

Jan &

Karicie

Hello!



Jan, Karcie, Nola & Keen

THANKS FOR READING ABOUT OUR FAMILY

MEET Ian



JOB: Auctioneer
AGE: 32
EDUCATION: Bachelor's
Degree in General Studies
SPORT TO PLAY: Hockey

**FAVORITE MEMORIES WITH
OUR KIDS:** Seeing their first steps
DREAM VACATION: New Zealand
FAMILY ACTIVITY: Camping

Ian is described as hardworking, creative, and funny. He loves riding motorcycles, working on cars, playing sports, camping, and working out.

MEET *Karcie*



JOB: Therapist

AGE: 33

EDUCATION: Master's Degree in Professional Counseling

DREAM VACATION: Italy

FAMILY ACTIVITY: Playing outside

FAVORITE MEMORIES WITH OUR KIDS: First snuggles

SPORT TO PLAY/WATCH: Golden State Warriors Basketball and Kansas City Chiefs Football

Karcie is described as ambitious, dedicated, and loving. She enjoys her career, watching basketball, game nights, hosting events, and escape rooms.



We've had a unique journey to becoming parents. Adoption was always something Karcie was interested in and shared this with Ian early on in the relationship. It wasn't until after Nola's adoption that we pursued answers related to some health concerns Karcie was experiencing and discovered she had both PCOS and Endometriosis. We weren't necessarily surprised by this news, so we took some time to process it, and moved on.

We knew we wanted a sibling for Noli but then faced the reality of how to go about that. We honestly felt that if conception was meant to be, it would be. We then pursued a second home study and matched with Keen's birth mom the day after

we finished the nursery!

Adoption is so beautiful to us: Two families coming together, both from unique situations, with a common goal, a loving desire for the child's future.



In March of 2018, our daughter, Nola Day, made her appearance into this world and was placed in our arms. We truly had an amazing adoption experience and have learned so much along the way. We have a semi-open adoption with Nola's birth mother, communicating every so often, when she feels

comfortable doing so. We hope that someday this relationship will grow, but understand that every situation is unique.

In September of 2020, we were matched with an expecting mother who delivered a sweet little boy at just 28 weeks. Weighing in at a whopping 2 pounds, Keen had a lot of work ahead of him before he could come home. After months in the NICU, we finally got to bring little brother home. Today, our little guy is not so little anymore and is such a blast to be around. We have an open adoption with Keen's birth mother, who has become a part of our family.



Our life is full of so much laughter and joy since adopting Nola and Keen and we want to add even more! It has brought so much warmth to our hearts watching our two kiddos be a big sister and little brother to each other. Watching them play and wrestle (and occasionally fight) is so much fun.

We know one day our children will have many questions about their adoptions and that is why we choose to incorporate adoption into our everyday lives. Our favorite adoption book to read is, "I Wished For You: An Adoption Story". Karcie still gets a little teary eyed reading the page where baby bear asks his adoptive Mama Bear, "Did you imagine me to look exactly like I do?". Then, Mama Bear replies, "You are more beautiful than I ever dreamed."



Nola is the big personality in our home. She is one sassy little lady who adores her little brother. Now, at age six, she's so smart... it's scary! She loves to sing and dance with mom, play baby dolls, Barbie's, and be outside. She says she is ready for a new baby brother/sister and can care for them all on her own :)

Nola is now in Kindergarten and in gymnastics. She very much embraces her big sister role. She has a lot of friends and is very social.

Nola



Keen always has a smile on his face. At the age of three years old, he's on the go and into everything! Keen loves going for rides on anything with a motor, all animals, playing basketball on his Little Tikes hoop, and playing with his sister.

Keen is very much a wild man, meaning he never sits still (although he will occasionally sit for Lightning McQueen). We are so proud of the progress Keen has made in his development and know he'll make a great big brother. This man seriously loves babies.

Keen





When adopting a child of another race, we feel it's important to learn as much as possible about their cultural background. Most importantly, we feel as adoptive parents you have to be ready and willing to share that history with them.

Both Nola and Keen are African-American and being raised by two Caucasian parents. We do not take this responsibility lightly. Being a transracial family adds a layer of complexity to an adoptive family and we will never stop working to improve how we parent and teach our children to prepare them in this world.



We have met some amazing people through college, work, church, and the Air Force. They have taught us about their upbringing and how their culture differs from our own. Whether Filipino, African American, Asian, or Hispanic, each friend has opened our eyes to their heritage, background, traditions, and so much more. One of our main goals of parents is to raise children that embrace their unique qualities and to be proud of who they are both inside and out.



OUR *Family*

We have the kind of extended family and friends that will be there for you no matter when, where, or why. We live near both sides of the family and typically get together weekly. To say our kids are spoiled by their aunts, uncles, grandparents, and great-grandparents is an understatement!



Karcie's FAMILY

When we get together with Karcie's side of the family, it usually ends up being a night filled with card games, a lot of laughter, or most likely some type of sporting event. Nola and Keen have three cousins on Karcie's side. When they are together, they can be found swimming in Gaga's pool, playing toys, or snuggling up to a movie. Karcie's family is big on holiday traditions, especially Halloween and Christmas. We are always making things interesting with events such as Ugly Christmas Sweater competitions, costume parties, baking days, pumpkin carvings, and much more!



Ian's FAMILY

When we get together Ian's side of the family it always involves delicious food made by Gigi. Gigi is an old school grandma who can make the kids' costumes by hand and gets food from her garden. The kids have three cousins on Ian's side and they are all boys! When the kids get together at Gigi and Pop's house they can usually be found jumping on the trampoline, playing toys, or riding on the prowler.





In 2018, we decided to move back near our home town in Mid-Missouri. We lived in the St. Louis area for five years and loved it; however, we wanted our kids to grow up in a smaller town close to family. We love the community we live in and the opportunities it offers to our children.

Our home sits on 13 acres, just outside of town, with lots of room to run and play. We all LOVE being outdoors! Our house is newly renovated with four bedrooms and a shop for Ian's many projects. When the weather is nice, you will always find us outside playing in nature.



Our home also houses three furry friends, Griff and Gus, our Goldendoodle and Labradoodle, and Mama Kitty. They are full of energy and love giving kisses to the kids!

We really want you to get an accurate glimpse into our lives and what the day looks like. Here are some things that are important to us as a couple:

In our home, **family comes first**. We love and respect each other and try our best to make each other happy. We enjoy our time at home, whether that is hosting friends/family or hanging out, just the four of us.



We **cherish our faith** as a family. We have been blessed beyond measure and hold that gratitude at the forefront of our minds.

We feel **education is very important**. Both of our kids love being read to and learning new things. Our schooling helped us both obtain a career that we are passionate about. We hope that one day, our children find a career in which they are fulfilled and enjoy as well.



We love to **travel**, typically road-trip style. We spend a lot of time during the summers camping. We try to see new places within the United States each year. In recent years, we've visited Estes Park, San Francisco, Seattle, Orlando, Orange Beach, New York City, Chicago, and even Mexico and Spain. Our upcoming trip is to Alaska!



From Us to You...

We don't know where you've been or what you're going through, but we do know you are STRONG. The decision to consider adoption is SELFLESS and filled with LOVE. Never forget that. We truly believe God has a plan for you and your child. Please know that whether we meet you or not, we are praying for you and wish you the best in this time of decision.

One of the most important parts of this whole process for us, as adoptive parents, is making sure your child knows how much love and sacrifice went into your decision. Adoption is not an easy road, but we believe it must begin with love and dedication, from both the biological and adoptive family. We want you to feel as confident and comfortable as possible in your decision, this is why we strive to be transparent and honest at all times.

Our hope is to once again grow our family through adoption. We would love for you to become a part of that journey. We promise to honor and respect your wishes throughout this entire process and in the future. We would love an open adoption, but we have learned this isn't always what birth families want. We will not pressure you one way or the other. The journey of adoption would never be fulfilled for us without you. This truly means so much. In the event that we are able to meet you, we would love the opportunity to learn more about you and your background.

Two things we want you to know: First, we promise to fill your child's life with opportunity. Depending on his/her specific interests, we will support their desires, whether that be music, sports, art, etc. We want him/her to have every opportunity to excel and create a beautiful future. Secondly, we promise to fill your child's life with FUN! We love to have fun exploring new activities, trying new foods, pursuing our passions, and traveling the United States.

Thank you for taking a peek into our lives and for considering us to join you on this journey.

With Love,

Jan & Karcie



a gift of hope 
adoptions

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