

# Elise & JOSH







# Greetings,

*from* **BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA!**

»» **WE (JOSH, ELISE AND PENNY, THE DOG)**

**ARE VERY EXCITED TO BECOME A "PARTY OF 4"**

Adoption has always been our first choice to grow our family, and we are beyond ready to provide a loving and safe home for your baby.

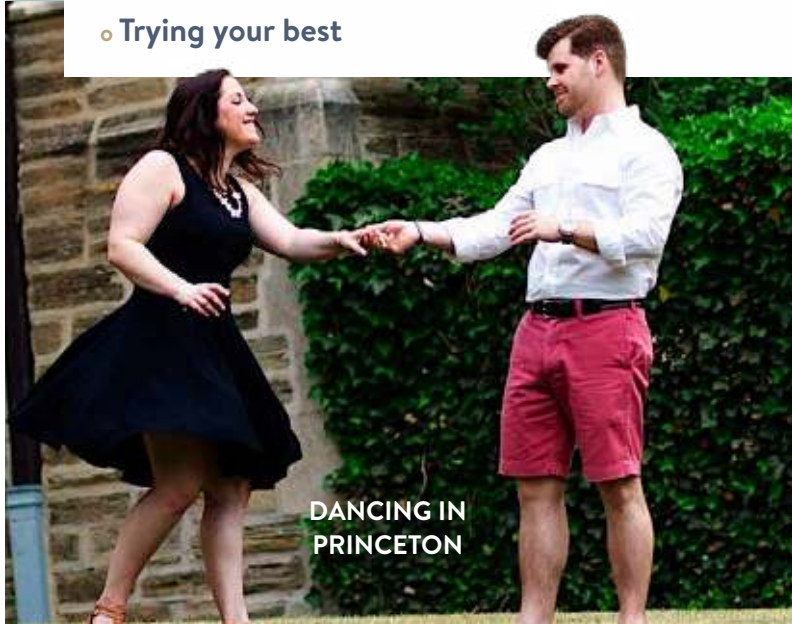


**Y**our baby will grow up in a welcoming community, with local parks, small towns and farms, and a great school system; all within reach of nearby cities. Surrounded and supported by family and friends, our home will overflow with joy, warmth and a sense of completion. Our hope for your baby is to instill a passion for learning, a love for traveling and exploration, and an acceptance and compassion for all. With Elise being a Science Teacher, and Josh working in global corporate Finance, there is no shortage of respect, curiosity and appreciation for culture. **We hope to provide you with much comfort and peace, knowing that we will truly cherish, support and love your baby.** There are not enough "thanks" in the world to express our gratitude and admiration for your time, choices and significance in our journey to create our new family.

## VALUES TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD

- Value of education
- Unconditional love
- Asking for help
- Acceptance and respect for others
- Kindness and empathy
- Traveling and experiencing different cultures
- Learning from mistakes
- Trying your best

**WE APPRECIATE YOU, AND HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY LEARNING A BIT MORE ABOUT US!**



**DANCING IN PRINCETON**



# OUR ♥ STORY

**YOU KNOW THE SAYING, “OPPOSITES ATTRACT”? WE ARE PROOF THAT IT’S TRUE AND IT WORKS!** Elise is creative, nurturing, patient, cautious and a total over-thinker, while Josh is great at decision making, adventurous, analytical, extremely neat and funny. Together, we strengthen each other’s weaknesses and push one another to grow. Despite our differing personalities, our morals, beliefs and dreams for our life together are the same and provide for a supportive, happy and loving relationship.



In 2011, we both decided to try the same online dating site. Elise was in her last week of subscription when Josh messaged her. Thinking it would be another let down, she gave him her email with no expectations. After several emails and phone calls, we decided to meet in person for coffee, and have been together ever since.

In the summer of 2014, Josh proposed at our favorite spot down at the beach. Elise LOVES the beach but Josh does not enjoy hot weather. So, for our wedding, we compromised; a wedding at the beach in October! Ironically, the weekend of our wedding was during a hurricane, but it could not have turned out any better. With all of our friends and family, we celebrated (safely) in a hotel on the boardwalk, and people still talk about our wedding to this day!

SPOT WHERE JOSH PROPOSED!



## »»» *A few of our* FAVORITES

### ◦ DESSERT

**ELISE:** Lemon

Meringue Pie

**JOSH:** Cheesecake

### ◦ SUPER POWER YOU’D LIKE TO HAVE

**ELISE:** Time Travel

**JOSH:** Ability to fly

### ◦ ACTOR/ACTRESS

**ELISE:** Drew Barrymore

**JOSH:** Tom Hardy

### ◦ ANIMAL

**ELISE:** Butterfly & Owl

**JOSH:** Dog



# MEET ELISE

written by Josh

IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE ELISE IN 3 WORDS, I WOULD CHOOSE PATIENT, LOVING AND CREATIVE; ALL OF WHICH NOT ONLY DEFINE A GOOD TEACHER, BUT ALSO A GREAT MOTHER.



CAUGHT A BUTTERFLY AT THE INDIANAPOLIS ZOO

## I LOVE DANCING AND AM A BIG MUSIC BUFF



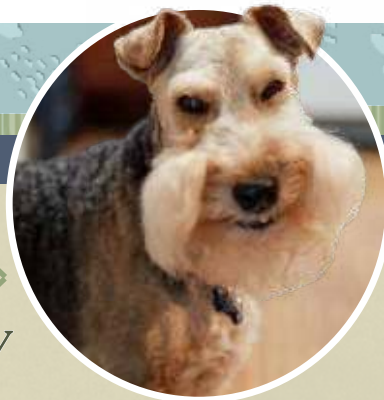
I've been dancing since age 4, choreographing since age 15 and have been coaching my school's Dance Team for 10+ years. Music is always playing throughout the house, especially in the kitchen, where A LOT of dancing occurs! I am a huge 80s and 90s pop/rock/R&B fan, but I stay current with music because of my students and the Dance Team. If someone looked at my songs on my iPod, they would be so confused by the variety, as I love all types of songs for different reasons! Basically, if a song is playing, I cannot sit completely still!

DANCING IN A SCHOOL RECITAL



Elise has worked with children her entire life, and I admire her dedication and compassion for her academics, Dance Team and involvement in our friends' children's lives. Our friends claim that Elise is the "baby whisperer" because when they place a crying baby in her arms, they calm down and just stare at her! It has to be her combination of silly faces and soothing voice...

Elise brings such joy to our home with her seasonal decorations, daily dance parties (in the kitchen), constant laughter and small surprises. When Elise isn't decorating or dancing, she enjoys taking Penny on walks with our neighbor (and their 3 dogs), listening to podcasts, playing word games (Scrabble and Words with Friends), creating new crockpot recipes, watching Netflix, and taking photos. We have an entire shelf unit filled with photo albums that Elise has created since she was a teen, and I know this will only intensify once we become parents!



## Meet » PENNY

Penny is a Welsh Terrier, 8 years old, loves belly rubs, cuddling, taking daily walks with her 3 dog friends (our neighbors), barking at animals on TV, eating carrots and apples.



# MEET JOSH

*written by Elise*



JOSH HAS THE GREEN THUMB IN OUR FAMILY

JOSH IS THE MOST DEDICATED, DEPENDABLE AND HARD-WORKING PERSON I KNOW. I HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRER HOW DRIVEN HE IS, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL BE SUCH A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL FOR OUR CHILD.

Even though he works hard, he remembers to relax and enjoy his time at home. Josh loves the outdoors (except when it's really hot), and spends tons of time working on the landscape around our home and relaxing on our deck. He enjoys running along the trails by our house and walking into town. Josh also collects watches and appreciates learning about the history and mechanics of different types of watches.

I love watching Josh spend time with his son, Logan. He makes a great effort in learning about what Logan is currently "in to", as well as sharing his own passions with him. They play pool together, watch Logan's favorite shows, read Harry Potter books and go to "Sky Zone" (trampoline park). It's also sweet to see Logan begin to take an interest in something that Josh likes. As he gets older, he is truly becoming Josh's "mini me"!



## FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS WE HAVE SHARED



OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY



BOAT TOUR IN SCOTLAND



TRAIN RIDE IN AUSTRIA



CASTLE IN GERMANY



LAKE LOCH NESS



# MEET LOGAN

## THE BIG BROTHER-TO-BE

This adoption journey is exciting for us in so many ways, but the most significant is that this will be our first child together! Knowing that pregnancy would be difficult for Elise, we knew that adoption would be such a meaningful way to grow our family, and has been our plan all along. Even though this will be OUR first child, your baby will be so lucky to have an amazing big brother in Josh's son, Logan (12 years old).

**Logan is kind, gentle, creative and daring;** many similar qualities to Josh. Although he loves video games and making YouTube videos, Logan also excels at drawing, "Ninja class" (gymnastics) and enjoys outdoor activities like boating and swimming. Although he does not live in the same state, **we will ensure that Logan and the baby will develop a bond through constant visits and video communication.** Logan knows what it's like to be a younger sibling in his blended family, and is very excited to finally be a big brother!



CHRISTMAS WITH LOGAN

WHERE  
WE CALL  
HOME

# OUR HOME

*We truly love our community!*



OUR AMAZING DECK



COOKING TOGETHER

Our town is in a prime location, as we are a short drive to Philadelphia, the Jersey beaches and Princeton, NJ (all places we like to visit). **Our home is located in a small development, with many multicultural families, where everyone knows each other...and their dogs!** There are several families with young children, of all ages, and you can hear them playing outside whenever the weather allows. We live right off of the "main" street, so we can walk into town where there are various restaurants, coffee shops, stores (even a children's book store) and playgrounds. Within a mile of our home are 2 elementary schools, a public park, playground and community pool, as well as Police and Fire stations.

Living in Pennsylvania, we experience all 4 seasons! Fall is our favorite, except that means we are raking leaves every week! During the fall, we like to spend as much time outdoors as possible; visiting Princeton, apple picking, and even going to the beach (the boardwalk is the best during the fall). Although we are close to the coast and beaches, we are

also only a few hours away from the mountains and enjoy camping with family during the summer. During any season, we spend time in other Bucks County towns that provide family-friendly events (seasonal-themed fairs), dining and shopping. We are close to many museums, farms and zoos, which we look forward to experiencing with your child.



**J**osh has a **HUGE** family, mainly living in Indianapolis, with some relatives scattered throughout DC and Pittsburgh. We take the time to see them all! In Indianapolis, his relatives have not only lived on the same streets, but often buy each other's houses! **It is rare for them to not see several family members each day, and Elise LOVES this about Josh's family.** His family is basically a community and are constantly

involved in every aspect of each other's lives. Josh's parents are thrilled to have a 2nd grandchild, and will be the best "Mamaw" and "Papaw"!

**Elise has a smaller, but close-knit family, mostly all living in the same county in PA.** They celebrate the Jewish holidays together, as well as all milestones. Elise is an only-child, but had a "sibling experience" with her 3 younger cousins; babysitting,

planning scavenger hunts and more recently, welcoming their significant others into the family. **Weekly dinners are a staple with Elise's parents, as they live close by. They are ecstatic to welcome their first grandchild, and cannot wait to be called "Bubby" and "Pop Pop".** Elise grew up having weekly family dinners on Sunday with grandparents and cousins, and would love to carry on that tradition.

## MEET OUR FAMILIES

**YOUR BABY WILL HAVE 2 DIFFERENT, BUT EQUALLY LOVING AND FUN, FAMILIES TO EXPERIENCE!**



ELISE'S BIRTHDAY WITH PARENTS



LAKE TIME WITH COUSINS

SELFIES WITH COUSIN NOAH



LYNNLEIGH MEETING COUSIN ELISE

## TRADITIONS - HOLIDAYS - FAITH

- **Multi-faith home;** Christian and Jewish
- **Celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah;** love to decorate several rooms in our home for holidays including 3 trees (Tree #1: Animal theme, Tree #2: Hanukkah theme, Tree #3: Harry Potter theme)
- **Travel to IN** for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter while celebrating Jewish holidays with Elise's family in PA
- **Matching Christmas PJs** with Logan



# OUR THANKS



**BRAVE, STRONG AND COMPASSIONATE;** all words we would use to describe YOU, during this journey.

»»» We hope that this book gives you a glimpse into our lives, but we know it cannot truly express how much love we have to give and the excitement we feel about being parents together. We do not take this opportunity for granted, and simply stated, we promise to provide a loving, nurturing and safe home for your baby.

We sincerely thank you for considering us to parent your child, and taking the time to learn about us, our home and our families. **We are open to further communication and conversations; anything to help put you at ease or answer your questions.**

With Love, *Elise and Josh*