



Saying ‘Yes’ to Each Other, Then to Dallas

Austin, Risa, and baby Kate could have lived anywhere

“We met in the spring of 2016. I was a senior in college on spring break and Austin was in flight training with the military,” says Risa Welch.

Austin had graduated from West Point in 2015.

“I flew Army helicopters, which was my little-kid dream,” says Austin, now a consultant. “To get to wear America’s away colors to defend the freedoms that we all enjoy here was

an incredible mantle of responsibility, which we both took seriously.”

They dated long distance for six years before marrying—each trying out multiple cities. When they married, they could have chosen any city in the country to start their lives together.

“We were evaluating against several criteria,” says Austin.

- They wanted a place where they could plant deep roots and start a family;
- Connectivity to the rest of the country and world was important;

• Finding a place where their dollar would go further was critical.

They liked Dallas “on paper” and tested it out with a weekend trip to see the neighborhoods and get a feel for the people and the culture.

“We settled in Greenville,” says Risa. “Dallas is a big city, but areas like this give you that small-town community feel.

“In 10 minutes I can be downtown at my office, and in 10 minutes I can be in what feels like a completely suburban yet totally accessible place.”