GREETINGS DEAR ONE

we're

CLAY & PHOTINI



A GLIMPSE INTO OUR LIFE AND HEARTS

HELLO!

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little about us



Greetings from our hearts to yours! We are a family of three looking forward to welcoming a little one into our hearts and life filled with love. Our hope to grow our family through the gift of adoption is a journey, and we know you have been on your own unique journey too. By God's Grace we pray our path will be united with a baby who needs our love, who we can nurture and adore as part of our dear family. We are devoted to family life and deeply committed to being parents, with so much to give!

Your role on this path is immense, and we give thanks for your courage, strength and commitment to creating a beautiful life for your baby, by choosing a family you feel comfortable and at peace with to raise this precious little one as their own. It is an act of Faith for us all, truly. We believe by trusting God to light the way and illuminate our hearts and yours, we will all be guided, and the best possible union for this beloved child will be created. We appreciate you and honor your sacred role in this child's life. We pray for God's loving care and protection to surround us all!



We pray for this journey to be blessed!
Warmly,

Clay, Photini and Cedar

WHY ADOPTION?

The path that brought us here



We have been dreaming of this day for a long time now! For years we have felt called to adoption and began many prayerful discussions about the journey ahead. With much joy in our hearts, we are eager to open the door to this special path with excitement, openness, humility and respect. By facing complicated infertility issues, we knew our son Cedar was a miracle, and we look forward to being able to cherish another miracle baby through adoption.



We have a deep desire to embrace another child with heartfelt unconditional love and devotion. This long awaited precious little one will truly find a forever home in our hearts. We are committed to raising a child with honesty, where their story is honored, and where they have the support needed to understand every part of who they are.



We have God-children that we adore, and our hearts are constantly expanding to include the numerous babies and children we interact with in our close community. Cedar has consistently wanted and prayed for a sibling to experience life with and is ready for this chapter to begin!

OUR STORY







Our tale began in Portland Oregon, 12 years ago at a weekly creative free-form dance event where we were instantly drawn to each other. Four weeks later, we reunited after seeking each other out, and were inseparable thereafter. Our first date was full of conversation about all that we loved and dreamed about, which included a shared desire for children. We were happily married within the year and bought our first home outside of the city together. We were overjoyed when Cedar was born and shortly thereafter we relocated to a small town in the mountains of northern Idaho, to raise him away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

A love for the outdoors and self-reliance inspired us to build our homestead from scratch on 5 wooded acres just outside of town. This labor of love was no small undertaking and strengthened our family bond as we worked through all the ups and downs of such a big endeavor. It was an incredible joy to spend so much time together as a family during this process. We were also surrounded by loving supportive friends and family who gave of their time and energy to help us realize our dream!



The addition of Cedar in our lives began a more focused spiritual journey through many different practices and religions. Years of seeking brought us into the embrace of Christ and the Orthodox Church. Our lives have become centered on the rhythm and fullness of this beautiful way of living and the foundation of our Christian faith. This creates the backdrop of our life and deeply sustains our family.

MEET PHOTINI

AS TOLD BY CLAY



Photini is a wonderful stay at home mother and wife, whose priority is as a nurturing homemaker and the teacher of our son, Cedar. She is also a healer, both in heart and in practice (as a Holistic Healthcare practitioner), meticulously caring for her family...and many others. She has a way with words and with people, and I often joke that she has a sign on her forehead that says 'Talk to me...tell me your troubles.' Photini is a fearless communicator who is not afraid to advocate for those she cares about, exhibiting immense empathy and compassion, and often putting the interest of others over her own. She thinks on her feet and knows how to ask the right questions, which is an incredible compliment to my more quiet nature.

Photini is a spiritual seeker and a woman of prayer, constantly striving to better herself as she weaves God into her life and family. Her creativity permeates all she does, whether cooking the family meals and homeschooling Cedar, doing art projects and making beautiful handicrafts, playing music, or dancing, which is one of her biggest joys. Music and movement have always been an integral part of her interactions with the world. Her eyes sparkle and disappear when she smiles as her warm loving spirit shines through, uplifting all around her!

A FEW FAVORITE THINGS

DANCING.... ANYWHERE!

MUSIC OF ALL KINDS

THE BEACH, WAVES, SALTWATER

SUNSHINE

LEMON PIE

BABY...ANYTHING!!













"She makes ordinary days feel special."



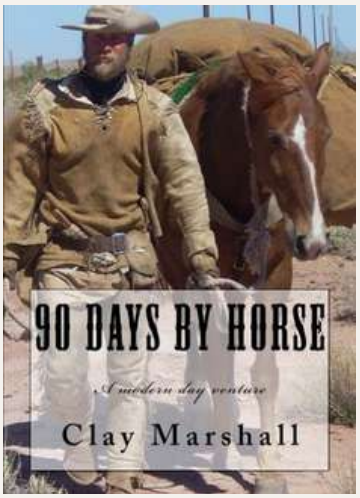
MEET CLAY

AS TOLD BY PHOTINI



Clay is a hard working, tender-hearted, devoted and very loving father and husband. He creates a stability for our family that makes me feel so safe, well cared for and loved. He does all things with a joy and willingness I admire. Whether caring for us, tending to the land and pets, improving our home, or at work, he does it with a smile!

His calm, gentle spirit is a comfort to be around and others gravitate to his kindness and strength. He is someone you feel you can truly lean on. He does not give up, even when things are hard and has a beautiful 'can do' attitude. He loves creating and building things that benefit his family and friends. He is incredibly resourceful. Even though it was a huge undertaking, he made building our home from the ground up look easy. It was truly remarkable!
His love of music and singing has blessed our family with his devotion to the choir at Church, where he has been learning how to sing/chant beautiful ancient Christian hymns.





Clay's natural ability to excel at anything he puts his focus on allows him to take on new dreams with confidence and grace. His humility is one of his most most valuable qualities in my opinion, because he willingly admits is faults and takes the high road of being sincerely sorry with ease. He is a man of God and allows the Lord to be his guide. He genuinely puts his family first, making quality time a priority, I appreciate and respect that so much! I am so excited for another little one to have the blessing of having him as their father too... What more can I say, Cedar and I just love him to pieces!









MEET CEDAR





Honest, Kind
Inquisitive, Warm
hearted & Nurturing

Cedar is our miracle baby and we give thanks for the huge blessing he has been in our life! He is a joyful, playful and creative child! He is a passionate reader and the library is one of his most favorite places. He is full of laughter and is always surprising us with new ways of looking at things. He is VERY excited about having a sibling and will make an incredible big brother. He has boundless energy and loves learning, which makes home schooling him really enjoyable! He thrives in our Church community and we are grateful for his devotional nature....We feel so blessed and honored to be his parents and are looking forward to another little one being blessed by his love too!



Some Favorite Things

Cooking	Playing music
Soccer	Telling stories
His Dog	Color Purple
Dancing	Reading
Legos	Science
Camping	Swimming
Animals	Exploring







WORDS FROM

CEDAR'S HEART







I'M CEDAR, I REALLY WANT A SIBLING IN MY LIFE. I'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR ONE FOR A LONG TIME. I LOVE GOING ON TRIPS, AND SEEING NEW PLACES. I ALSO LIKE SOCCER, BIKING, AND SKIING. I LOVE MUSIC SO I PLAY PIANO, UKULELE, AND DRUMS WHICH I LIKE. I HAVE A GOOD IMAGINATION, AND LIKE TO TELL STORIES. I LIKE TO PLAY AND READ, SO I LOVE TO GO TO THE LIBRARY. I LOVE DRAGONS, AND NINJAS. I LOVE BEING/SWIMMING IN WATER, AND GOING CAMPING. MY FAVORITE ANIMAL IS AN ELEPHANT, ALSO I LOVE OCTOPUSES. I HAVE TWO DOGS AND SOME CHICKENS. I LOVE ANIMALS AND I WANT MORE. ALSO I LIKE TIME IN NATURE, SO I GO TO A NATURE SCHOOL ONCE A WEEK WHICH I ENJOY. I LOVE MY CHURCH WHERE I SERVE IN THE ALTAR AND CHOIR, AND HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS. MY FAVORITE FOODS ARE ICE CREAM, PIZZA AND, TORTILLA. ALSO I LIKE RAVIOLI'S, AND FRUIT. I HOPE TO SHARE ALL OF THIS WITH A SIBLING.













LIFE AT HOME

Our cherished sanctuary!

We treasure the quality time we spend as a family in the cozy haven we have created! The rhythm of morning and evening prayers are a constant we strive to maintain, as we hope to weave God's boundless love into all aspects our our life!

A typical weekday begins with early morning quiet time for us, focusing on prayers and reading something inspirational about God with a warm cup of coffee or tea.... then Cedar is awake to enjoy a casual hearty breakfast, a few chores, and morning prayers as a family.

Photini and Cedar's day is centered on a flexible but thorough home-school schedule, as well as home-making activities/chores. Clay is an electrician where he enjoys rewarding stable work running his own company, that provides well for his family. He values the freedom of a flexible schedule allowing him to take days off to spend quality time with Cedar, while I attend to helping others in my holistic healthcare practice from time to time.

With the kitchen as the heart of our home, we are blessed to get a lot of our food from local organic farms and value our nourishing home cooked meals. We treasure evening meals together gathered around the family table, as we give thanks to God for all things!

In the evening we enjoy spending time together re-connecting as a family.... reading stories, playing games, or the occasional movie night with popcorn and ice cream. The joyful sounds of keyboard, drums, ukulele, banjo and singing bring us together in a rewarding way. Living in a rural area allows us to enjoy the quiet sounds of nature and take in the beauty of God's creation daily in the comfort of our backyard. Whether playing in the fort, kicking a soccer ball or relaxing on the porch enjoying the view, we feel so blessed to live surrounded by the trees and mountains!













FAMILY & FRIENDS



Our close knit ties to our family and friends are a blessing we try not to take for granted. Time with them plays an integral part of our life, and we are grateful they show up for the monumental, as well as the everyday moments.





The closeness we share is unique in this world that seems to have become more disconnected, and we are grateful to be surrounded by so much love and support that has helped our family thrive!

Cedar is deeply loved by his friends/family and has meaningful consistent relationships that nurture stability and security. We have been immensely supported in our wish to adopt and everyone has been incredibly encouraging. We are grateful and so excited to welcome another child into this special family circle we are surrounded by, with so much love to share!









OUR COMMUNITY

Not too big and not too small, it's just right!

We live in the pristine mountains of Northern Idaho, between Bonner's Ferry and Sandpoint, where we enjoy the beauty of all four seasons, with diverse activities to explore.

The many beautiful rivers, creeks and lakes nearby are a family favorite. We love spending long days playing in the water all summer long. Beautiful hikes to incredible waterfalls and breathtaking views are at our fingertips to explore. Winter brings fun in the snow with sledding, building snow men and skiing, as well as cozy nights by the wood stove with warm tea, good books and games.







LIVE MUSIC IN THE PARK
FANTASTIC FARMERS MARKET,
HISTORIC THEATER
ART/CRAFT FAIRS
FALL FEST ON SCHWEITZER MOUNTAIN
LOTS OF EXTRA CURRICULAR CLASSES FOR KIDS
CITY BEACH
SEVERAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS



We value the natural beauty, as well as the slower pace of life, opposed to that of a big city. It's not too big and not too small, it's just right :)

We find the accepting authentic nature of the people here refreshing, making it easy to feel connected. We are grateful to have found such a wonderful safe haven to raise children, where there are opportunities to explore new interests as a child grows.

A truly unique gem of a place to call home!

OUR TRADITIONS

Spontaneous and planned traveling.... it's a thing! We love creating precious memories as we journey to new places, whether camping in the incredible mountains nearby or traveling farther to enjoy a warm sunny beach or a famous national park. We love taking time out as a family to reset and broaden our horizons.

Many of our traditions are embedded in and stem from our Church's many feasts, fasts, and celebrations. Our favorite and most profound annual celebrations are the midnight candlelit services of Christmas and Pascha (Easter). We also treasure the weekly Sunday services which are always followed by a pot-luck meal and fellowship, where we can bond and reflect on our lives, while abundant children of all ages chase each other around and play games on the playground.

We look forward to breakfast at our favorite local cafe on Cedar's Birthday with Clay's parents. True to the nature of a friendly small town, the waitress often surprises Cedar with a little toy treasure, which is just so sweet.

The annual county fair is a blast! It's fun to see the community gathered to enjoy the down home good times. Kids showing off a prized pig or rabbit, bouncy house antics and the rodeo extravaganza are some of Cedar's favorite things.

We cherish these meaningful memories that create the tapestry of our world together, and are so excited to see what new traditions develop, as we embrace this beloved child we end up being blessed to adopt!









LIFE WITH US

A diverse and eclectic journey!

We love the rhythm of our home-life, living close to the land and the adventures of traveling. Clay and I are blessed to share very similar hopes and dreams for our life and this has allowed us to make big leaps of faith together, from enriching vacations and pilgrimages to building our own homestead from scratch.

Life with us is grounding but not rigid. We strive to offer Cedar a variety of experiences to encourage him to be adaptable and flexible. A balance between alone time as a family and social time feed us in different ways and we love making time for both.

Our faith is the cornerstone of our marriage and the thread that weaves our family together harmoniously, by God's Grace. You will find us gathered to worship at the sanctuary of our Church more often than just Sundays, as we are all nourished by the beautiful ritual this offers as the backbone of our spiritual life together.





FAVORITE THINGS YOU'LL FIND US DOING

- Hiking
- Skiing
- Biking
- Camping
- Playing Music
- Watching movies
- Swimming
- Dancing
- Singing
- Quality time with family & friends
- Playing Games

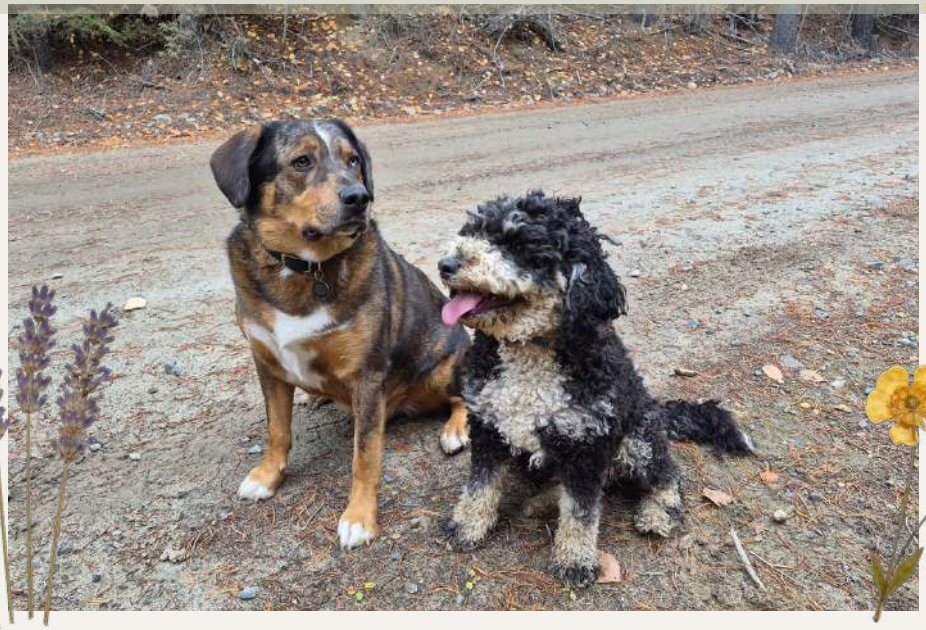






MEET OUR PETS

Our friendly and faithful furry canine companions





5-year-old Nuka is a happy-go-lucky pooch who's large joyful sweeping tail is a constant risk to coffee table contents. He drools over carrots more than dog treats, and his multi-colored puppy eyes are hard to resist. He loves to join in on emergency sirens and has lately been teaching his little sister how to howl like a proper hound. Between the two of them, homecoming is typically a loud and heart-warming affair.



At 2 years old, Lily is a constant test of patience for big brother Nuka. She is very spunky and entitled, believing every ball and stick is for her alone. She is often seen hording a pile of toys or sprawling out on Nuka's favorite couch, and she always prefers the company of others over being alone. As a Burmese doodle with soft curly hair, she's very cuddly and cozy, and she doesn't miss a night curled up at the foot of Cedar's bed!







OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT WE HOPE TO SHARE

As we look forward, we envision our home filled with the sound of children and a life of new blessings, as we embrace this journey of adopting a little one into our family with hearts open wide! We promise to give this child all of our devotion, love, attention, and care as we create a family bond that we will cherish forever. We look forward to growing a bountiful garden with lots of fruit trees and spending more time on the land in God's creation. We cherish being able to continue enjoying quality time with friends and family, enriching the raising of our children. We will embrace the mystery of what lies ahead, as we support our family through all the joys and sorrows, ups and downs, and unexpected events that will unfold as we grow together in love and unity.

We hope our children grow up knowing that questions are welcome, feelings are safe to share, mistakes are part of learning, and home will always be a place where they belong. Our commitment will be to continue striving to live a natural, simple, devoted faith-based life. We pray we can grow in their hearts a love and trust in God, that will guide them throughout their life. We will do all we can to help them carry this faith with them as a beacon of light and strength!

THE VALUES WE HOPE TO TEACH

KINDNESS	CURIOSITY	COURAGE	RESPECT	JOY
Treat people with compassion	Ask questions and keep learning	Be willing to try, fail, and try again.	Honor yourself, your story, and others	To cultivate the Peace of God everyday

We give thanks for unknown blessings already on the way!



To be honest, this process of creating a snapshot of who we are was not easy. We can only hope we were able to express the love and joy in our hearts about adoption, and that we have given a clear glimpse into our family and the life we share. We know it can only show a small piece of who we are, so we leave it in Gods hands now, trusting we will all be guided, so this little one will be raised where they will be deeply loved and thrive!

As we embark on this sacred path of adoption, we promise to honor this responsibility we are being entrusted with and all the unexpected experiences we will share together as a family! Honoring our child's adoption story and connection with their birth family will be treated with respect and openness.

Whatever comes next, we wish you compassion, support, and peace as you navigate the decisions ahead. God guide you!

WITH GRATITUDE,

Clay and Photini

What People Say....

The strongest recommendation we can give is that we trust Clay and Photini completely with our own children. We had never felt completely comfortable asking another family to serve as guardians for our children until we met them. Their strengths include their organizations kills, quiet and steady determination, faith, and devotion to one another and their friends. - A&W

We have seen Clay and Photini's relationship with their son over the years, and we can wholeheartedly say that they would be incredible adoptive parents. They are warm and supportive and skilled at setting healthy boundaries. They treat children as whole people, and connect easily with them because of this. They are responsible, hard working, kind, and grounded. - W&R

They are a very stable Christian couple, devoted to family life. They work together beautifully as a team, are in harmony, and consistent in their parenting. I feel any child would be fortunate to have them as parents. -C

Honestly, these two are some of the most wonderful parents I know. They are playful and present, while also holding appropriate boundaries. They are humble enough to know when support is required and resourceful enough to know how to get things done. Both of them are kind and conscious individuals, nstill moral values, and are wonderful examples of caring, good-hearted parents. -T



































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