ALAN & KARI

ABOUT US

The Florida beach, our favorite relaxing getaway

We've shared so many milestones and adventures

in the 14 years we've been together. We met through a mutual friend in 2007 and have been inseparable ever since. After we were married in 2010, we lived in four states, adopted two dogs, switched careers, started a business and many things in between! What has stayed consistent amid the change is our shared values, sense of humor and a deeply loving foundation that's grown stronger every year. Our journey so far has taught us about compassion and gratitude, love and forgiveness and patience and persistence.

We both have full flexibility to care for a child, as Alan is a college professor and Kari works from home as the head of a marketing consulting company. We tackle everything together, from household chores to the big, life-changing decisions. We can't wait to approach parenting as a team, and cheer for your child to become whomever he or she aspires to be!

At a charity event for local rescue pups

Hiking in Yellowstone National Park

About Kari

(written by Alan)

Kari has the largest, most genuine heart—she truly cares about everyone she meets and makes them feel instantly at ease. She is empathetic, nonjudgmental and has such an admirable place in her heart for those in need and most vulnerable (especially animals). I admire her resilience in tackling new challenges—like starting her own business and moving across the country several times to support my career goals. She also laughs at my jokes, most of which aren't that funny. :)

Reasons I can't wait to see her become a mom: Kari is an exceedingly patient, kind and nurturing person. She is so good at making genuine connections with kids of all ages. She can spend hours with our niece coloring or dressing up as a princess, or playing hide-and-seek with our other niece who is 13 and still loves this tradition with her aunt! She will make a child feel loved, appreciated and supported every single day.

At the race finish line

Selfie at a friend's wedding

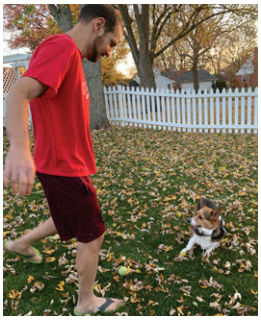
About Alan

(written by Kari)

Our corgi, Charlie, loves car rides!

Alan has been making me laugh since the day we met. He lights up when he's around children and it's obvious that he was born to be a dad (and crack even more dad jokes than he already does). He's unfailingly kind, generous and forgiving. Family, friends and colleagues routinely seek him out for advice because he's so reliable. He's also smart, ambitious and will do whatever it takes to provide for our family. I'm so grateful that he's my best friend and partner in life.

Reasons I can't wait to see him become a dad: Kids have always been drawn to Alan because he's fun to be around. When he's playing soccer with our niece or interacting with our friends' young children, the joyful smiles and laughter are contagious! He encourages independence while also providing a reassuring structure and sense of security. He will be a fiercely loving, attentive and hands-on dad.



Playing fetch in our fenced corner lot

Exploring the great outdoors

Our Scooby Doo gang won a best group costume award!

Hobbies:

We cook together most nights...everything from healthy fare to homemade pizza and nachos! We love spending time outdoors and driving to nearby towns and states to explore all that our area has to offer. We also like to experience new countries and cultures, hike across different regions and entertain family and friends. Our favorite thing of all is spending time with our precious fur babies, Charlie and Marlie. (More on them later!)

Fun Facts:

Alan is fearless when it comes to costume parties. He's worn many crazy wigs and getups, including one for Wonder Woman (which earned him a "best costume" award)!

Though Kari loves to try new activities, she almost always has a story after-the-fact...like getting stuck and soaked in mud while trying to ATV in Costa Rica!

Kari's lucky number is 14, because she shares a birthday with her older sister on September 14! They were born five years apart.

OUR HOME

We live in a 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom Cape Cod in a family-friendly neighborhood just south of town. We have a diverse neighborhood of young families, working professionals and older adults. We are within walking distance of schools, playgrounds and parks. We have a large, fenced corner lot that our family and friends enjoy visiting during our many cook-outs in the warmer months. We love making our home inviting throughout the year, but especially on festive holidays like Christmas, Thanksgiving and Halloween.

While we love our cozy cape cod, the two members of our family who make it truly feel like home are Charlie and Marlie. They bring so much joy to our family and are gentle with children of all ages. They're well-known and loved in our neighborhood, as we're often out walking, taking them over to the nearby coffee shop or playing fetch in our yard.

Meet Charlie, the corgi... he's full of personality, charm and spunk. His quirks include barking at the blender, barking at sneezes, barking at motorcycles...! We half-joke that he's a five-year-old boy trapped in a dog's body.

Meet Marlie, the rescue pup...just about everyone who meets her wants to take her home! You can actually feel your heart expand when she looks at you with her big, brown eyes. She is the sweetest dog, despite being neglected in the first few years of her life.

OUR FAMILY

They say it takes a village...and ours is filled with great anticipation and open arms!

When our family grows, we will be blessed with close support from Kari's parents, sister, brother-in-law and niece—who relocated from across the country to live close by! We love having our niece over for sleepovers filled with games, dance parties and Alan's world-famous grilled cheeses. Alan's family lives in Florida, and we make several trips a year to visit them. The highlight of our trips is the time spent with our niece at the beach, on the sports field and in the kitchen cooking meals together.

We're also blessed with truly meaningful friendships that span decades across our grade school and college days. Our friends are an extension of our family.

Alan and his grade school friends

Kari's dad and her niece

Kari's dear high school and college friends

Alan's parents, sister and niece

Alan reading to Kari's niece at Christmas

Thanksgiving dinner at our home with Kari's family

Our mutual friend who introduced us and her amazing partner

With Kari's best friends at a wedding in Brooklyn

Alan's niece - a Florida girl's first time seeing snow!

Alan and his grandparents at his master's degree graduation

Fun with close friends on St. Patrick's Day

DEAR BIRTHPARENT,

Thank you for reading this glimpse into our lives, which we hope conveys even a small fraction of the love we have to give. Though we haven't met you yet or learned your story, what we do know is that you are a remarkably loving and compassionate person. It is an amazing privilege to be considered as the adoptive parents of your child—one that we do not take lightly and will never take for granted.

Should you decide that we're the right family, we promise to provide a loving, stable and adventurous upbringing for your child—and to make sure he or she knows how much they are loved by you and by us. We also promise to raise him or her to have faith in God. Above all, we vow to raise a kind, generous and grounded child and always celebrate the unique, powerful love story that began his or her life.

Whatever decision you make, we pray you find peace knowing that it was the right one.

LOVE,
KARI & ALAN

In our fenced, corner lot

On the beautiful beaches of Costa Rica

WHAT ADOPTION MEANS TO US

Though our long struggle with infertility is what called us to adopt, adoption has always been close to our hearts. Now having experienced the journey from the adoptive parent perspective, we are in such awe of birth parents' strength and selflessness in light of such a deeply personal, painful decision. We can't wait to shower unconditional love upon a child and his or her birth parents—and feel our hearts expand for them in ways we never could have imagined possible.