

IAN & KARCIE



A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US ...

IAN

KARCIE

Our Jobs

Auctioneer

Family Advocate

Our Education

Bachelor's Degree -
General Studies

Master's Degree in
Professional Counseling

Some of Our Favorite Things

Holiday Tradition

Holiday Tradition

Putting Up the
Christmas Lights

Sleeping Under the
Christmas Tree

Memory With a Child

Memory With a Child

Seeing My Daughter's
First Steps

First Snuggles With My
Daughter

Dream Vacation

Dream Vacation

New Zealand

New Zealand

Family Activity

Family Activity

Nightly Walks

Nightly Walks

Sport to Play

Sport to Play

Hockey

Basketball

Children

Nola 2 years old

Relationship

Legally Married

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.

ADOPTION IN OUR LIVES

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. Nola is extremely friendly and extroverted, making friends everywhere she goes (specifically the grocery store!).



Professionally, Karcie has worked as an Adoption Specialist and a Home Study Specialist, assisting adoptive families in pursuing their dreams of becoming parents. Now that we have our daughter, our lives are impacted by adoption every single day at home and also for Karcie at work.

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 to Nola is "I Wished For You: An Adoption Story." Karcie still gets a little teary eyed reading Nola the page where baby bear asks his adoptive mama bear, "Did you imagine me to look exactly like I do?" and mama bear replies, "You are more beautiful than I ever dreamed." Our life is full of so much laughter and joy since adopting Nola and we want to add even more!

Family
Vacation



OUR HOUSE & NEIGHBORHOOD

Missouri - Last year we decided to move back near our home town in Missouri. We lived in the St. Louis area for the past six years and loved it, however, we wanted our children to grow up in a smaller area close to family. We love the safety we feel in our town but also love all the opportunities and diversity it offers our family. You will often find us out in the community at the YMCA, volunteering with our church, eating at our favorite restaurants (usually involving tacos), or shopping for all things toys, home decorations, or clothes. Our favorite thing to do in the neighborhood is walk to the nearby coffee shop and pick up a hot latte, meanwhile, Nola would rather be at the park just down the street.

We are so in love with our home. Our three bedroom, two bathroom house was built in 2007 but was just fully remodeled last year, it's so beautiful! Ian loves the two car garage where he can work on his motorcycle, Karcie loves the large master bathroom with walk-in closet, and Nola loves the huge, fenced-in back yard.



OUR EXTENDED FAMILIES

We have the kind of family 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 daughter, Nola, is spoiled by her aunts, uncles, grandparents, and great-grandparents, would be an understatement! Both sides of the family are very excited for us to bring another little one into the mix.

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, and most likely some type of sporting event. Nola has three cousins on Karcie's side. When they are together they can be found swimming in Gaga's pool, swinging on the swing set, 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 carving, and much more!

When we get together with Ian's side of the family it always involves delicious food cooked by Gigi. Gigi is an old school grandma who hand makes Nola's Halloween costumes and cooks out of her own garden. Nola also has three cousins on Ian's side and they're 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 checking out the goats.



CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Our daughter Nola is African American, and shortly after her birth we went into research mode on all things hair and skin care. Luckily we have some great friends (and of course the almighty YouTube) to assist in our attempts to see what products and styles work best for her. We feel it's an on-going learning process but have gained so much confidence since we first started styling our little queen.

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. For example, this past January we designated time to read Nola her children's book all about Martin Luther King Jr. and shared with her the impact of change he had on our country.

We have met some of the most amazing people through college, work 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 as parents is to raise children that embrace their unique qualities and to be proud of who they are both inside and out.

OUR LIFE PRIORITIES

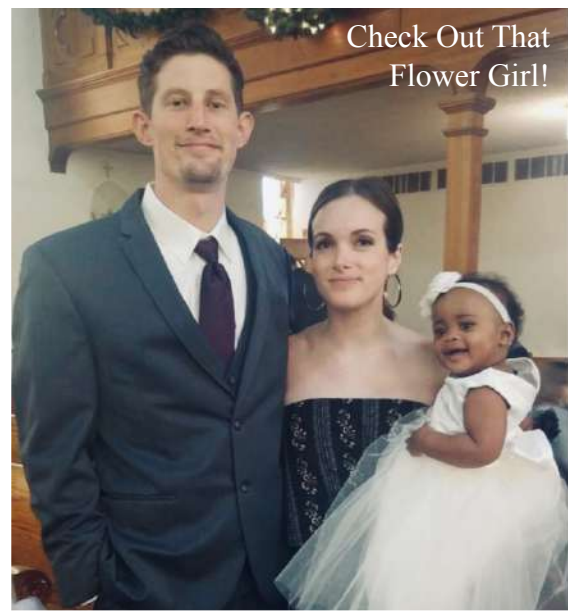
We really want you to get an accurate glimpse into our lives and what the day to day looks like. Here are some things that are important to both of us and we plan to incorporate into our children's lives as well:

In our home family comes first. We love and respect each other and try our hardest to make each other happy. We enjoy our time at home, whether that's hosting friends/family or hanging out and taking it easy, just us three.

We love God and cherish our Faith. He continues to bless us each and every day. We are members of a contemporary Baptist church. Nearly every Sunday we leave the service feeling refueled and ready to face the week. We love the diversity the church offers and the heart they have for children.

We feel education is very important. Nola loves for dad to read her a story at night, especially from her ABC book. Our schooling helped us both obtain careers that we are passionate about. We hope one day our children find a career in which they are fulfilled and enjoy as well.

We love to travel in road-trip style. We try to see new places within the United States each year. In recent years we've visited Estes Park, San Francisco, Orlando, Orange Beach, New York City, Chicago, and Myrtle Beach. Twice a year we also go back and visit the city where Nola was born.



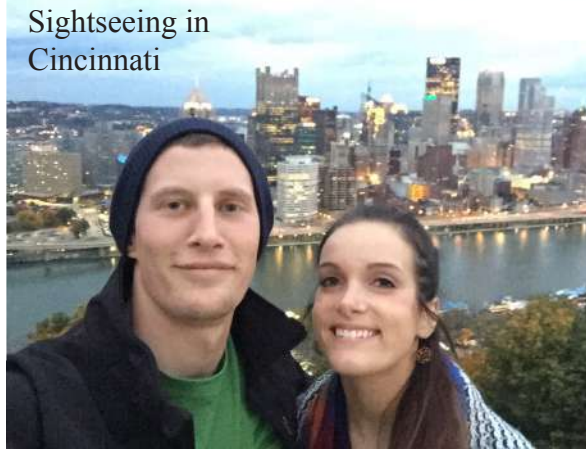
Check Out That Flower Girl!



Exploring the Mountains



Reading With Dada



Sightseeing in Cincinnati



A Day at the Park



Hockey Game



Happy Easter!

FROM US TO YOU ...

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. We will remind him/her each day how loved they are by both their 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 as 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 look forward to the opportunity of meeting you in person and love the idea of having continued communication with you, whether that be through pictures and updates or even exchanging phone numbers/email addresses, so we can hear from you as well. We promise to honor and respect your wishes throughout this entire process and in the future. We would love an open adoption, but have learned this isn't always what birth families want. We will not pressure you one way or the other. This journey of adoption would never be fulfilled for us without you. That 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.

We met in middle school and started dating soon after graduating high school. Our first date was to the drive-in movie theater. We dated for two years before getting married on July 9, 2011. We spent the first seven years of our marriage enjoying one another, finishing our degrees, and building our careers. In 2018 we adopted our beautiful daughter, Nola Day, who will be two this coming March. We have a semi-open adoption with Nola's birth mother, communicating through Facebook Messenger, where we share pictures and updates at her request.

We work great as a team and are ready for another one of life's big adventures, becoming parents to two little ones! Ian is described as hardworking, creative and funny. He loves riding motorcycles, working on cars, playing sports, camping, and working out. Karcie is described as ambitious, dedicated and loving. She enjoys her career, watching basketball, game nights, hosting events, and binge watching Hulu/Netflix.

Two things we want you to know: First off, we promise to fill your child's life with opportunity. Depending on his/her specific interests, we will support their desires, whether that is music, sports, art, etc. We want him/her to have every opportunity in life to excel and create a beautiful future. Secondly, we promise to fill your child's life with FUN! We love to have fun through 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,

Ian, Karcie, and Nola

