

THE STORK

A P E R F E C T M A T C H , I N C .

F A L L S U P P O R T G R O U P S

B A B Y B U M P U P D A T E S

- Alexandra—31 weeks
- Alyssa—Match pending
- Amber—Matched
- Amelia—Available
- Angela—18 weeks
- Anngelia— Transferred in December
- Ashley—36 weeks
- Carol—Delivered in July/ Matched for new cycle
- Caroline— Matched
- Celina—Matched
- Chelsea—Match Pending
- Claudia—Available
- Crystal—32 weeks
- Danelle—Delivered twins in September
- Daniela—Embryo transfer in October
- Delfina—Available
- Donna—Embryo transfer in January

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October—

October's support group was held at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Our support groups are a great time to catch up with other women who have become friends through this incredible journey, as well as meet new people and encourage one another when things don't go as smoothly as hoped.



Mari, Celina, Danelle, Alexandra, Laurie, Daniela and Tonya at the Old Spaghetti Factory

Danelle and Tonya were both present to talk of their deliveries in September and show us how fast the baby weight can come off. Both women are doing fantastic and are an inspiration to the rest of us.

Marisol helped plan the meeting and found a fun Halloween-themed game, which everyone enjoyed. And keeping with the holiday season, we passed out treat bags and mini pumpkins. Dessert featured wickedly delicious Halloween-themed cupcakes from Flour Power.



A fun way to dress up for Halloween—paint the belly! Baby's first costume.

November—

November's meeting was held at Marie Callender's in Escondido. Not wanting to deny any pregnant woman her craving, we feasted on turkey, pasta, chicken or beef. But while we didn't share a common dish, we share a common purpose, a common goal.

Some Thanksgiving trivia was thrown in to celebrate the holiday. Of the 50 survivors that shared that first Thanksgiving dinner, about how many were women? (answer at bottom).



Stacy, Tonya and Marisol at Marie Callender's

Valerie was also present and was able to give thanks and share her very recent birth experience with the twin boys she delivered just 3 weeks earlier. It was another wonderful reminder of why we do what we do—to bring joy and thanksgiving into other families' lives.

**answer: 5

BABY BUMP UPDATES

- Elise—Available
- Hope—January cycle
- Jessica C—Delivered in December
- Jessica S—Matched
- Julia—Embryo transfer in January
- Karin—Match Pending
- Kristina—Embryo transfer in January
- Lauren—Delivered twins in September
- Larissa—Available
- Laurie—34 weeks
- Lisa—18 weeks
- Mari—Transferred in December
- Marisol—Matched
- Maya—Available
- Nadica—January/February cycle
- Rebecca—Matched
- Reiko—Embryo transfer in January
- Rose—16 weeks
- Shanna—Available
- Shawna—14 weeks
- Stacey—37 weeks
- Stacy—8 weeks
- Tonya—Delivered in Sept
- Valerie—Delivered twins in October
- Vanessa A—10 weeks
- Vanessa H—Available
- Veronica—Embryo transfer in December

FEATURED SURROGATE: DANELLE

My name is Danelle, and this is the story of my surrogate journey. My journey started years ago as just a statement to my younger sister that if she ever wanted a family, I would carry for her if it turned out she couldn't carry for herself. This offer was still on my mind when I reconnected with an old friend from high school and learned that she too was a surrogate. She shared her story and her love of the experience and her IPs. When my husband came home that evening, I shared her story and we decided to start our journey as a surrogate family. I made the call to A Perfect Match and our journey began.

We completely clicked with the first IPs we met, a same-sex couple from LA, and were fast tracked into our surrogacy journey together. After our first transfer, my IP's were in the room when we learned that they would not just be getting their so-desired baby, but a set of twins!! I will never forget the look of joy (with a trace of fear) that I saw on their faces that day. I'm sure my expression was about the same, TWINS? I've never carried TWINS! was running through my head. We were all in unfamiliar territory.

Carrying twins was an entirely new experience for me. Everything about the pregnancy was heightened. My sense of smell was on overdrive. My morning sickness lasted all day, for 16 weeks. After that subsided, I seemed never to be able to eat enough!! I was also able to feel the babies move sooner and more often than with my previous pregnancies with my girls. It was a very neat experience being able to learn who was who, and to feel each of them move separately and how when one would wake, the other was just a minute behind. I'm also convinced they were wrestling at points during the day too!

Our second trimester continued easily, and at 19 weeks it was confirmed that they would be having a son and daughter. We also learned they were big and healthy, 2 weeks big to be exact. Must have been all that food they demanded. They continued to maintain their 2-week-big size right into the third trimester,

where I swear I would wake up bigger than when I went to bed the night before.

Halfway through the third trimester, we all learned who was in charge of our journey as the twins attempted to come into the world at 33 weeks. The hospital was able to stop my preterm labor, and the wonderful nursing staff and my OB took great care of me during what turned into a two-week hospital stay. Our wonderful, supportive friends and family helped my amazing husband hold down the fort at home and care for our girls. Throughout my hospital stay, my IPs were there as often as possible to support me. They made sure I was as comfortable as possible and I was being well taken care of. I was able to return home on strict bed rest for ten days before the twins made their appearance into the world at 36 weeks. Labor came on fast and was quick less than 4 hours from the start of the arrival of Baby A, the boy who I was able to deliver vaginally, weighing 6 lbs 14 oz, followed by his sister weighing 6lbs. 9 oz an hour later via C-section, since she had decided to be stubborn.

Throughout our journey my family's relationship with our IPs grew. We met for doctors appointments, attended plays, and met for lunches and dinners at least once a month and went from strangers to what I now consider my extended family. We continue to keep in touch and I receive texts and pictures often. Everyone is doing great and they remind me of what I was able to do for them.

My husband said it best - many people can say they built a house or a building, but I built a family.



AN IPS JOURNEY

The first time we met, the chemistry clicked, we knew we had found the surrogate mom for our babies, Over the last year Danelle has been a best friend, parenting coach, and surrogate mom. With sparkling wit, abject honesty, a fiery passion and steadfast love for the babies, Danelle has given our twins every opportunity to enter

the world empowered with her love, devotion and compassion. Now we are blessed with two beautiful miracles. The road wasn't always easy, but Danelle never cut any corners. She always put our babies first, and we were able to rest assured that they were well cared for.



OTHER DELIVERIES

Valerie delivered twin boys

Valerie had a scheduled C-Section October 19 at 38 weeks because those little guys were getting big. Upon delivery, one of the boys was 8 lbs 13 oz and the other was 7lbs 5 oz. Valerie did an amazing job carrying the twins to full term with no complications.

Jessica delivered a girl

After 8 weeks of hospital bed rest, Jessica delivered a beautiful, healthy girl on December 20. Born 16 inches long and 4lbs2 oz, she is doing wonderfully. We are so proud of Jessica for hanging in there those long days.

DECEMBER SUPPORT GROUP IN PHOTOS



23 of our surrogates were able to attend this years December support group and Holiday Party, held at Dani's house. Thank you Dani! We ate too much, had a gift exchange and swapped cookies in a cookie exchange. It was amazing to see how our group has grown in 2011. We are looking forward to 2012!



C E L E B R I T Y S U R R O G A C Y

More and more, we are seeing surrogacy in the news, with celebrities reporting using surrogates to complete their families. 2010 and 2011 have seen the following celebrities welcome babies into their lives using gestations surrogates, the “new-fashioned,” as

cbsnews.com put it.

- Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban had a daughter
- Elton John and David Furnish had a son
- Neil Patrick Harris with David Burtka had twins

- Sarah Jessica Parker and Mathew Broderick welcomed twin girls
- Ricky Martin became a single dad to twin boys
- Dennis Quaid and his wife also had twins, boy and girl.

- Elizabeth Banks had a son
- Chris Daughtry and his wife had twins

This is just a small list of the celebrities that have decided to use surrogates to grow their families. I’m sure we’ll be seeing many more in the future.

H A P P I L Y E V E R A F T E R

On 11/11/11, Rose Lucero (Surrogate Case Manager for A Perfect Match) married Ty Pinkerton (Financial Administrator for Reproductive Law Center and son of President of APM Darlene Pinkerton). Given their similar passions and walks in life, it is not hard to see what drew these two together. Rose was pregnant as a surrogate at the time they met, so it is fitting that she was also pregnant as a surrogate when they married.

Love at first sight? Rose knew she was attracted to Ty the first time she met him when she started working at APM in 2005. “It just took him a while to ask me out.” she said. There were a couple small bumps in the road as in any relationship—like when Rose told Ty she loved him on



just the second date—and promptly took it back.

The ceremony was beautiful and held at the Birch Aquarium in San Diego. Included in her vows, Rose promised “not to take it back this time.”

Darlene says, “I am delighted beyond words to have Rose become a part of our family...we love her and Dylan very much and can't imagine our life without them in it. Now, if she would just stop being a surrogate and give me a grand-baby I would be even happier! No pressure...just saying!”



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S & R E M I N D E R S

- January Surrogate Support Group** Our surrogates will be meeting on Monday, January 16 at 7pm at Marie Calenders in Escondido
- Men’s Informational Meeting**—Still in the planning stages but we are aiming for the end of January, to be held at BJs Brewhouse in Escon-

dido. This will be an opportunity for spouses and partners to find out from an experienced partner what surrogacy is like for those behind the scenes offering support.. Would you spouse/partner be interested in attending? Please let Julia know at Julia@aperfectmatch.com

REMINDERS:

The first person to get two referrals with signed contracts will receive a free weekend on a 46’ sailboat!



THE XY FACTOR WITH DOUG

When I first heard my wife would like to be a surrogate, I was excited. Helping another couple start a family was something I never expected to be able to be a part of. From the beginning, the whole experience was easy and painless. When we met the IP's, we could have sat and talked for hours. Meeting them was like meeting a part of our family we just had not had the chance to yet. After that, how could we not be their surrogates? The implantation went well and, as I predicted, TWINS! The pregnancy was definitely a bit different than our girls

but that just made it its own special event in our lives. Up until we had a little bout with pre-term labor, it was smooth sailing. She was hospitalized for a couple weeks, and that can complicate a schedule. But no matter what, a husband is always glad to be there to support his wife even if it's with just an "I love you." When all was said and done, we were lucky enough to have two beautiful new additions to our new family. It has been an honor to be a part of this whole process. Thank you for letting us be part of your family.



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"It is said that the present is pregnant with the future." ~Voltaire