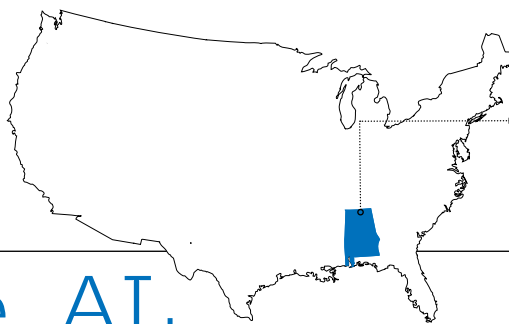


●●●  
**my hometown**



**Population:** 176,645  
**Famous For:** Nicknamed "Rocket City" for its role in the U.S. space program. The *Juno 1*, built in Huntsville, launched our first satellite into space.

# Huntsville, AL

Breathtaking surroundings, a first-rate space center, a lively downtown—and triplet sons—give Lisa Ceci and her husband plenty to do in her native state. **by Caren Oppenheim**

**Going once, going twice, sold** I was raised in a small town four hours away, and visiting here was a treat. Joey's family relocated from New Jersey when he was 5, and I moved here 18 years ago for work. We met at a Big Brothers Big Sisters charity auction, where Joey bid on and won a date with me. There was never a discussion about raising a family anywhere else.

**Out and about** We love strolling through the quaint Twickenham Historic District, which has intricate landscaping and charming old homes with large porches, set amid modern architecture and a thriving high-tech business community.

**The great outdoors** One of the best things about living here is the gorgeous scenery. We're situated right in the Tennessee River Valley, with its countless parks, trees, walking trails and the Monte Sano State Park to the east. We had our sons' eighth birthday party at the playground on the mountain, and twice a year Joey takes them on a boys' trip to the park, where they stay in rustic cabins from the mid-20th century.

**Lisa and Joey Ceci, with 8-year-old sons Jonathan, Nicholas and Daniel.**



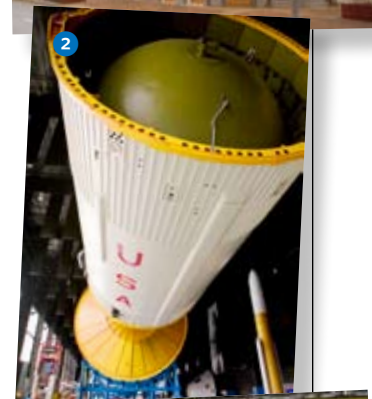
## To infinity and beyond

We're lucky enough to have the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, which is home to the U.S. Space Camp and a museum with IMAX movies and hands-on exhibits that let kids climb into space crafts. We can't wait for the upcoming *Star Wars* exhibit, with costumes, props, videos and more from the six films.

## The center of attention

Bridge Street Town Centre is an outdoor shopping and dining mall with a carousel and a bowling alley. We always go for July 4th fireworks and a Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

**Lend a hand** Joey and I feel it's important to teach our children to be cognizant of the people around them. That's why we're involved with the National Children's Advocacy Center, a nonprofit that was founded here to help fight child abuse and neglect. Joey previously was a board member, and we volunteer at the annual auction fundraiser. Huntsville has been such a warm and nurturing place to raise the boys—it's truly a joy to see them learning to give back to our community. ●



1. The Twickenham Historic District includes a home built in 1814, the oldest in Alabama.
2. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is one of the top tourist attractions in the Southeast.
3. Gondolas and paddle boats line the man-made 10-acre lake in Bridge Street Town Centre.

**Think your town is unique?** Let us know why we should profile it—and your family—in an upcoming issue. Send us an e-mail and family photo to [hometown@familycircle.com](mailto:hometown@familycircle.com).