


Dave & Dalla



A photograph of a man and a woman standing on a beach. The man is on the right, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, with his arm around the woman's shoulder. The woman is on the left, wearing a dark coat over a striped shirt. They are both smiling. The background shows the ocean with waves and several sailboats on the horizon under a clear sky. The top of the page has a decorative pattern of small white dots.

We are Dalla and Dave
from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Hello! We are so grateful that you've
picked up our book.

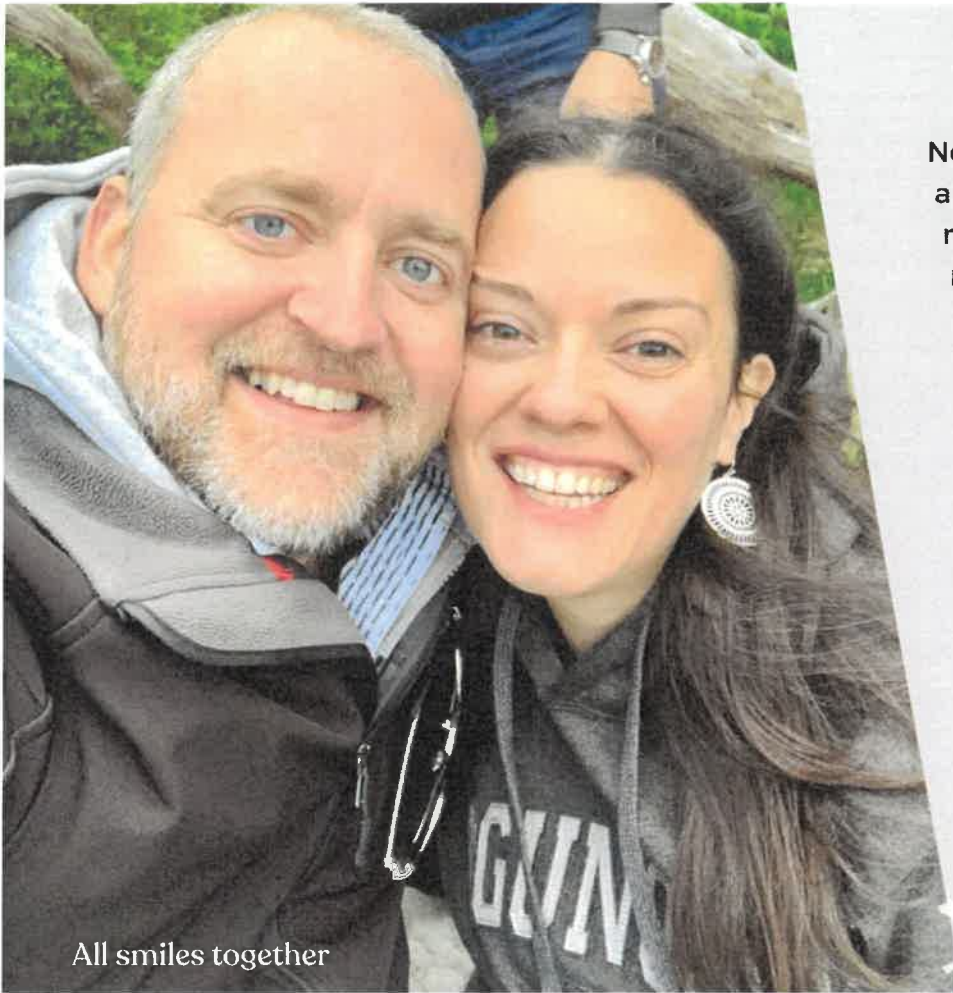
We are two happy city-dwellers who love
music and books, discovering new food and
recipes, and enjoying the company of our
(huge/loud/cheerful) families and friends.

A decorative graphic of a leafy branch, positioned to the left of the 'Thank you' section header.

Thank you

for taking the time to get to know us and
learn about what your baby's life would
be like if you choose us. We can't imagine
the decision you're considering right now,
but if there are any questions we can
answer which might make your decision
any easier, don't hesitate to reach out.
**You're in our hearts and we're sending
you compassion, hope, and strength.**

At the
ocean



All smiles together

No one expects to deal with infertility, and we were no exception. After multiple failed treatments we decided not to go any further, and at that point we made the decision to pursue adoption. We feel really good - and we're very excited!- about the path we're on now.

Our hearts know that this is what we're meant to do, and we can't wait to continue on the journey.

OUR STORY



We met 10 years ago in Brooklyn. Dave was a high school teacher, but it was during the summer and so he had taken on a job as a painter waking up every day at 5am. On our first date he was so tired that he fell asleep at the table... Dalla was a little surprised, but luckily Dave had taken her for tacos at two different places that evening, and since the way to her heart is sometimes through her stomach, she forgave the sleeping. The rest was history! We've supported each other through new career paths, moving to another state, losing a close family member, and many more ups and downs. While we love to experience new things, our favorite place is wherever we're together.



Date night!

About

DALLA



HI! I'M DALLA.



My mom calls me a “social butterfly” because spending time with friends and family is very important to me.

I’m a really curious person; I love to learn new things. My favorite ways to spend my free time are traveling, cooking (homemade candy is a fun challenge and I taught myself to make marshmallows from scratch!) and discovering new foods with Dave. Keeping active at the gym is how I blow off steam, and I also find some Zen tending to my plants and playing with my cat. I am beyond excited about my next chapter- becoming a parent! I’ve already started to compile a stack of baby books (we are big readers in this house) and I’m doing research on good schools in our area. **I’ve had a lot of experience with kids, and I’m confident that when we’re lucky enough to be matched, I’ll be able to that put experience into practice and be the best mom that I’m capable of being.**

About Dalla

By Dave



I fell for Dalla almost immediately after we met. I thought that she was more awake and alive than anyone I'd ever met. She is a vivacious, passionate, curious, intelligent, exceedingly kind person. She has off-the-charts levels of sympathy for everyone (and every animal!) around her; she really feels the joy and the pain of others. **Dalla will excel at being a mom because of her capacity to care so much, and I know how excited she is to share all of her passions and interests with your child.**



First time meeting our niece Corinne after COVID



I love the Pittsburgh Steelers!



Whipping up something sweet!



Ice cream at my favorite spot (love the name!)

DALLA'S Fun Facts



- I love the Pittsburgh Steelers! Sundays are for football in our home

- I have a **huge sweet tooth** and could eat chocolate every day.

- **Nature is important to me** and you can be sure that your child will be exposed to the outdoors.

- My favorite vacation spot is **the beach- any beach!** We will provide swim lessons from a young age, so that your child will be safe on vacation.

- I have a **talent for remembering song lyrics** and I love to sing in the car with Dave.

- For two years in a row I've done the **polar plunge** into an icy lake in Minnesota to fundraise for the Special Olympics.

- My favorite meal to cook is **meatballs with red sauce**, a recipe that my Dad learned from his mother and then passed down to me.

About

DAVE



HI, I'M DAVE.

My friends say that I'm a funny, sharp, and empathetic guy with a zest for life.

I'm not actually very funny, but I do like to make people laugh when I can. **Music is one of my favorite things, and I love to play the piano and sing.** Another one of my interests is reading, and I'm often called up by my nieces for help with their history or literature homework which is a lot of fun for me. I am passionate about a lot, but most of all about spending time with Dalla. We love to cook, travel, and go on long walks exploring our city. **I work as a financial advisor and I enjoy my job immensely, but I'm really looking forward to becoming a dad!** I'd like to think that with our curious and empathetic personalities, Dalla and I will make very good parents. We have so much love to give and a rock-solid foundation from which to give it.



About Dave By Dalla

Simply put, Dave is my favorite person in the world. He has so many wonderful qualities that it's hard to narrow down the best ones, but his generosity, intelligence, and compassion stand out to me the most. Dave is an extremely selfless person who is more concerned with his loved ones' happiness than his own, and he always makes sure that others have what they want and need before he considers himself. He's a fantastic husband, who is always helping around the apartment and cooking me wonderful meals. Dave is also just a lot of fun! One thing that drew me to him in the beginning was his willingness to try new things and travel to different places. **I know that he will be a wonderful father- he isn't afraid to get his hands dirty, he has the patience of a saint, and he has a lot of love to give.** I can't wait to watch him become a dad.

Dave with our kitty, Tybalt



Dave learning to make pasta!



Playing the piano & singing with a little help



Grill master Dave!

DAVE'S Fun Facts



- I can usually play any song on the piano if I've heard it once or twice.

- I think baseball is the best sport, but I get more emotional watching football.

- My wife's meatballs are the best thing I've ever tasted and the food I crave most.

- My degree is in philosophy and I used to coach debate, so I think that a polite and spirited disagreement is good for everyone.

- Skydiving is the most exhilarating thing I've ever done (yet!).

- I'm very sensitive to cold weather and very comfortable in hot weather.

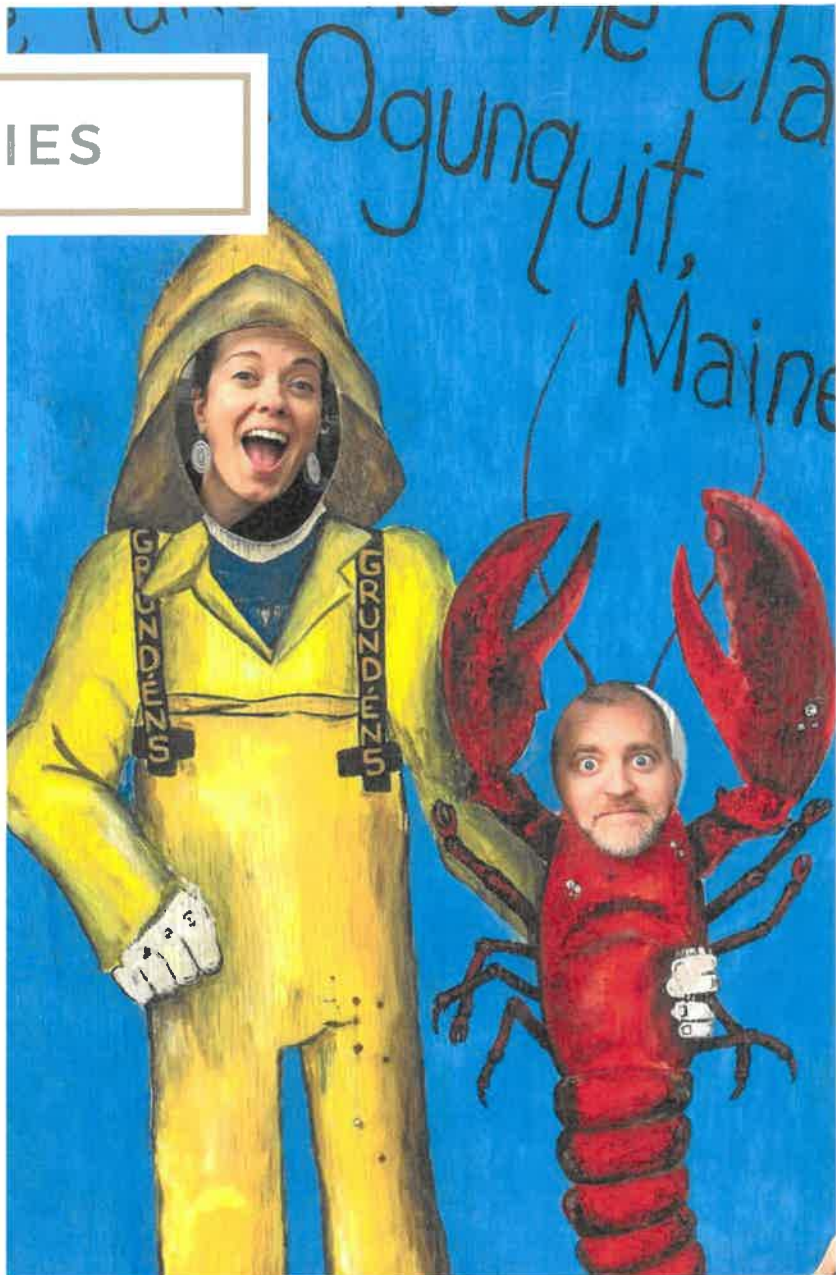
- Whenever I travel to a new place, I always try to find the spots where the locals go.





OUR HOBBIES

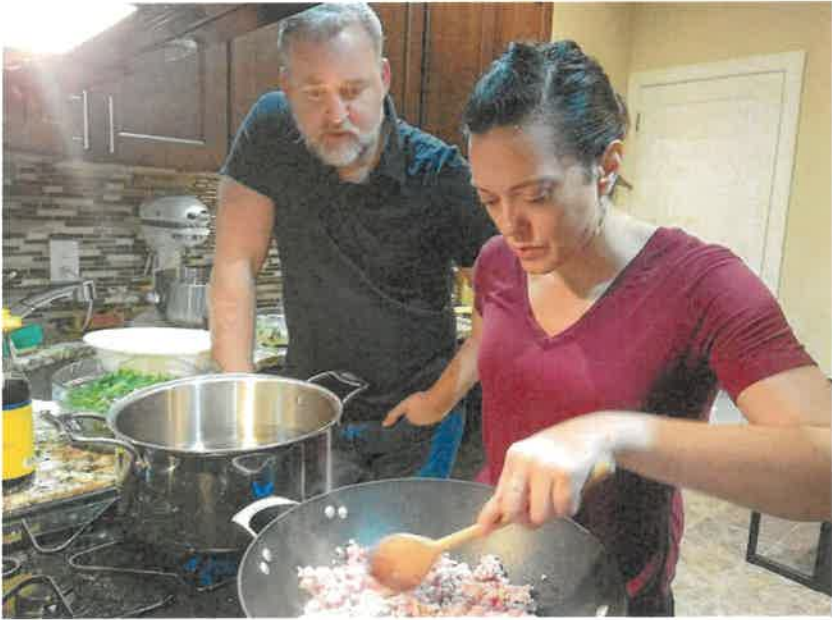
During the week we're usually low key. A lot of our spare time is spent cooking together, and we love trying new recipes and restaurants as well (Thai, Mexican, and Italian are favorites!). We also spend time at the gym, taking walks through the city, and watching our favorite shows in the evenings. **On the weekends we do a lot of traveling; usually local travel to visit family or friends, but sometimes we venture a little further out. Dalla works for an airline and we are lucky to fly for free, so we try to take advantage of that when we can.** We are excited to share that benefit with your baby! We also love fantasy football, and we compete against each other in two leagues.



Being silly while traveling in Maine



Fantasy football



Cooking dinner together



At the beach

OUR WORK



We both work from home most of the time and are lucky to enjoy what we do.

Dave is a Financial Advisor for an investment bank, where he works with his brother-in-law to help clients achieve financial goals and plan for retirement. He just started the study process to become a Certified Financial Planner, which takes a year! Dalla is a Senior Recruiter for an airline. She loves her company and really enjoys guiding people on their career paths.

Our Home and Community

We live in South Philadelphia, which is a very diverse area full of friendly people.



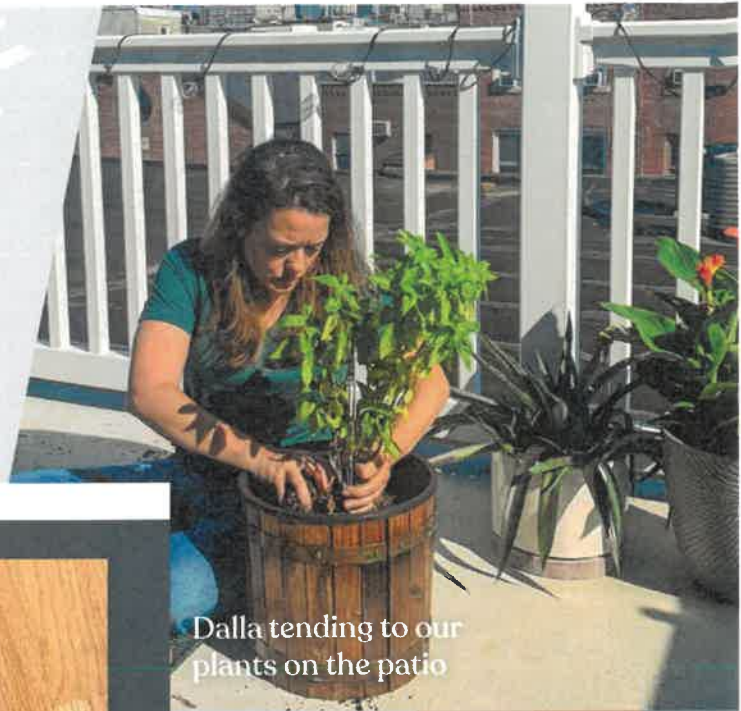
We love going to the Italian Market



Our neighborhood has many families with young children, which means parks and plenty of daycare options.

Our favorite part is the Italian Market, where we go shopping or sit down for cappuccinos. In the spring and summer there are street festivals with live music, art and local treats. Dalla's brother lives only two blocks away, and her sister lives just on the other side of town, so we get together often for Sunday dinners and birthdays. We have a 3-bedroom apartment with lots of natural light and a deck that's perfect for grilling, growing flowers and herbs, and chatting with neighbors.

We love to be outside on the deck when the weather is nice: Dave as the grill master, Dalla caring for her plants, and Tybalt on his leash meowing at butterflies and birds.



Dalla tending to our plants on the patio

Tybalt is the sweetest, fluffiest boy!



OUR CAT

Introducing Tybalt

We share our home with our cat Tybalt, a very sweet and fluffy boy who came into our lives as a kitten at just the right time. Dalla's dad had recently passed away and the pandemic was in full swing, so we were looking for some comfort. We adore Tybalt! He is very curious and playful, and his goofy antics are a constant source of entertainment. **A wonderful surprise was finding out that he LOVES kids!** Whenever we have company that includes kids, he comes right up to them and wants to play.



Tybalt
LOVES kids!

Our FAMILY

Our families are BIG- both in size and in the part they play in our lives.

Your baby will have 5 grandparents, 7 aunts and uncles, and 10 cousins! Dalla's mom and stepdad live two hours away and are very excited to be first-time grandparents. She has 3 brothers and a sister, and her stepmom lives not too far away in the country. Dalla has 2 nieces who are 2 and 4 years old. Dave's entire immediate family lives an hour or less from us- his parents, 3 sisters, 7 nieces, and 1 nephew! We see our family regularly and talk to them often. We feel lucky to have such a big, supportive family and make an effort to stay close to both sides.



All dressed up for a wedding with Dalla's family

Fun on the boat with our nephew

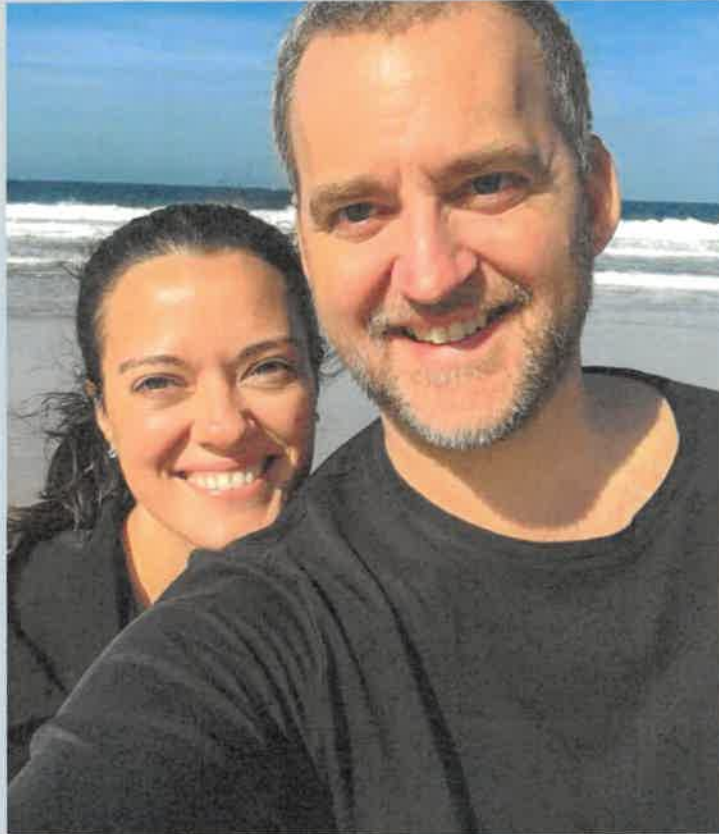


Parents at our wedding in New Jersey



Christmas gathering with Dave's side of the family





Soaking up the sun on the beach

FAMILY TRADITION

Every August Dalla's family spends a week at the beach - we've been going to the same location for more than 30 years!


If you choose us your baby will enjoy playing in the sand, eating ice cream and keeping an eye out for dolphins from the shore. The trip now includes cousins, their kids, and family friends, and we take turns cooking every night. We love to play card games and bocci during that week too!

Our annual beach trip with Dalla's family!



AS PARENTS

Meeting
our cousin's
sweet baby

A photograph showing a woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey sweater and blue pants, holding a baby in a red and blue plaid shirt. The baby is looking up. A man with a beard, wearing a dark sweater and blue pants, stands behind the woman, looking at the baby. They are in a room with a window and a door in the background.

We look forward to teaching many lessons to your child. First, and what we feel is the most important lesson, is kindness and empathy. Your child will be exposed to different cultures and understand that there are many different kinds of people, who are all equal. We'll teach manners from a young age. We'll teach him or her to be kind to animals and to those who are less fortunate.



THOUGHTS ON PARENTING

While we can't know exactly what kind of parents we'll be until we are in that situation, there are a few things that we are sure of already.

If you choose us, we can promise you:

1. Your baby will **know who you are**, and how brave you were.
2. Our **entire family is ready to embrace your baby** and provide lots of support.
3. We will always strive to be the **most loving and compassionate** parents that we can possibly be.
4. **Education is important** to us. Your child will attend a good school.
5. Your child will know that they can **always come to us with the difficult conversations**, and we will listen with open minds.

In Closing

We want to thank you again for considering us. We have a lot of dreams when it comes to being parents—there are so many things that we want to share with our future son or daughter.



You can rest assured that if you choose us, your baby will benefit from an enormous amount of love, not only from us but from our friends and family as well. **We feel strongly about staying in contact with you and we'd love to send updates and photos if that's something you would like.** Your child will

always know how much you love them, and what a selfless choice you made in order to give them the best possible life. If you choose us, you can feel confident that your baby will be surrounded by love, understanding, and the very best that we can provide. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for reading our story.