

AVAILABLE SURROGATES SEEK INTENDED PARENTS DURING NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

Overland Park, KS – As people across the country are <u>raising awareness of infertility</u> <u>this week</u>, generous surrogates are offering their services to help the nearly 15 percent of couples in America who struggle to build their families.

<u>American Surrogacy</u> provides complete surrogacy services to prospective surrogates across the country and prospective intended parents around the world. The organization is currently working with several pre-screened surrogates who are ready to help those struggling with infertility realize their dreams of parenthood.

Angie Newkirk, Program Director of American Surrogacy, said that many couples turn to assisted reproduction after years of struggling with infertility.

"By the time these families get to me, they have had a long journey and just want to become parents," Newkirk said. "The American Surrogacy staff has been in the family-building field for more than 15 years, and we understand the long and exhausting road families have been on. We want to do everything we can do to make them parents or add to their family."

One of American Surrogacy's gestational carriers, Jewel* from Missouri, said she was inspired to pursue surrogacy after completing her own family, recognizing that some families struggle to conceive and carry a pregnancy on their own.

"I had such a wonderful experience with my first pregnancy and had no complications during pregnancy or during labor and delivery," Jewel said. "I have always wanted only one child, and once I saw [my son], I knew he was it for completing our family — but I know many women struggle with pregnancy and would love to help."

To prepare Jewel for surrogacy, American Surrogacy provided her with the extensive screening, professional support and education she needed to feel comfortable with the process.

Now, with an active <u>surrogate profile</u> on American Surrogacy's website, Jewel is finalizing the screening process and awaiting a match with hopeful parents who are ready to grow their family through surrogacy.

American Surrogacy uses a state-of-the-art matching process to connect surrogates with hopeful parents based on each party's preferences, including their locations, desired level of contact during the pregnancy, financial requirements and more. Each party creates a surrogacy profile to be reviewed by prospective matches, and when a surrogate and intended parents are interested in moving forward together, American Surrogacy arranges for them to get to know each other before committing to the process.

Prior to this matching process, every surrogate must complete a thorough <u>screening</u> <u>process</u> and meet requirements set by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, which includes at least one previous pregnancy with no complications.

"It is important to us that each surrogate is fully screened with an in-home assessment, background checks, psychiatric evaluation and a Reproductive Endocrinologist looking through her medical records before we connect her with a family," Newkirk said. "We would hate for everyone to fall in love with each other, and then for some reason she is not able to move to the next step. We understand that infertility is a stressful journey, so our screening process is something we take pride in completing before the match."

*Jewel is identified by her first name only to protect her privacy.

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About American Surrogacy

American Surrogacy is a family of surrogacy specialists, assisted reproductive attorneys, licensed social workers, professional media specialists, and more, all who contribute to various steps of the surrogacy process and beyond. For more information about American Surrogacy, please visit <u>http://www.americansurrogacy.com</u>.