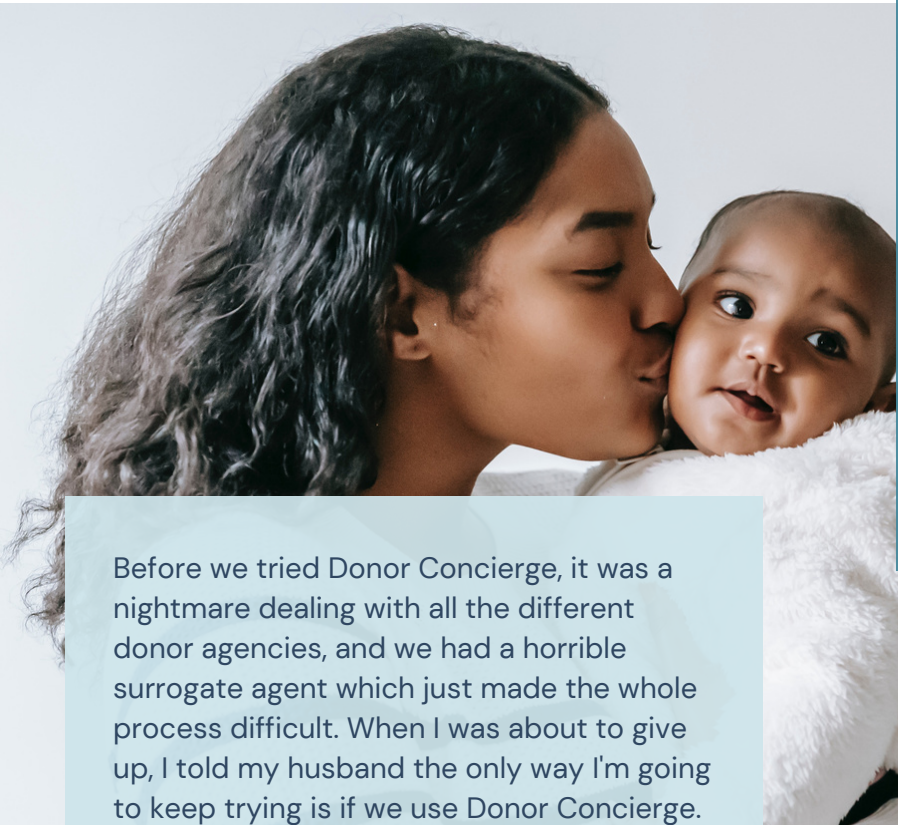
We were amazed at how easy and quick it was to work with Donor Conciierge. Our first child was born via surrogate working directly with an agency and we wasted a lot of time getting the run-around while waiting to be matched with a surrogate. For our second child, we went with Donor Conciierge at the beginning and we were matched within a few days. Working with Gail and Donor Conciierge was a pleasure and I'd recommend it to anyone!

If we had to give any advice to other parents, we would say to remember why you're doing all this. It can be difficult when you have this path to family, rather than the ways you see it coming together for friends, in movies, all that. Try to keep the long-term family vision in mind, and don't be discouraged by all the paperwork and formalities needed at the beginning to get there.

Now that we are here, we are just so happy. It's amazing! Our daughter was born 3 years ago and we are now a very happy family of 4!



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“I’m just very glad we stuck it out and kept trying because, well, babies are just all worth it.”

Before we tried Donor Conciierge, it was a nightmare dealing with all the different donor agencies, and we had a horrible surrogate agent which just made the whole process difficult. When I was about to give up, I told my husband the only way I'm going to keep trying is if we use Donor Conciierge. I was SO done with all the sifting through profiles and filling out dozens of long detailed applications on various websites. Donor Conciierge made the process so straightforward and took away the many many headaches associated with finding good candidates. I SO wish we had started with them in the first place.

I know it seems like a lot to pay for something you could do yourself but TRUST me Donor Conciierge is worth the cost and then some. There are so many donor/surrogate agencies. You do not want to research and vet all of them so you try a few but it takes an insane amount of time to apply and go through your fertility history on various online applications. This process is stressful and painful enough get all the help you can.

I feel like a fertility veteran now. I could literally write a book about our fertility/family building process. I'm just very glad we stuck it out and kept trying because, well, babies are just all worth it.

Now I'm so happy to say, we have a 5 month old baby boy! It is so amazing getting to this point, but I do want to share with others that it is so important to be patient. Looking at us now, you wouldn't know how hard our journey was. It took us over 7 years of IVF before everything finally worked out. And now we have the family of our dreams.

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I had my first son just before turning 40, so already I knew that I was further along in my age. We knew we wanted to have another child – first we were just trying on our own, because with my first son I had no problems whatsoever, but we sort of jumped into IVF pretty quickly. Sadly I miscarried the four transfers that we had.

I ended up talking to maybe four or five different mothers who had used surrogates. I had gone to an infant and pregnancy loss support group, and I met a local mom who was already further along in the surrogacy process. She's the one that actually told me about Donor Conciierge, which was a service I wasn't familiar with at that time. I had spoken to a number of agencies ahead of Donor Conciierge, so I was aware of the timelines and expectations. I just didn't want to wait around – I was thinking, "Okay, great, let's speed up this process, cast a wider net."

Once we matched with our surrogate and went through the transfer, we felt cautiously optimistic. I think we used that phrase, "cautiously optimistic," for the whole nine months. I had a lot of just personal trauma around ultrasounds and doctor visits. It was a relief when we first got the news that there was a heartbeat, and that was really exciting... but I had had that experience as well and then later miscarried. So there were different hurdles in this part of the process, and as we got further along in the pregnancy, I got a little bit more comfortable. It really wasn't until I was holding my son that I felt relief that everything was okay, because I just had that constant worry.



Our surrogate was amazing. She was wonderful. She was totally calm and very confident, which put us at ease. The birth process was another obstacle due to COVID, but when I look back I wouldn't want it any other way. We flew out early and were there for two weeks while she was pregnant, and we saw her every day. We had meals together, and the kids played together, and we became really connected, so it turned into this beautiful thing. It makes me cry to think about, because our relationship with her was the silver lining.

On paper, the surrogacy process is simple. You get matched with someone, you get them medically cleared, you go through the contract phase, you have a transfer, and then she's pregnant. But you have to be prepared for unexpected hurdles along the way. I feel like we hit almost every single one at first, with failed matches, medical hurdles, and COVID. I would advise parents to prepare for those bumps in the road and to know that this will be a complex journey. It felt like we hit every possible hurdle on this path, so it was a challenging time in our lives. But after each hurdle came a beautiful happy ending.

Kevin's Story

SINGLE DAD

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I've never had regrets in my life: I've made some decisions that were great, some less great, but I appreciated them all for where they've taken me in life. I've had amazing experiences in my life being an openly gay man. Not having children allowed me tremendous freedoms in terms of flexibility. But I started to worry that I would wake up at age 70 or 75 and have a regret. Not having children.

It made me think. I thought about it for a while, as I was starting to get older by then. I knew it would change my life quite a bit. I worried that I could be doing this on a whim and not truly want it. I worked through all of that, and ultimately knew it was something I really wanted to do. And then once I started working with Donor Concierge and seeing donor profiles, I got really excited. I knew I was on the right path. Completely sure. There was no turning back.

I didn't go into my egg donor search with a checklist. Some people say, "Well, I want a Harvard-educated blonde-haired, blue-eyed supermodel." That was not my vision. We ended up narrowing down the candidates, and that's something I worked with my case manager on.

When I had contacted surrogacy agencies on my own, I heard that I needed to have embryos ready and then wait an additional six to nine months. That didn't sound very good. But Donor Concierge found surrogates pretty quickly for me.

With the pregnancy, I was very nervous with every bump in the road. I transferred one embryo, because I thought as a single dad that twins would be a little much. Then my surrogate had her sonogram and found out the egg had split. As soon as I heard, I was thrilled, because somebody up there definitely wanted me to have twins.

If I had to say anything to others about this path, I'd say thank God for modern medicine, because without it, this wouldn't be possible! I wouldn't change anything, because the end result is the most beautiful thing that I could ever imagine.

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I was very okay with the idea of using donor egg very early on. It was my husband that had reservations about it. Sometimes you know your body – I did so much IVF and I just knew I wasn't going to get a baby out of me and my husband. And I don't know, something inside me was just like, "It's not coming from you."

We came to Donor Conciierge because there were a lot of wrong donors out there for us, and I just had no idea how to filter all those agencies and profiles. We did want her to look as similar to me as possible. That's what we started out with. And as we went through it, our boundary widened a bit. I just wanted someone that I looked at and thought, "She looks like a nice person."

I really connected with our donor's story. She seemed very much like me. One thing I keep saying to people who are going through this journey, and I talk to them here in Australia, is the donor that you choose will never be wrong, because you get your children thanks to them.

So don't don't worry about, "Oh my God, what if I choose the wrong girl or guy or whatever." It can't be wrong because you end up with your children. So, I mean, if I had chosen one of those other donors, I wouldn't have my gorgeous children.

With our first surrogate, she'd never done it before, but the pregnancy was super easy and the birth was amazing! It was different with our second surrogate: our daughter Skye was born early and spent time in the NICU. We visited her every day and it was so hard at first, but she came through it very well.

"Seriously – when the doctor hands you your baby and you've been through this struggle, there's no doubt: this is your baby."

A lot of people ask me if I see the children as my own children because they're not my biology? And that thought has not ever crossed my mind since they were born. It probably played on my mind a little bit before they were born, but you end up in a completely different headspace. I can see myself in my children. Seriously – when the doctor hands you your baby and you've been through this struggle, there's no doubt: this is your baby.

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We always wanted biological children. And it's more and more common to see two dads conceiving this way. We have friends that have gone through this, so it wasn't foreign to us. It didn't feel impossible.

We were referred to Donor Concierge through a close friend. He had gone down this path with his partner, and told us, "Look, you're going to save a lot of time and you're going to have a much more thorough search by using Donor Concierge." So it was a no brainer for us that we used Donor Concierge to find an egg donor and surrogate.

To start with, our surrogacy journey was amazing. We only met with one candidate and knew we had our match. We matched right away. She was really great, and it was seamless for us.



For our donor, one of the reasons we went with Donor Concierge was because we are a mixed race couple. We were hoping to find a donor who was mixed race. We started out looking for someone half Chinese and half Caucasian. And after seeing our first round of candidates, we opened up our criteria more. We started reviewing many donors, and realized we needed to act quickly because donors were going to cycle fast. We ended up getting two great candidates and moved forward with one of them. And everything worked out great. I think that our donor's agency was also very responsive, and we felt very taken care of by them.

There were so many amazing moments after that. I think we were very excited when the surrogate said that she was pregnant. That seemed like a big milestone to get through. Then that 20 week appointment and the anatomy scan was just incredible. Well, even that first scan of even hearing the heartbeat was so special. And I would say, I don't think that goes away now that we're on number two.

That first heartbeat is just so emotional and magical. But then, of course, the birth itself was amazing. Seeing him and meeting him. That was amazing. So special.

"That first heartbeat is just so emotional and magical."

The one thing we would tell people going through this journey is to be patient and flexible. That was key for us. At the end of the day, we have a beautiful child that we're going to love forever and I think that's all that matters. But we needed to open ourselves up and be more flexible.

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*My dearest egg donor,
I literally can't put my
feelings into words to express
my gratitude to you.*

"My dearest egg donor,

I literally can't put my feelings into words to express my gratitude to you.

You probably have no idea of the gift you have given to us and the feeling of completeness to me personally. I was able to raise a baby inside of me and now that little bundle of cuteness brings so much joy every day and every moment.

I wish to say THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart!! I just want you to know, and be proud of the fact, that you have brought so much happiness in our lives.

After multiple failed IVF cycles at a relatively young age, we discovered my egg reserve had depleted already, in spite of leading healthy habits throughout my life.

My husband and I were devastated with the news, but then our doctor presented the option of using donor eggs. To be honest, this was by far the toughest decision of my life. It was an emotional roller coaster up until I gave birth to a healthy baby.

In hindsight, I would say it was not only the most difficult, but the most BEAUTIFUL decision we ever made as a couple.

I am very sorry about any physical pain you might have endured during retrieval process, shots, etc. It's not easy and doing it for someone else is truly noble. No amount of money can match it.

Once again I am extremely thankful to you beyond words. You are always in my prayers and I wish the best of everything for you in life. May you find joy and peace, god bless!"

- One happy mommy

Liam & Jose

TWO DADS

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“The family building process was stressful, but amazing.”


The family building process was stressful but amazing. Our experience was great. We got very lucky in the egg donation and surrogacy process, and we put a lot of trust in the fact that most everyone in the surrogacy world is doing it for a very compassionate reason.

And hey – it all turned out well!
We have two wonderful children!



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“We now have two sons and a complete family! We are forever grateful.”



My advice is just: Do it. I was convinced there was no way we would find an egg donor that I would feel connected to and with a similar ethnic background. I am happy to say I was wrong!

I can't imagine going through this process with my sanity without Donor Conciierge. They integrated disparate egg banks and curated ideal egg donors, greatly simplifying what I thought was an impossible task...finding an egg donor that I felt matched my appearance and background. We now have 2 sons and a complete family! We are forever grateful.



We now have two healthy beautiful boys after finding the right egg donor for our family! The compassionate support we received from Donor Conciierge at a very difficult time helped us make one of the hardest and best decisions of our lives.

If I could give any advice, I would say, take the time you need to make the right decision for your family, but don't wait too long! Especially if you are an older mom like me.

It was extremely difficult going through the infertility journey at the time, but now it is in the recent past and I don't even think about it anymore. Now I'm a mom enjoying the everyday with my two lovely boys.

“The compassionate support we received from Donor Conciierge at a very difficult time helped us make one of the hardest and best decisions of our lives.”

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Our Family

DONOR CONCIERGE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Gail Sexton Anderson

Founder & CEO



Gail has dedicated her career to helping intended parents from all walks of life build families. She founded Donor Conciierge as a compassionate approach to helping intended parents sort through the gauntlet of egg donor and surrogacy options. Gail is a Harvard trained counselor with 20 years of experience helping intended parents have the baby they always dreamed of.

Terrell Anderson COO



Terry joined Donor Conciierge after spending his career in software and IP-based businesses in large corporate, emerging growth, and startup environments. He has served in a variety of president and general manager roles with a focus on strategy, acquisitions and strategic partnering, new product development, brand building and market launches.

Gloria Li Executive Director



Gloria manages our team of case managers and heads our donor and gestational surrogacy programs at Donor Conciierge. Gloria has worked in the fertility field since 2013 and is an expert on egg donation, gestational surrogacy and fertility care management.

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Our Family

DONOR CONCIERGE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Michelle Laurie

VP, Business
Development



Michelle has a unique understanding and empathy for those struggling with infertility. After spending several years challenged with her own fertility issues, Michelle welcomed her son to the world. She returned to post-graduate study and achieved her Masters in Social Research Methods. Michelle is passionate about bringing people together and has a tenacious approach to research, marketing and business development.

Cynthia Lim

Director, Marketing



Cynthia has had an extensive marketing career with multinational retail and wellness brands while living in Asia. With her diverse global experience, she is skilled at bridging cultures and takes a practical and holistic approach to overcoming challenges. Cynthia holds a BA in International Relations from the University of British Columbia. She speaks fluent English, Mandarin and Cantonese.

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Our Family

CONTACT US



The Donor Concierge team is comprised of compassionate, educated, and knowledgeable case managers, with a track record of outstanding results to help families find the right donor/surrogate choice through the best industry connections.