

INTRODUCING

Phil
& Ellen





HELLO THERE



Thank you for taking the time to get to know us! We are honored that you would consider us to love and raise your child. We know you want the best for your child and are trying to make the right decision for them, and we want to support you in that.

Although we don't know each other yet, we hope this small glimpse into our family will help you imagine what life would be like for your precious child. We hope you get a good sense of our family and the kind of love and warmth your child would be surrounded by.

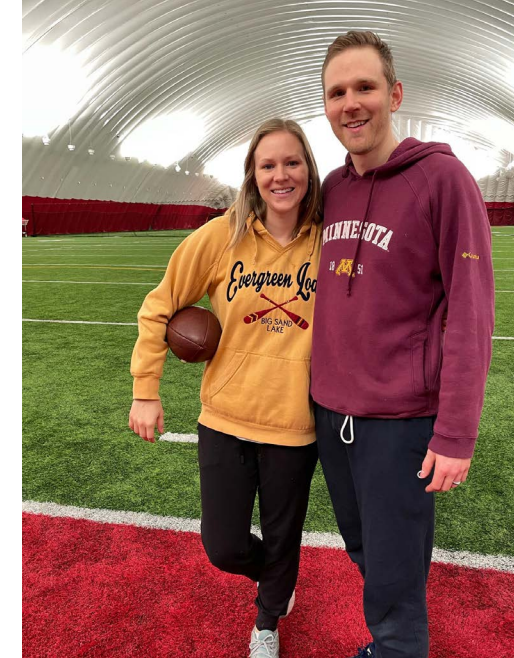
We're excited to share our love with another sweet baby and are so happy that we have the opportunity to do that through adoption. We can't wait to get to know you and your baby, and for you to get to know us too.

Phil
& Ellen



ABOUT US

by Ellen



We met sophomore year of college at a Valentine's Day Dance. A few minutes in, Phil came up and asked me to dance. We danced together the rest of the night! Our first real date was a night out salsa dancing a few months later. Dancing is one of our favorite date night activities as well as trying out new restaurants or recipes at home.

We dated throughout college and for a couple years after that. Phil proposed to me in a canoe, surrounded by lily pads and flowers, and my whole family was waiting on shore to celebrate with us when we

paddled back. We got married outside on a beautiful day in June. A few years later, we had our daughter Lucy, and then Hallie a couple years after that. We can't wait for our family to continue to grow!

Our faith is very important to us. We believe God created all people in his image and we try to live out what God has asked us to do - to love Him and to love others. We are all equal and deserve the same love and respect. We are involved in a church in our community which we really enjoy and have a strong connection to. We hope to pass these values and beliefs on to our children.



“We love our little family and can't wait for all the adventures ahead!”



ABOUT ELLEN

by Phil

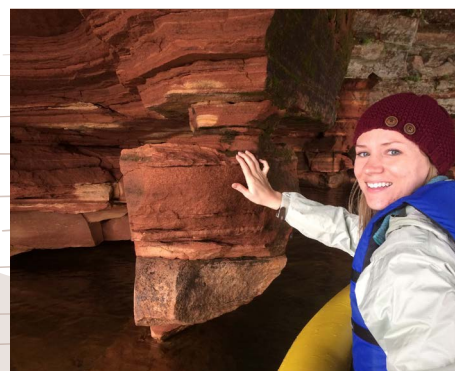
Ellen is a fun loving, active, and caring mama. She loves staying busy with the kiddos. They do art projects, meet up for playdates at the park with other moms, bake yummy treats, go for bike rides, and more! She was an elementary school teacher and that definitely shows in how she is raising our little ones. She is amazing at finding fun and learning in everything, and loves having the girls participate in activities with her.

Ellen has always had a big heart for others. She is a very thoughtful, loyal, and considerate friend and partner. She loves to meet new people and is always making new friends in the neighborhood. She even started a book club that many of these neighbors joined! I am a little biased but I think she is an amazing mother and wife.



“Ellen has a big heart and loves having fun as a family.”

-Phil



MORE ABOUT

Ellen

AGE: 31

OCCUPATION: Stay at Home Mom

FAVORITE BOOKS: Harry Potter Series

FAVORITE PLACE: Big Sand Lake (our yearly family reunion location)

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: My family, chocolate and books

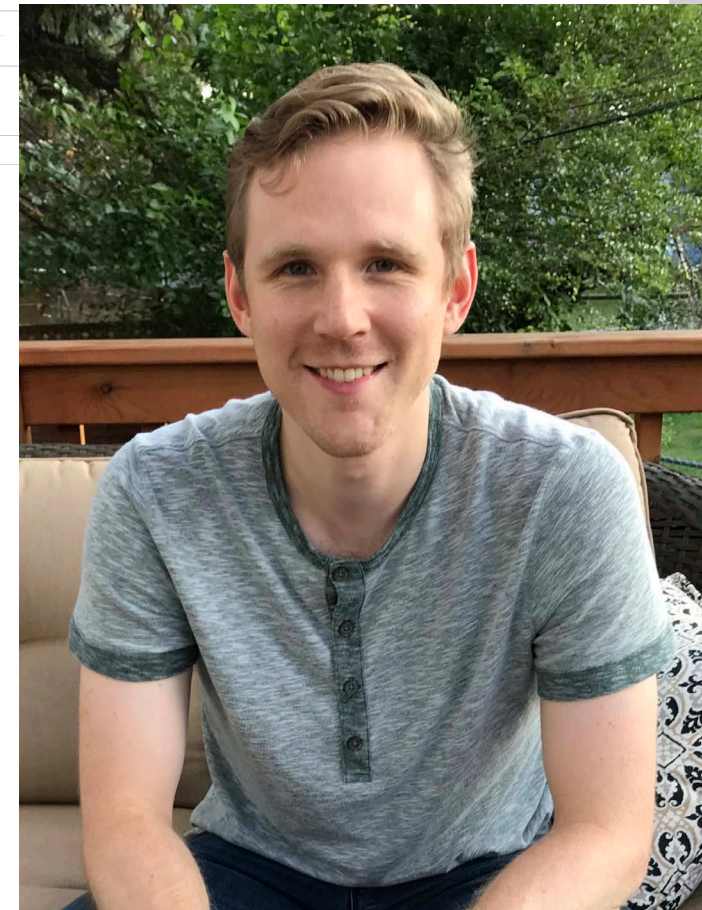
MY PERFECT DAY: French toast with fresh fruit, a walk with my family, a good book, volleyball with friends, the park with my girls, then watching a funny movie and cuddling with Phil!

ABOUT PHIL

by Ellen

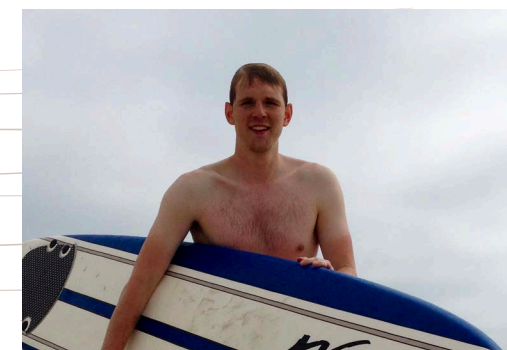
Phil is a very devoted, loving, and generous person. He loves his family and would do anything to make us happy. Lucy and Hallie love having Daddy time - playing Legos, having dance parties, running around in the snow, and reading books. As a husband, Phil is very supportive and comforting. He always encourages me when I am feeling down and makes me feel very valued and loved. Phil loves to give hugs and cuddle. We laugh because even though he lives with three girls (myself, Lucy, and Hallie), he is definitely the cuddliest person in the house!

Some of Phil's favorite things to do are watch movies, cook special meals and invite my sister and brother-in-law over to enjoy it with us, play nerdy board games with friends, and play his guitar. He is always up for trying something new and loves to learn. I can't imagine life without Phil!



“Nothing makes Phil happier than being at home with his family.”

-Ellen



Visiting a remote village in Uganda

MORE ABOUT

Phil

AGE: 30

OCCUPATION: Software Engineer

FAVORITE BOOK: The Name of the Wind

FAVORITE PLACE: Home

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: My family and coffee

MY PERFECT DAY: A late summer's day on the lake, playing in the water with the kiddos, and watching the sunset

ABOUT LUCY



Dinner with Uncle Ben

Lucy is very spunky, fun, and surprisingly chatty for a three-year-old! She's been known to spend an hour singing or talking to herself while she lays in bed at night. Some of her current favorite activities are running around at the park, playing pretend with her sister, doing art projects and then hanging them up on the wall, and taking care of her baby doll.



MORE ABOUT

Lucy

AGE: 3

OCCUPATION: Future pop star (she LOVES to sing and dance)

FAVORITE MOVIE: Finding Nemo

FAVORITE PLACE: The park

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Dessert

HER PERFECT DAY: Spend the day in her pajamas, play at the park, eat cookies and only cookies, have a marathon dance party, and watch a movie with her family!

ABOUT HALLIE



Reading with Uncle Jay

Hallie recently learned to walk and now charges around the house looking for things to get into! She is fearless and will dive, roll, and climb wherever she wants to go. Before she even turned one, she was playing on the playground, throwing herself down the slides head first. She definitely keeps us on our toes! She always has a big smile on her face and thinks her sister is hilarious.



MORE ABOUT

Hallie

AGE: 1.5

OCCUPATION: Future Food Eating Champion (this girl can eat!)

FAVORITE BOOK: Noah's Ark - she loves to point at the animals and have us make the noises

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: Her big sister - Hallie loves to do whatever Lucy is doing!

MY PERFECT DAY: Start the day cuddling in bed with Mom and Dad, then play outside all day! Eat some spaghetti for dinner, wrestle with Dad on the floor, and end the day reading in the rocking chair.

ELLEN'S EXTENDED FAMILY

in her words

I grew up with six people in my family - my mom and dad, my two brothers and my sister. We are a very close family and love to spend time together. We are always playing board games or organizing family football or volleyball games. My parents have a cabin and in the summer, it is our home away from home! Lucy and Hallie love to take rides on the pontoon and splash around in the water. We also enjoy traveling together and usually take a couple trips each year! My extended family really loves traditions. One of our favorite traditions is our annual trip to Big Sand Lake every summer. Everyone in the extended family (about 40 of us!) looks forward to it all year! We play tennis, read books on the beach, go tubing and water skiing, play games, cook together, and sit by the campfire.



Family reunion in California



Celebrating Pops' Birthday



Cuddling with Pops and Nana



Pontoon fun



Dinner time at the lake

“We are lucky to have both of our sets of parents around. They LOVE being grandparents and can't wait to add another grandchild to the family.”

PHIL'S EXTENDED FAMILY

in his words

I grew up in a tight knit family of four. My mom, dad and younger brother all still live nearby. We get together often for movie nights, breakfasts at Perkins, or to just hang out. My parents love coming over and spending time with the girls or having them over for a slumber party at their house. I grew up going to large family gatherings for holidays and birthday celebrations and have fond memories of delicious home cooking. I am still close with all of my cousins and their families and every two years, the extended family hosts a reunion over July 4th (more than 150 people attend!).



Fun with the cousins



Birthday Pumpkin Painting Party!



Storytime with Grandpa



Time with Phil's family

OUR HOME

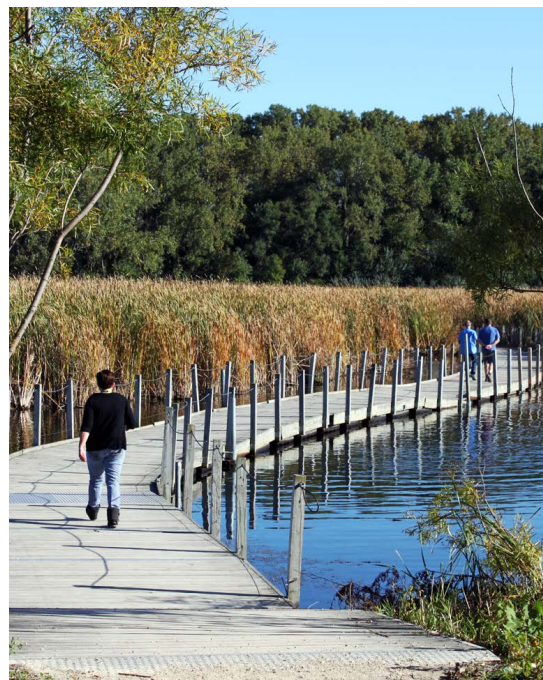
& Community



Our home

We love our community! We live in a small, diverse suburb right outside a big city so we feel like we have the best of both worlds. There are so many fun things to do and see in the city but we also get to have the small town feel of familiarity in our neighborhood. We know many of our neighbors and often get together with them. There are many parks in our neighborhood that we visit just about daily. There is one that is two blocks from our house that we call “Our Park” because we are there so much it feels like it belongs to us!

We are both from Minnesota originally and think it is a wonderful place to live and raise a family! We love having four very distinct seasons. Summer is the time for swimming at the lakes, going to the pool, or taking a pontoon ride. In the fall, we hit the apple orchards and pumpkin patches and take walks to look at all the beautiful leaves! Winter is a favorite for the kids! Sledding, making snow forts and snowmen, snow ball fights, and hot cocoa. Then spring - beautiful flowers and the excitement of the weather warming up!



Nearby nature center



The nursery

OUR FRIENDS

We have a close group of friends from college that still live in the area and we love to get together with them for birthdays, to play games, have BBQs, and even go on a yearly cabin trip. It's so much fun to watch our tiny tots play together! We also love to spend time with our neighborhood friends - taking walks to the park, playing in our backyards, and exploring the city together. Ellen's sister and brother-in-law are some of our closest friends and live close by! Our girls get very excited when Auntie and Nay-Nay (what they call Uncle Nate) come over.



Game night!



Wedding with our friends



Zoo with friends



More fun at the zoo



Auntie and Nay-Nay

WHY ADOPTION?

Adopting was always something we talked about. We've always envisioned adoption as a part of the plan. During both of Ellen's pregnancies, she was extremely ill. We still wanted our family to grow, but knew that Ellen could not handle another pregnancy. We knew then that it was time to adopt! We are very excited for our family to grow through adoption. Four of Ellen's cousins were adopted, so our child through adoption will have close family members to relate to!



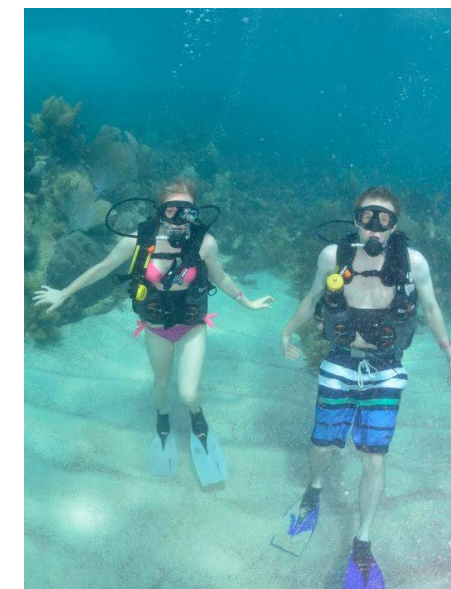
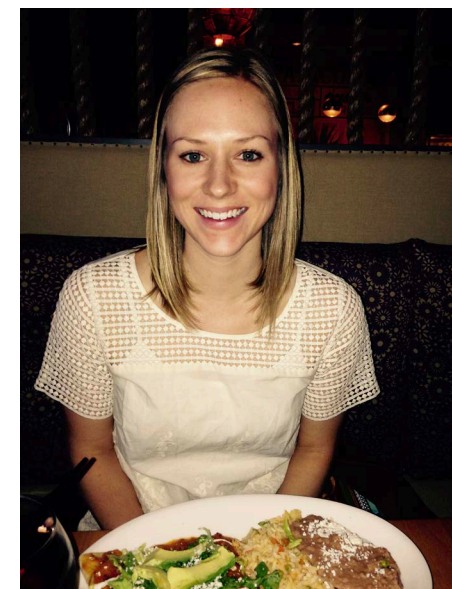
FUN FACTS ABOUT *Our Family*



- » Phil is always working to make our home an even nicer place to live - he even built our deck!
- » Ellen LOVES volleyball! In college, she would play volleyball for 5 hours straight!
- » We love to try new restaurants and keep a list of every restaurant we've tried and what rating we gave it.
- » Every summer Phil competes in a Triathlon - he loves to swim!
- » Ellen lived in Spain for 4 months and speaks Spanish.
- » We went scuba diving on our honeymoon, even though Ellen was terrified!
- » Phil loves to camp & can't wait to go as a family once the kids are older.
- » During the summer, one of our favorite family outings is packing a picnic dinner and heading to the beach.

Our promises to you:

- » To respect and support you in your decision, whatever it may be.
- » To love and cherish the precious life you are entrusting us with.
- » To raise our children to know and love God.
- » To surround our children with people who will support them and help them flourish.
- » To help them have fun being a kid and enjoying life!
- » To build our children up and help them become confident, kind, and respectful people.





THANK YOU

We appreciate you taking the time to learn more about our family. We hope it gives you a glimpse of what life would be like for your little one, if we are chosen as adoptive parents for your child. We know this is an incredibly tough decision. Know that we are praying for you already and have so much respect for you. We pray that you have peace with whatever decision you make and know that your child will be so loved if we are chosen. Thank you for considering us!

Phil & Ellen