

I am a PARENT...



...thanks to gestational surrogacy.

I was born with congenital heart defects and underwent 5 open heart surgeries. This has led me to have a mechanical heart valve and be on blood thinners the remainder of my life.

Pregnancy for me is extremely high risk, and although I was willing to take that risk to have a family, I am so glad that we were able to pursue a safer option through gestational surrogacy here in MN with a local surrogate.

Not only did we gain a beautiful daughter who is our world, but we also gained an incredible relationship with our surrogate, who is absolutely amazing and has become part of our family.

Your thoughts about gestational surrogacy...

*I am one of those people who LOVE, and I mean LOVE to talk about surrogacy. I sometimes bring it up whenever I see an opportunity to tell my daughter's birth story, just because it is so amazing. I also tell strangers because I find it helpful to educate them, as **so many are misinformed on what surrogacy ACTUALLY looks like.** We absolutely plan on telling our daughter how she was born as our surrogate is actively involved in her and our lives. We have bought surrogacy specific books and I also made a scrap book (both for my daughter and our surrogate) documenting our journey. From the first shot, to the first appointment, to the maternity photos we all took together. We are very open with everyone on our daughter's birth story and our surrogacy journey.*

— Trisha Ciro, East Bethel, MN 55005

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*We weren't having success with IVF (5 tries) and the doctor thought it might be a uterine issue. I inquired about surrogacy and they said we could try it - they didn't know if it would work. The first time with our surrogate Megan didn't work but the second time did. **Once Eliana was born, 2 months later, Megan said it was such an amazing experience for her she would be willing to do it again if we wanted.** When Eliana was 6 months, we did it again. She was pregnant with twins. Saw the heart beat and then she had a miscarriage. That was really hard on her and us. She did it another time but it didn't work. At that point I was 37. **We had gone through 9 IVFs and the doctor was like, "If you really want another child you should move to an egg donor."** I was super upset and pissed but with time got used to it. We finally got an egg donor and put the embryos in me. I had a chemical preg. We did it again & it didn't work. Megan and I were in touch during this time and then she said, "Jill, let's try putting them in me. Maybe it will work." 6 weeks later she was pregnant with Mia. We felt unbelievably lucky and feel **beyond grateful for the 2 little miracles that we have** - thanks to modern medicine, our angel Megan and a lot of tenacity that was a total of 10 years.*

Your thoughts about gestational surrogacy...

We see it as a complete blessing and feel beyond lucky to live in a world where this is possible.

— Jill Wolfe, St. Louis Park, MN 55416