

could physically participate in moving, and we both needed a break.

As soon as we settled here in Oregon, we began the work of finding someone to do the insemination. Within the first two weeks, we kept hearing about a great certified nurse-midwife and met with her.

She agreed to do the insemination and began the work of getting to know us and my body. She had me do a blood test for food allergies and a genetic mutation. The tests showed that I had allergies to eggs, dairy, and a handful of other foods and that I was half-mutated with the folic acid gene (called MTHFR). This mutation meant that I converted some folic acid, some of the time, with varying levels of success. I became the meat-eating vegan I am today and switched my prenatal vitamins to a prescription version that has folate in it, saving my body the work of trying to convert it.

We waited a month to let these changes settle in and decided the November ovulation would be our goal. As it turned out, our midwife was scheduled to be on vacation in November, so it would be an OB at the practice who would inseminate me. When I got the egg image on a Friday evening, she graciously agreed to meet us the following morning at the closed office.

We met her at 8 a.m. on November 5th, and she shared that it had been a while since she had done an IUI. This confession may not have been the vote of confidence we wanted, but she assured us that everything looked good and made us laugh as we spent the symbolic 15 minutes on the table with my hips propped following the insemination.

On November 22nd I once again reached for a pregnancy test, convinced that it would be another three minutes of waiting to see "not pregnant" pop up in the screen. This try was our 8th in 15 months. I set up the test and reached for my phone to see when the 3 minutes had started. Before I could even push my phone on, the test lit up with pregnant. I ran it out to Cathy in the living room, we both cried, and hugged and kissed.

Oliver was born August 5, 2012. ■

Next month: Cathy's process as the non-biological mom.

In The Family Way is written by Cathy Busha and Anna Deligio. Cathy and Anna are the new parents to their newborn son Oliver. Reach them at JustOut.com



Westover Heights Clinic
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Dr. Kerensky joins the team at Westover Heights Clinic from the Fanno Creek Clinic. She specializes in general adult medicine.

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