

Mark  Philip



Dear *Birthmother*



MARK & PHIL ON A DINNER DATE

Thank you for taking the time to read our story and get to know us! It's hard to fit our lives into a small booklet, but we hope that it will give you an idea of who we are and why we believe we would be great parents for your child.

We have an amazing life together and can't wait to start our family through adoption. We believe there is a child out there waiting to be adopted into our family and we are hoping that their birth parents will find us soon. Maybe that parent is you and we look forward to sharing our dreams of adopting and becoming dads!



ENJOYING A HAMMOCK ON THE BEACH

Our *Story*



In the fall of 2015, Phil was training to be an anesthesiologist in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He visited New York City for his birthday, where Mark was living. We made a connection through social media and met for lunch.



Instantly, we clicked! We both had a connection with Africa: Mark served in the Peace Corps in Kenya years before, and Phil was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa. Our birthdays are also 4 days apart.

Our *Story*

We continued to talk and spend weekends together between New York and Philadelphia until Phil completed his training and moved to New York in the fall of 2017.

During the pandemic, we made the jump from Manhattan to Brooklyn, and now live in a brownstone apartment in a quiet neighborhood with our very own backyard.



**DAY CRUISE IN
SANTORINI, GREECE**

Our Story

After 8 years together, we are both at a stage in our lives where we have the resources to provide a loving and nurturing home to a child.



DINNER IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA



DANCING IN MYKONOS, GREECE



EVENING IN BANGKOK, THAILAND



HIKING THE GRAND CANYON

Meet *Mark*

I was born in Columbia, South Carolina but mostly grew up in Missouri and then Delaware. I have two amazing parents and am the baby of three brothers. I went to college in Atlanta, Georgia where I studied engineering.



PEACE CORPS HOSTS IN KENYA

For the past 20 years, I've been doing global health work, first fighting malaria in Africa and now focused on improving maternal health in poorer countries – primarily in Africa and in India.



WORK TRIP TO NIGERIA

After graduating, I did business consulting, where I got my passion for travel. After 5 years, I made a big life change and joined the Peace Corps where I served in a remote village in Kenya, East Africa, teaching business skills to local farmers. Peace Corps changed my life personally and professionally.



WORKING IN ASSAM, INDIA

Apart from my passion for travel, I also like to paint, decorate, and garden.



Meet *Mark*

What Phil says about Mark

Mark is the most young-at-heart man I know! It is said that opposites attract, and it seems like the universe brought him to me to complement my more introverted personality. My favorite thing about Mark is his magnetic and bubbly personality that everyone loves the first time they meet him. He is quick to embrace and acknowledge people he meets, regardless of who they are. It's fun to watch him play and cuddle with our friends' children.



**MARK ENJOYING OUR GARDEN
WITH FRIEND'S DOG**



**BEDTIME READING
WITH FRIEND'S DAUGHTER**



**MARK AFTER REACHING
WATERFALL IN HAWAII**

Professionally, he is very organized and driven. He's like the 'energizer bunny' throughout his day from when he wakes up early to go to the gym or to do yoga. I trust him to be my lifelong partner through thick and thin, including raising your child.

Meet *Phil*

I was born in Accra, Ghana where I had a great childhood, along with my younger brother and sister, and a loving, extended family. At my international school, I made friends from all over the world.



SURGICAL MISSION TRIP TO INDIA

I enjoy going on short, international mission trips to provide anesthesia. Other hobbies are running, hiking, lifting weights, singing and making music. I especially love cooking various tasty meals!

When I was 17, my family moved to the US, where I went to college and medical school. Now, I am a board-certified anesthesiologist. I enjoy comforting patients before surgery, especially children when they are anxious or upset.



PHIL COOKING FOR FRIENDS



PHIL SINGING IN A BAND

Though I grew up Christian, I have since taken the best of what I learned to become as accepting and loving a person as I can be.

Meet Phil

What Mark Says About Phil...

I am excited to see Phil become a father. All my friends remind me I won the lottery when I met Phil. He is one of the most kind and gentle souls. He is passionate about his career in medicine and putting his patients first as evidenced by getting handwritten thank you notes from many of them— though I only know this through his colleagues since he is very humble.



PHIL AFTER RUNNING NYC MARATHON

Phil is the patient one in the relationship. He is always seeking new challenges in life— whether it's training for a marathon or doing mountain climbs. His zest for life is inspiring.



PHIL WORKING AT SURGERY CENTER



SAYING HI TO CHILDREN ON A MOUNTAIN HIKE IN NEPAL

Our Home

We live in a cozy, brownstone apartment in Brooklyn, NY that is culturally diverse and close to some of the best nurseries and schools in the city. A few blocks away in various directions are parks including a famous carousel.

We are also close to the Brooklyn Academy of Music that provides numerous afterschool programs for children to expose them and teach them about the arts and music.



HOSTING OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



PHIL GRILLING DURING OUR GARDEN PARTY



PHIL RIDING CAROUSEL

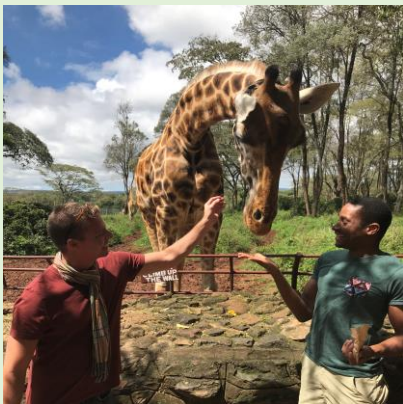


We are also fortunate to have a private backyard where we love to garden, cookout, watch movies during the summer and host parties. We like to take day or weekend trips to the beach or upstate New York to hike in the mountains. We can't wait to do all these things with your child.

Exploring the *World*



IN THE MOROCCAN DESERT



**FEEDING GIRAFFE IN
NAIROBI, KENYA**



LAKE RIDE IN THAILAND

We love traveling and exploring the world together. One of the things that quickly drew us together was our curiosity to explore other parts of the world. We love experiencing different cultures, tasting local foods, and seeing all the amazing beauty on this earth. We cannot wait for your child to join us on our explorations and learn about the world.



SUNSET IN SANTORINI, GREECE

The People we *Love*



MARK WITH PARENTS AND BROTHERS AT A WEDDING

We have a strong network of close friends in our neighborhood – many who are also just starting their families. We are excited to be their ‘guncles’ (gay uncles)!

Mark’s family moved a lot (South Carolina, Missouri and Delaware). They eventually settled back in North Carolina, where his parents were born and raised, and now live, retired. They are busy spoiling their dogs and can’t wait to spoil your child.



MARK WITH MOM AND BROTHERS



MARK AND PHIL AT FRIENDS WEDDING IN GREECE



MARK BABYSITTING

The People we *Love*

Phil's parents divide their time between Ghana during the winter, and Maryland during the summer.



PHIL WITH PARENTS AND SISTER



PHIL WITH HIS NIECES IN FLORIDA

His brother, sister-in-law and 3 daughters live in Florida, where Phil visits every year.



**PHIL CRADLING
NEWBORN NEPHEW**



WITH FRIENDS AT LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK

He was able to hold his sister's son when he was born in the US before they moved back to Ghana. He's frequently in touch with them and can't wait for them to move back to the US.

Our Promise

AS PARENTS TO YOUR CHILD, WE PROMISE TO:

Provide a safe and supportive home for your child that is full of laughter, acceptance, love and traditions.

Provide the best possible education to pursue their dreams.

Encourage them to explore their passions and fulfill them.

Ensure your child knows it is OK to make mistakes and that they are supported.



BEING 'GUNCLES' WITH FRIENDS' CHILDREN (FRANKIE AND HUGO)



HOSTING FRIENDS' CHILDREN FOR WEEKEND

Expose your child to cultural diversity including travel, art, music, science, books and sports, to benefit from all that the world has to offer.

Commit to connect with you about how your child is doing.

Always think about what is best for your child including ensuring the best childcare support either through a nursery or nanny.

We fully recognize that it takes a lot of courage and strength for you to choose adoption and we are grateful that you are considering us as an adoptive family. We welcome your involvement in your child's life based on your comfort level and needs, and will be open and supportive.



**WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU AND
HEAR YOUR STORY!
WISHING YOU THE BEST WITH YOUR
DELIVERY**

Mark & Phil

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