



## **Couple #1** **Adrienne and Larry**

### **Our Official Essay Entry**

Larry and I would be honored if we were chosen to be the 2008 New Mexico Dream Wedding Couple.

We think that we would be the perfect couple because our roots are in New Mexico, and always will be. Our grandparents moved here in the 1930s, our parents grew up here, we grew up here and our kids will grow up here. Larry's parents attended Highland High School and Sandia High School here in Albuquerque. My parents attended Rio Grande High School in Albuquerque and Hot Springs High School in Truth or Consequences. Not only are we both native New Mexicans but we were both born right here in Albuquerque at our very own Presbyterian Hospital. We attended Elementary School, Middle School and High School in the Albuquerque area.

Larry graduated from Sandia High School in 1993. Larry lettered in soccer and swimming at Sandia. At the time of graduation, he was already working in the garage door business as an installer and moved his way up to Commercial General Manager. Larry did garage doors for 13 years before moving on to greener pastures. Larry is now a plumber at a local family owned business that has been a part of our community for 50 years. Larry's company has worked on important developments in our community including Isotopes Stadium, the VA Hospital and The Pit. Larry is currently working on the Water Treatment Plant, which will eventually provide the citizens of Albuquerque their drinking water.

I graduated from Cibola High School in 1995. I lettered in cheerleading, academics and a community service group called Cougar Corp at Cibola. I attended College at the University of New Mexico. Unfortunately, I was not able to finish my degree because I was diagnosed with a chronic, auto-immune and potentially fatal disease called Lupus during my freshman year at UNM. However, I am still working on my degree. I will receive a degree from UNM eventually. I am the Business Manager for a local business which happens to be owned by my mother and her business partner. We are a small, woman owned business in the Northeast Heights of Albuquerque. We will be celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May. I have been with the company from the beginning. I am very proud of the service we provide to this community. We provide diabetes education and management to people living with diabetes. Our goal is to reach as many people with diabetes as possible, ease their suffering and improve their lives by preventing complications while raising awareness in the community. In addition, we provide education for healthcare professionals nationwide to help them better care for their patients with diabetes.

Larry and I have been dating for five years and we have been engaged for the past four years. We bought a house in Albuquerque's west side last December. We enjoying working on projects to improve our home, we spend a lot of time with our three dogs and (the most rewarding of all) we raise Larry's six year old daughter, Savannah, from a previous marriage. Savannah is the light of our life and she makes our relationship even better. She makes our life complete. Children are so fun and are truly a gift.

The only reason we haven't been married already is the financial burden my illness puts on us. We really want to have a nice wedding to share with all of our friends and family, instead of going to the courthouse, but we cannot afford it. There are times when I am in and out of the hospital and we spend a lot of our money on doctor's appointments and medications. If I wasn't sick we would have been able to save money and we would be married already. That is why winning this Dream Wedding would be such a miracle for us. Winning would make our dreams come true.

We truly love one another. We cannot imagine what our lives would be like without this wonderful love affair. This relationship is one of our greatest accomplishments. We feel that everyone deserves to experience a love like ours in their lifetime. But many people will not so we consider ourselves very lucky to have found one another. We believe our love will make the best of times better and the worst of times less painful.

We would really appreciate you choosing us for this awesome opportunity. Thank you.

Adrienne & Larry