

## Featured Story of Jennifer L.

Age: 40

Bariatric surgery: December 16, 2004

Lost 200 lbs. and Dr. Katzen took 14 lbs. off of excess skin

Plastic surgery: October 2006

Jennifer wanted a body that fit her outgoing personality and that suited her goals. She dreamt of traveling and seeing the world but obesity and the severe high blood pressure it caused hindered her dreams. Resolved to start living the life she wanted, She started working out diligently and following a healthy diet yet it seemed almost impossible to shed the weight and the health problems remained. After struggling with obesity her whole life, Jennifer decided to undergo gastric bypass surgery in December 2004.

After losing nearly 200 lbs. and getting off the high blood pressure medication, Jennifer felt like a new person but thought that the transformation still needed to be completed. The dramatic weight loss that Jennifer experienced left her with excess skin in her abdomen, legs, arms and chest and while she was able to hide it underneath her clothing, she was not yet satisfied with the image she saw in the mirror.

"I was ecstatic about the weight loss and my new life but I remained self-conscious because of the excess skin I had," said Jennifer. "I knew that if I had come this far in my journey I owed it to myself to complete it and that's why I decided on plastic surgery."

After scouring her hometown of Las Vegas, she decided to expand her search onto California for a plastic surgeon that would inspire comfort and that would understand her concerns.

"I immediately felt at ease during our initial conversation," said Jennifer. "Dr. Katzen and the staff were very willing to answer every one of my many questions and that meant a lot to me."

In October 2006, Jennifer underwent two separate surgeries to remove excess skin from her abdomen, legs, arms and breasts.

"I feel great," said Jennifer of the results of her plastic surgery. "While I have always been spontaneous and outgoing, I have a lot more confidence, I now feel comfortable in a bathing suit. The freedom and happiness that comes with the new me is something that I had never experienced and I love it."