

Dear Expecting Parents,

We thank you for reading this and are honored that you may be considering us as a possible adoptive family for your child. We are Dave, Ellen and Miles and are very excited about the possibility of welcoming another child into our family. We live in Washington State and have been together for 17 years and married for 13.

We joyfully welcomed our son Miles in 2011 and treasure the adventures we have together as a family. We were lucky to grow up with siblings (Ellen is one of five and Dave is one of three) and hoped to have more children, but are unable to do so on our own. We hope to be able to add to our family through adoption and to have the opportunity to share our unconditional love and open-hearts with another child.

Work and family life balance are very important to us. We are fortunate to be able to work part-time so that we can spend time together as a family. As parents we are dedicated to providing a loving, compassionate, supportive, playful yet safe environment. Our goal is to encourage and provide opportunities to grow emotionally, physically and mentally. We treasure the time we have together as a family and look forward to being able to share this precious experience with another child.

We thank you for taking the time to read this. We are flexible about any degree of adoption openness you are comfortable with. It is difficult to convey in words and photographs all about who we are as people, parents and a family, but hopefully you can get to know us a little better through our profile. We care about you and your emotional well-being and hope we can provide the support you need if you decide to move forward with making an adoption plan with our family. Whatever you decide, our hearts are with you.

Warmest wishes,
Ellen, Dave and Miles



At the playground on the way to the beach, Summer 2016.



At the beach (Oregon coast), Summer, 2016.

WHO ARE WE?

We met 17 years ago and were immediately drawn to each other's shared interests in science, nature and love of the outdoors. That first night we met, we talked for hours and learned that both of us had traveled and lived in another country when we were young. Ellen's family lived in Ireland and Dave's family lived in Malaysia. This experience shaped some of the values we hold as adults, including an appreciation and respect for other cultures and for the natural world. This experience also shaped our academic passions as young adults influencing Ellen's decision to pursue a degree in anthropology and Dave's in biology.



Outdoor adventures on our Honeymoon in Belize 2003



Wedding Day 2003!

The first 8 years of our marriage were spent growing as a couple; going camping, backpacking, skiing, hiking, travelling and getting together with close friends and family. Throughout this

time, we were also dealing with fertility challenges and endured some personal losses involving Ellen's mom who was diagnosed with dementia and Dave's dad who was diagnosed with cancer. After several years of trying to conceive, our lives were beautifully changed by the arrival of our son in 2011. Over the past 5 years, our focus has been about spending time as a family discovering new things about ourselves and each other as parents. We always hoped to have more children and are excited by adoption and look forward to welcoming another child into our family.

Work/life balance is very important to us. We are fortunate to be able to work part-time so we can spend more time with our son and our future adopted child. We are dedicated to building a solid foundation and creating a strong family bond, by lovingly and gently teaching by example, nurturing developing emotions, and by just having fun and being silly!

We cherish the adventures we all have together whether we are singing the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse theme song, pretending we are Winnie the Pooh in the 100-Acre Wood, making smoothies or play-dough at home, creating music by jamming on the guitar, piano, and bongos, going to the park and swimming in the river, or simply reading books together. We also enjoy going on camping trips, canoeing, vacationing at the beach and spending time with Grandmas in Seattle and Virginia and aunts, uncles and cousins in New York and Virginia.



Being silly and celebrating our 12th Anniversary , Summer 2015

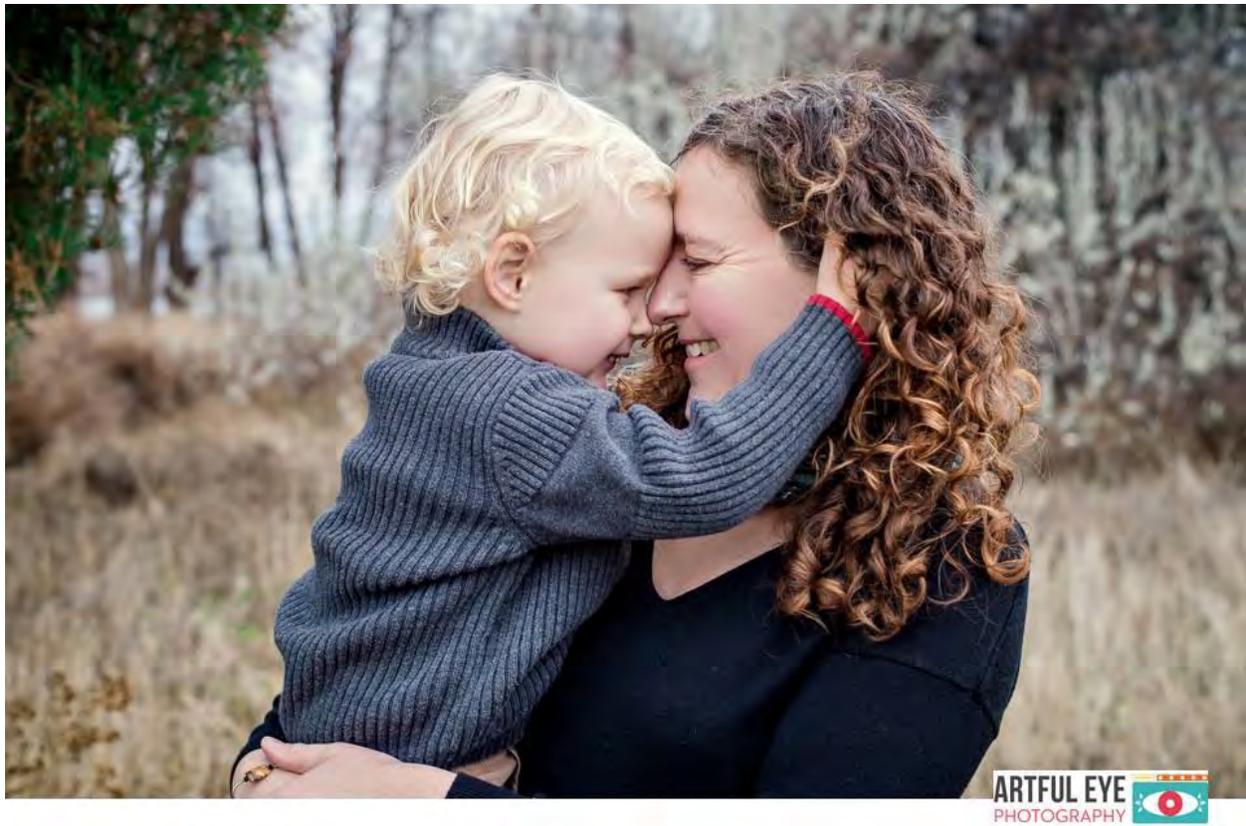
ELLEN

Ellen is warm, thoughtful, and intuitive. She loves to play outdoors, read books and do yoga. In her professional life, Ellen enjoys working as an anthropologist/archaeologist and is passionate about understanding and protecting the past and other cultures. Ellen grew up in Virginia and comes from a large blended family consisting of siblings, nieces, nephews and step-family that mostly live in Virginia with a few in California. Ellen's family life has been touched by adoption as her "younger older" brother was adopted as a newborn. Ellen's siblings are very close and are very supportive of each other and Ellen and Dave's adoption hopes.

A few words from Dave on Ellen: When I first met Ellen I felt a deep connection. Being compassionate and empathetic, Ellen truly understands and cares about other people's perspectives. As a mother, she is kind, gentle and playful with our son. She seeks out information on stages of childhood development and finds opportunities for our son to grow such as going to "Mommy and me" music classes, going on adventures at the park or to story time at the library. Ellen is also very social and is good at reaching out to other moms and dads to schedule play times and field trips for groups of kids and parents. We enjoy each other's company and have a lot of fun together.



Mommy and Me Surprise Photoshoot 2014 (Christmas present for Daddy)!



SNUGGLES for our photoshoot!



DAVE

Dave is easy-going, gentle and intellectually curious. He enjoys the outdoors, gardening, skiing, and playing guitar. In his professional life, Dave enjoys working in a field and laboratory setting as an environmental microbiologist. Dave grew up in Seattle and his mom and siblings live in Seattle and New York. Being close to the Cascade Mountains, Dave's family spent time skiing, hiking and camping in the mountains. Dave also grew up with a love for water sports such as wind surfing and water skiing. Dave remembers having to carry his own pack at the age of Dave is close to his Mom and siblings and texts and talks to them often. Dave's mom and brother's family are a big part of our family life, and try to visit and/or vacation together often.

A few words from Ellen on Dave:

When I first met Dave, I was drawn to his love for the natural world and knowledge of science. But I was most attracted to his gentle nature and easy-going manner. I love watching Dave parent. He is a silly, creative, imaginative, and patient dad who takes time to explain things, yet he is at the ready to wrestle, or pretend to be Tigger. I also appreciate the music Dave brings into our lives, improvising with “Run from the Monster” and “Mr. Potato Head” songs for Miles. These days, the things I enjoy most about our couple time include talking about social and current issues, reading books and watching movies or documentaries together.



Designing the Tree House for the Backyard, Summer 2016



Run from the Monster Song, Summer 2016

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

We strongly believe in providing a loving and nurturing environment for our family. We believe in teaching emotional development, lovingness and respect for each other and others. We also believe in giving our children opportunities to become their best and true selves. Our greatest hope for our children is that they are able to pursue their passions, have fun, and develop the emotional tools they need to have love and compassion for themselves and others.

OUR HOME

We live in Eastern Washington State near two rivers. The community we live in is family-friendly and within driving distance to major metropolitan areas (Portland, Seattle, Spokane), and to the Cascade and Blue Mountains. Community events make it easy for parents and children to make connections with other families and to enjoy time with each other. The weather is sunny throughout most of the year, offering children plenty of opportunity for outdoor play and exploration. We live in a 3 bedroom house on 2.5 acres located within ½ mile of town, the library, swimming pool and parks. We are also located within 10 minutes of the river and desert hiking trails.



View of the River and Mountains, near where we live.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

We have a close relationship with our large extended family who live in Virginia, Seattle, New York and California and who provide us with support and love. We stay in frequent contact with Grandma in Virginia and siblings by texting, e-mailing often and visiting a couple times a year. Being closer, we see Grandma in Seattle several times a year and often vacation together at the beach or go camping in the mountains.



On the Oregon Coast with Grandma, 2016



At the airport, saying goodbye to Aunt Mary who lives in Los Angeles, Summer 2016



We welcomed Daisy in August 2016. Here is Miles and Daisy cuddling.



Miles (making a silly face), Dave, Daisy, and Ellen March 2017

2. What are your feelings concerning a life-long commitment to an open adoption?

We believe open adoption is very important if birth parents

desires it. We believe it is good for child to know
where they come from and to be able to have a connection
with their birthparents if possible and appropriate.

3. Why do you feel an open adoption will be beneficial to you and the child placed in your home?

We think it is important for child to know where they come from
and know something about their identity. Ellen's brother was
adopted in the 1970's and the adoption was closed. This was
painful for Ellen's brother and we believe open adoption provides
child opportunity to benefit from relationship with adopted and birth parents
and to be able to have a connection & relationship with them, have questions
answered and know they are ^{any} doubly loved.

4. Do you live in an urban or rural area? (Town of 5,000 or less is considered rural)

Urban.

5. What do you do together:

When we are
As a couple? ^{not} spending time with our son, we love to listen to live music,
read, watch pbs, movies, be outdoors, go camping, hiking, canoeing,
swimming and play music together. We enjoy socializing with close

With extended family? We go on adventures/vacations with Grandma in
Seattle. When in VA or NY we hang out, eat, play games, go
swimming.

6. (If you have a child (ren)) What do you do as a family? (state how old child (ren) is/are)

We have one son who will soon be 5. We play imagination,
make and listen to music, make smoothies, cookies, play dough.
We go on adventures to park, river, and pool, go swimming,
Wrestle, go camping, boating, canoeing, paint, draw, play
board games, read stories

7. What importance does your faith play in your family life? We believe in tolerance for all
We believe in spirituality, nature but are non-denominational. We believe it is important to

respect others, no matter what their beliefs. It is imp. to learn about other faiths and to
become involved in social justice and community through a non-denom. church. We

8. Husband's hobbies: believe our children can choose their own faith when
they are older.

music (guitar), gardening, wood working, watersports, skiing,
hiking, & ~~skating~~ camping, teaching & playing with son

Wife's hobbies:

Yoga, listening to and making music. love to read, play outdoors
hiking, boating, camping, playing with son on our adventures
to park and swimming. and cooking and art projects at home.

9. Do you have pets? (If so, describe) None right now. We have had a dog and
2 cats in the past. We would like to get a rescue dog or
Kitty when timing is right

10. Child(ren)'s hobbies: imaginary games swimming, playing & listening to
music, making pancakes, smoothies, cookies, play dough, art projects,
painting, going to park, pool, river, storytime at library,
preschool, play with friends, mini-soccer and mommy & me
music class (when little).

PORTFOLIO: TASTES AND PREFERENCES

INTEREST AREA

DEGREE OF INTEREST

COMMENTS

LOW

HIGH

Pets/Animals		X do not have animals but want dog when time is right.
Music		X Dave is a musician - we all love live music
Television	X (watch some PBS kids)	
Politics		X interested in current events
Religion	X	spirituality is important.
Movies		X enjoy movies when have time
Art		X love to create & appreciate art.
Food/Beverage		X enjoy cooking eating good food
Sports		X enjoy watching soccer / seahawks
People		X have close friends & family
Cars	X	cars are functional
Clothes		X some interest in fashion / vintage clothes
Literature		X we both read a lot and to our son
Work		X enjoy our jobs but balance work/life is imp.
Weather	X	
Hobbies		X music, books, outdoors
Other: Family		X X pool, swim, play, adventures
Writing		X journal some
Vacations		X camping, beach, visit family in Seattle and NY & VA.

International travel
Some day -
When time is right.

**NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION
PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENT INFORMATION**

(This Information will be provided to Birth Parents)

Date: 7/30/16

1. Marriage Information:

Date: June 21, 2003

Previous Marriage Information:

None.

2. Current Children (note if adopted):

Ages: 4 (biological son)

Gender: boy

Number Living at Home: 1

3. Educational Background:

Adoptive Father: Graduate studies at Oregon State. College at Colorado College

Adoptive Mother: Masters degree in anthropology from Western Washington University. Undergrad at Mary Washington College in VA.

4. Occupation:

Adoptive Father: Environmental Microbiologist [part-time]

Number of Years at Current Job: 23

Adoptive Mother (include whether Adoptive Mother will continue to work after adoption): Currently work part-time as an archaeologist/anthropologist and plan to take time off and reduce hours when baby arrives.

What are child care plans: Ellen at home at first and then share between David & Ellen as we both work parttime.

We both work part-time because we want to be at ~~our~~ home to watch our son. We plan to do the same with a new baby. Ellen plans to stay home completely for first 6 months and resume working a little from home and share care with David.

6. Hobbies, Sports, Interests of Adoptive Parents:

Adoptive Father: music (guitar), gardening, woodworking, watersports
skiing, hiking, camping, soccer, reading, playing
with son - swimming w/ son; boating

Adoptive Mother: Yoga, reading, music, running, play outdoors
boating, canoeing, swimming, playing & going on
adventures with son, hiking, camping
listen and sing to music

7. Religious Practice:

Adoptive Father: None

Adoptive Mother: raised Catholic - currently non-denominational, have sense
of spirituality.

8. In What Religious Faith Do You Plan to Raise the Child if You Adopt:

We plan to expose our child to all religions through education and spirituality.
May attend a non-denom church as they get older - but will encourage them

9. Community Involvement: to choose their own path as they get

Adoptive Father: Benefit music concerts older.

Adoptive Mother: volunteered with Expand Your Horizons
teaching girls 6-8th grade about science.

10. Ages: Adoptive Father: 51 Adoptive Mother: 45

11. Personality Types:

Adoptive Father: intelligent, curious, good sense of
humor, fun, analytical, warm
sensitive, playful

Adoptive Mother: warm, compassionate, empathetic,
silly and playful, but serious about things
important to me.

12. Extended Family (i.e., living parents, siblings, and children of siblings, include approximate ages):

Adoptive Father: have 2 siblings (1 in Seattle, 1 in NY with 3 kids). Dad passed away in 2008 but very close to mom who lives in Seattle. see her often and take vacations with her.

Adoptive Mother: have 4 siblings. my brother was adopted at birth. He lives in VA near my other brother & sister.

One sister lives in CA. All siblings in VA have lots of kids. I am very close to all my siblings. my mother died in 2013 and my dad in Feb. 2016. Still very close to my stepmom who lives in VA.

13. Background/Heritage (Ancestry/Nationality):

Adoptive Father: Scottish-Irish, German

Adoptive Mother: ~~Irish~~ Irish

14. Medical Information:

Reason for not having children, if applicable: Unexplained infertility

Any significant medical history of adoptive parents: None

Any significant medical history of extended family of adoptive parents: None.

15. Would you be willing to meet with the natural mother prior to or after the adoption?

Yes.

16. Would you be willing to provide - through the natural mother's attorney periodic updates on the child?

Yes

We live in a 3br home on 2.5 acres - very relaxed -
toys in living room (most rooms!) - Lots of
17. Describe Your Home Environment: play areas, large living room, rec room & deck.
nice view.

~~18. What is Your Neighborhood Like? Are There Other Families With Children; Parks, Schools?~~

We live on 2.5 acres, but within 1/4 mile to parks, and town, library, stores, schools.
We bike to park - and are within 5 mins of pool, preschool and 10 minutes of
river and other parks.

19. Are Others in Home (detail sex, age, relationship): 4-yr-old son.

20. Do You Have any Preference as to Girl, Boy, or Either? Either

21. Would You Consider the Adoption of a Child of a Different Race or Mixture of Races? Yes

22. Would You Consider the Adoption of a Child with Health Problems? No Yes

23. Additional information/comments. Please use no more than one additional sheet to provide a letter to the birthmother or any additional written information or comments. See attached

24. Please provide a portfolio. For information on how to prepare a portfolio for presentation to birthparents please contact our office.

to be completed
and filed w/ Mark