

HOMETOWN HERO:

# Jennie Hannebohn

**“I feel truly grateful to Jennie, Sarah, and Geoffrey for willingly becoming a part of our family and thus helping to create what we now call Lara’s Village.”**

There few things I can actually say in words that express the emotion and gratitude I have for this individual. I’ve had the unique pleasure of meeting a woman who has become one of my dearest friends and confidants. While I call her friend, my daughter Lara, calls her Ms. Jennie. Jennie is Lara’s stepmother, and though our relationship may seem odd to some, she has actually been critical to bringing our family back together. Her acceptance and fearlessness with regard to our daughter, Lara, has created a family unit that is by far stronger than I could ever have hoped for. She has been my sounding board and my rock in times of trouble. She is the voice of reason and the only one who reminds me to “breathe”. I can never put into words the magnitude of an impact she has had on me and my child; and thank you just never seems enough. She has truly become an asset to our family and we are privileged to have her.

Jennie brings to our family unit two absolutely wonderful and accepting children: Sarah and Geoffrey Conkle. Sarah is seven months older than Lara, so of course she is gifted with being the big sister and mother hen of the family. Geoffrey brings with him all the fun and energy a 6-year-old can.

In her own words, Sarah once told me she “likes taking Lara her pizza and her root beer;” she thinks its “fun to blow bubbles in gum for Lara;” and she likes “to tickle Lara too.” Our children are now a unit and they each accept each other without the parameters set forth by most. They are quite simply sisters and brother, no “steps” needed.

I feel truly grateful to Jennie, Sarah, and Geoffrey for willingly becoming a part of our family and thus helping to create what we now call Lara’s Village.