



Chris & Ellen



Hello,

We are Chris and Ellen. We would like to begin by thanking you for taking the time to read our profile. Trying to decide the best plan for your child so that they can have the best life must be one of the most difficult decisions anyone can make. If you choose to make an adoption plan with us, we want you to know that we will respect you, your decisions, and the level of openness you would like to have. Your child will be aware of their adoption journey and if you desire, we will send you pictures and letters throughout your child's life. We always want you to know how wonderful your child is doing and share with you all their amazing accomplishments. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share a little about us and who we are.

Our Story

Our story begins back in 2010, when our now brother-in-law, Brian, introduced us. Chris and Brian played college baseball together. After being friends for several years, we realized we both had romantic feelings and started dating. In July 2017, we were married at a beautiful ceremony surrounded by family and friends.

While we do not have children of our own, we are very proud to have taken on the titles of "favorite aunt and uncle." We have a uniquely close relationship with each child who are all between the ages of infant and 5. We are fortunate that 7 of them live extremely close to us and we are with them almost every day.

The holidays are a big deal for us, and are always centered around family. You name the holiday, we are always together, dressing festive and celebrating with the kids. We dress in green and take the kids to the local St. Patrick's Day Parade. We have an annual family Halloween party where both kids and adults are encouraged to dress up. Our favorite costume was when we dressed as Belle and the Beast (or the "nice" beast as our nieces would say). Thanksgiving is an all-day event filled with cooking, games, and a large feast. And we really make Christmas magical for the kids, which makes it equally as special for us. The month of December is filled with movies, music, baking and finding ways to give back to others.



Ellen (by Chris)

Ellen is the most eternally optimistic person I have ever met – the cute kind of optimistic, not the annoying kind (except when I am trying to sleep in and skip my morning workout and

she returns from her 6-mile morning run singing "Good morning! Good morning! The birds are chirping, the coffee is hot, it's time to wake up and seize the day!"). Ellen somehow manages to balance a demanding career, an incredibly close-knit family, and a marriage in which she has to put up with me – all of which she does with a smile on her face. To say that she is a favorite aunt is an understatement. Her evening routine most weeknights is to stop by one of her sisters' houses and help with baths, putting on jammies and either reading, playing games, or singing Disney songs (depending on how the night is going). Each of our niece's and nephew's first word has been "Ella", though mostly because she begins bribing them with snacks at a very young age (the rest of us finally figured her out!). I knew Ellen was my person when we got engaged (after building a foundation of being purely friends for several years). However, after struggling with infertility for the first several years of marriage, I have never been more certain – not just because we leaned heavily upon one another to

get through the tough times, but because those tough times made us closer. She is a great wife, daughter, sister, and aunt – and there is no doubt in my mind that she will be a great mother to any child we are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to parent. To put it candidly, the world would be a better place with Ellen as a mother.



Chris (by Ellen)

What you see with Chris is what you get because he is the most loyal, genuine person I have ever met, and I'm sure others who know him would agree. He is so lovable and would do anything for his family and friends. When-

ever someone needs help or advice, they call Chris, and he is always there. He is incredibly smart and can talk to anyone about anything. He is always asking questions to learn more. His smile lights up a room and he is known by several of my family members to give "the best hugs." His wittiness is always making people smile and laugh. Chris is one of the hardest workers I know and puts his heart into everything he does. There is no question Chris is going to make an incredible Dad. He takes such good care of me, and is always there to love me, support me, listen to me and lift me up when I've had a hard day. I know he will be the same way with any child we bring into our home.



Ellen's family at a Halloween themed birthday party



Visiting with Chris's sister



Ellen's family vacation in the Outer Banks



Hanging out at the beach

We are blessed to have a loving and supportive family. Both of our parents have been happily married for 40-plus years. We feel very lucky to have amazing parents, who we have watched turn into unbelievable, hands-on grandparents to our 6 nieces and 7 nephews. Ellen is one of four girls and extremely close to her three sisters. This is probably because she is an identical triplet, and her other sister is only a year older. Ellen's parents and sisters (and their families) live within a mile from us, so we see each other almost daily. While Chris's family lives in Indiana, they are a short 3-4 hour drive and we stay in close contact through occasional weekend visits and frequent Facetime calls. Chris has two sisters and one brother.

Several times a week, we head to one of our sister's houses to help with dinners, baths, bedtime rituals, or take the kiddos to outings at the zoo, trampoline park or pool. Most of the family usually meets at one person's house, so all the cousins can play together. Our favorite thing to do is be around the kids because there is so much laughter and love. In fact, we love being with them so much, we have hosted three of their birthday parties at our house. These children bring us great joy and make us realize even more how much we want a family of our own.



Ellen's dad helping Chris carve the turkey



With Chris's family during our trip to Jackson Hole

What We Do for Fun

When we are not with the kiddos, we enjoy cooking meals and baking together. We usually like to try a few new recipes each week. Because we like to eat good food so much, we also enjoy going on walks with our dog, Piper. Piper is a three-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and the sweetest dog you will ever meet (ask anyone in our neighborhood – she is a local favorite!) We also enjoy watching sports, including our five-year-old nephew's soccer and tee ball games. While the house is divided over the NFL (Ellen – Steelers, Chris- Colts), we share one common team and that is the Ohio State Buckeyes!

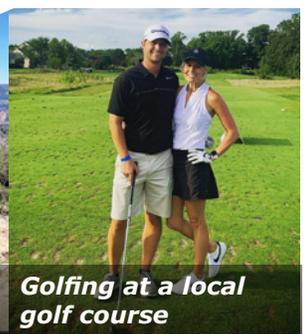
Another hobby we enjoy is traveling together. We usually take an annual family vacation with both sides of our families. Recently, we rented a large beach house in the Outer Banks with Ellen's side of the family, where we spent the week swimming, cooking out, playing games, and watching movies. We also spent a week with Chris's family in Jackson Hole where we hiked, swam, and went to a cowboy cookout!



Dressed up for our niece's birthday party



Biking around the Grand Canyon



Golfing at a local golf course



Our Community and Home

We feel very blessed to live where we do. Our neighborhood is just one street down from where Ellen and her family grew up. The neighborhood is safe, filled with families, parks, playgrounds, pools and walking paths. We live in an excellent school district and just a few miles away is the Catholic church and school where Ellen attended. We enjoy going to Mass together weekly and plan to raise our family in the Catholic Church and have them attend Catholic schools.

People have referred to our home as a “happy home” because it is warm and inviting, filled with family photos. We have four bedrooms and a finished basement, which thanks to Ellen’s sisters, already has plenty of toys for kids to play with when they come over. We have a large backyard that we enjoy hosting our family and friends in for cookouts during the summer. Chris takes great pride in doing his own yard work, so our lawn is always well kept.

Education and Employment

Ellen graduated college with a bachelor’s degree in communications. She currently serves as the director of government and public affairs for a local corporation. Chris graduated college with a bachelor’s degree in exercise science and then went on to receive his Law degree. Chris currently runs the real estate legal group for a large corporation.

When we become parents, we plan to continue working so we can provide a child with the lifestyle we feel they deserve, however they will always remain our top priority. We are very fortunate to work for companies that make work/life balance a priority. Ellen works from home most of the time and Chris can maintain flexibility. We also take comfort knowing we have a strong family support system right down the street.



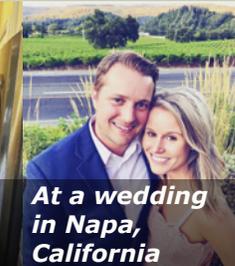
Celebrating our 5-year wedding anniversary at Nemacolin



Celebrating a new year



Our annual lobster roll night



At a wedding in Napa, California



With our nephew at Frozen 2



Christmas with Ellen’s sister

Thank You

Now that you have learned more about us and our life, we want to thank you again for your consideration. We want you to know if you were to choose us as your child’s adoptive parents, you will not be alone through this journey as we will be there to support and encourage you. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions you may have. God Bless you on your journey.