

## a phenomenal family

In 1970, 20-year-old Ken Kunken suffered a spinal cord injury while playing college football, which left him paralyzed from the neck down. When he married his wife Anna in 2003, the two agreed to do everything in their power to start a family.

An organization in Florida dedicated to helping paralyzed men with fertility issues referred the Kunkens to Bruce Gilbert, MD, PhD, a urologist at North Shore University Hospital who specializes in male fertility. In an outpatient procedure, Dr. Gilbert removed and froze Mr. Kunken's sperm. According to Dr. Gilbert, for men with spinal cord injuries and normal sperm counts, the procedure's success rate is 90 to 100 percent.

On June 13, 2004, a year and a day after their wedding, Ms. Kunken underwent in vitro fertilization. A year later, Mr. Kunken accompanied Ms. Kunken



Anna and Ken Kunken with their three bundles of joy.

as she delivered their fraternal triplets — Joseph Benjamin, James Lawrence and Timothy Francis — via Caesarean section. The happy family now lives in Rockville Centre. ✨

To find a North Shore-LIJ physician who specializes in **urology and/or fertility**, please call 1 (888) 321-DOCS or click on the "Find a Physician" link at [www.NorthShoreLIJ.com](http://www.NorthShoreLIJ.com).