

# Ellen + Gregg



“We believe that family is who you choose to share your life with, not just who you share genes with.”



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# Hello There,

Are you looking for a loving family who can provide a nurturing environment filled with laughs, compassion, and adventure? If so, please consider us!

We promise that if you choose us to parent your child we will love and cherish your baby as our own and encourage them to develop into their best self.

We know this must be a difficult time and decision for you and we thank you for taking the time to consider us as potential parents for your child.

We hope this profile book gives you a glimpse of our quirky, caring selves. Regardless, we wish you the best on this tough journey.

*Gregg & Ellen*

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# Fun Facts About Us

- Ellen studied abroad in Tanzania and has spent many months doing science in Ethiopia.
- We love costume parties, especially constructing our own costumes using thrift store clothes, household objects, cardboard boxes, and duct tape.
- We did not find the Holy Grail when we visited Jordan, 20 years after Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade came out. Wonder where it got moved to?
- It's not Halloween unless you carve a pumpkin, and roast the seeds.
- Every year, we head up to the national forest and cut down a Christmas tree.
- We both love baking, and our creations are often team efforts: Ellen makes pie crust, and Gregg makes the filling.
- Gregg hiked the entire Appalachian Trail and rode his bike from Montana to Alaska.



## Our Story

We met seven years ago, through mutual friends. Our first official date was a hike up a mountain, and we bonded over our love of the outdoors and nature. We became partners in adventure and spend much of our free time outside: hiking, camping, kayaking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and backpacking. We strive to fill our home with love, laughter, compassion, the smell of home-cooked dinners and dessert, and science.

We believe in the power of individual actions, and we share a desire to give back to our community. Several times a month, we cook and deliver dinners to community members. We have been foster parents for three years. Fostering has been a life-changing experience for us, brought us closer together, and made us excited about expanding our family through adoption.



# Meet Ellen *in Gregg's words*

It is nearly impossible to boil down Ellen to only a few sentences. Her greatest traits are intelligence, determination, compassion, and empathy. She is a beauty inside and out who challenges me and others to be our best selves. Ellen always manages to see the best in others and can help them to see it too. Her passion and curiosity for life, her strong work ethic, her community-mindedness, and the love and support she has shown our foster kids are only a few things that prove she will make an incredible permanent mother.



**“I cannot wait to see Ellen’s curiosity and love of life and learning reflected in our child.”  
- Gregg**



## *more about Ellen*

**Age:** 41  
**Occupation:** Paleontologist  
**Favorite movie:** Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade  
**Favorite place:** Desert landscapes  
**Can't live without:** My family and outdoor activities  
**My perfect day:** Wake up early, go for a day hike in the mountains with family/friends, have barbeque dinner, and then snuggle on the couch.



Hanging at home with my little friend

# Meet Gregg

*in Ellen's words*

Gregg has the kindest heart, and this is never more apparent than when you watch him be a dad to our foster kids. He provides endless entertainment, makes up all sorts of games around the house, hikes up mountains with the little ones in a backpack, and will sit by the bed as long as it takes for sleep to come. He has overcome a lot to get where he is today, which makes him a great role model for the kiddos. Gregg lets his actions do the talking. He listens when you've had a hard day, helps you find the answers, and gives the best hugs. He inspires me to try new things, push my limits, be silly, and live authentically.



**“Gregg’s kind heart, sense of fun and adventure, and tenacity will make him an amazing dad.”**  
- Ellen



## *more about Gregg*

**Age:** 42  
**Occupation:** Biologist  
**Favorite book:** Catch 22  
**Favorite place:** Adventuring Outdoors  
**Can't live without:** Oxygen  
**My perfect day:** Start the day with an outdoor adventure and finish hanging with the fam and friends enjoying a pot luck BBQ, a good fire, and a beautiful sunset.



# Our Extended Family

Ellen's family is small, close-knit, and spread across the US. Ellen's older sister and her husband live in the Philadelphia area with their three sons ages 11, 7, and 4. Everyone spends a week at Christmas crammed into her mom's house in Chicago, with highlights being an Italian seafood Christmas Eve dinner, baking lots of homemade cookies, watching *The Sound of Music*, playing board games, and building with Legos.

Gregg's extended family is quite large. He has 5 siblings and three cousins he sees regularly- all but one are in the New Jersey and Philadelphia area. Four siblings and 2 cousins have children, so it can be quite the crowd when they all get together. Gatherings are typically limited to Thanksgiving week. They tend to be high energy affairs filled with good food, laughs, often a talent show, and bocce. His eldest brother previously lived in our town and spends a month or 2 with us most summers.



Lunch out with our friends and their daughter



Ellen and her best friend from college



Christmas Eve seafood dinner



New Jersey cousins

# Our Friends

We view our friends as our "found family." We love impromptu hang outs with local friends, traveling to visit those we no longer live near, and hosting out-of-towners! Many of our friends are great cooks, and we have regular low-key potluck dinners and happy hours. Our friends often join our outdoor adventures, from hour-long walks on the prairie to week-long camping trips. We are aunt and uncle to many of our friends' children and are excited for our kiddo to have bonus aunts and uncles.



Thanksgiving with Gregg's family



Neighborhood potluck

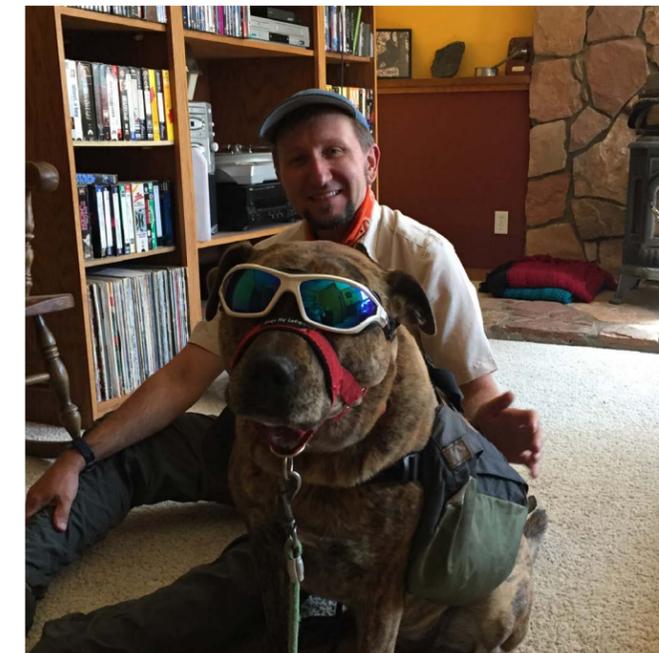


Bachelor party rafting trip

# Our Home & Community

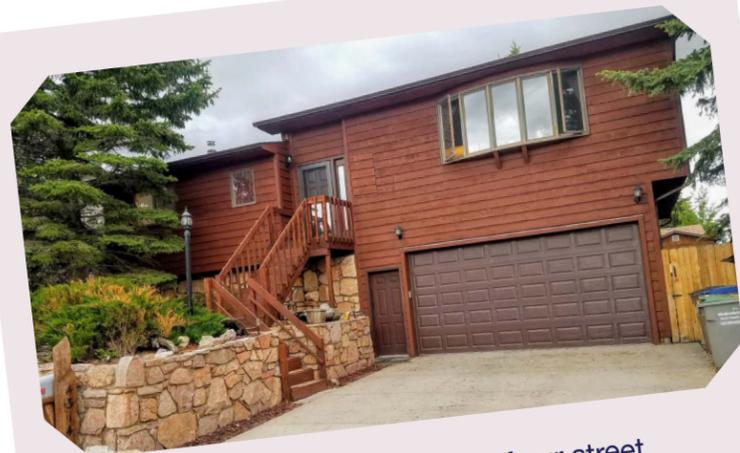
We live in a small town in Wyoming. It's a town where you can't go anywhere without meeting friends, co-workers, and acquaintances. There is a weekly farmers market in the summer, a thriving art scene, a great public library, museums on the university campus where we both work, and lots of people who share our passion for the outdoors, education, and volunteering.

We own a home in a quiet neighborhood, an easy bike ride from several schools. There are a lot of kids in our neighborhood, who spend summer evenings outdoors riding bikes and scooters and playing sports. We live two blocks from a small park, and four blocks from great hiking and mountain biking trails. One of our foster kids helped us paint a mural in our dining room, and we are currently deciding what murals to paint in the nursery.



## Meet our dog, Bryn

Our only pet is a 9-yr old rescue dog, Bryn. She has been part of our family for seven years and joins many of our adventures. Her favorite activities include snuggling, hiking, napping, and playing tug-toy. She has been a source of comfort and entertainment for our older foster kids, and a huge help cleaning up food dropped by the younger ones.



Our house, in the middle of our street



Eating fresh-baked muffins



Playground just down the street



Clowning around downtown



Reading while fur baby & foster baby nap

# Why Adoption?

Ellen had always wanted to be a parent but Gregg was not so sure at first. So, we became foster parents to try out parenting. We quickly realized we are actually pretty darned good at this parenting thing! We seriously bonded with an infant who was in our care for four months while his bio mom got the treatment she needed. After that, we knew that we wanted children of our own, to love and nurture for their entire life and that it didn't matter if we shared any genes with our child. We have a strong network of local friends who have adopted, and we are not afraid to reach out for help and ideas.



## We promise to...

- Love our children forever and a day, no matter what.
- Share their adoption story with them from the beginning.
- Have family adventures, explore new places, and learn about different cultures and ways of thinking.
- Prioritize education, support our children's interests, and provide opportunities to grow into who they want to be.
- Encourage self-respect and respect for others.
- Share the community service and activism that we do and encourage our children to find their own way of giving back.
- Sit down together for dinner as a family, as close to every evening as we can.



## Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to consider us as parents for your children. We cannot imagine how difficult a time this must be for you. But we can promise that if you choose us, your children will have a loving, nurturing home and plenty of opportunities to explore nature via science, adventure, and art.

With Love,

*Gregg & Ellen*

