



KAREN + ELI

2106418



Hello!

We are the Brown Family and we are so grateful that you are taking a moment to learn about us. While we may not know each other yet, we want you to know that we are thinking of you with respect and kindness as you consider such an important decision.

First, we want to say how much we admire your strength and love. We know that reading letters like this may not be easy, and we are truly thankful that you are taking the time to hear our story. Adoption is something that we have felt called to for a long time. Our journey to becoming parents has led us here with open hearts, and we believe deeply in the love and connection that adoption can create. Our hope is to welcome a child into our family with unconditional love, patience, and support.

Our journey to adoption has been a long and meaningful one. For many years, we hoped to grow our family through IVF. We went through several rounds and experienced many ups and downs along the way. While that path did not lead us to a child, it helped us realize something very important — our greatest dream is simply to be loving parents.

Family is the center of our lives. Our home is filled with laughter, encouragement, and the simple moments that make life meaningful—sharing meals together, celebrating milestones, spending time outdoors, and supporting one another through every stage of life.

We want you to know that if we are chosen to be a parent for your child, we will always honor your role in their story. Your love and the decision you are considering will always be upheld with respect, perspective, and gratitude. We would raise your child knowing that they are deeply loved by you. More than anything, we want you to feel supported and respected as you make the decision that is right for you and your child. Thank you for taking the time to learn a little about us and for allowing us to share our hearts with you.

With kindness,

KAREN + ELI

OUR STORY



We first connected on Match in 2017, not knowing that a simple message would lead us to the life we share today. On our first date, the small Italian restaurant closed down around us – literally saw the place empty and the chairs go up on the tables before the wait staff asked if they could close and go home. We closed a superb Thai spot a week later, then lost track of time again at a Brazilian fusion restaurant. We quickly realized we had many of the same interests and values. What started as getting to know each other soon grew into something very meaningful.



One of the earliest connections was our shared love of exploration. We both enjoy traveling and spending time in nature, whether it's discovering a new eatery, museum, going for a peaceful walk outdoors, or planning our next adventure together. We love to camp up and down the eastern seaboard but also love to get as far away as we can to experience life and history amidst new cultures and countries.



At home, some of our happiest moments are the simple ones. We love cooking meals together, experimenting with new recipes, and spending time in the garden. Gardening has become something especially relaxing and rewarding. It reminds us how meaningful it is to nurture something and watch it grow. It started small - just 6 pots on a stand - and has grown over time to several raised beds and a homemade greenhouse!

Over the years our relationship has taught us so much. We've learned the importance of patience, kindness, listening and supporting each other through every stage of life. Most of all, we have learned what true love looks like – it's not a shiny insta-moment, but a resilient entity that polishes with time. We show up for one another, celebrate the good moments, and work through challenges as a team.





MEET KAREN

I was raised in a loving, close-knit family that shaped who I am today. Even after my parents divorced, they remained committed to providing a stable, supportive environment, teaching me resilience, responsibility, and the importance of family. My grandparents also played a strong role in my upbringing, instilling values like patience, kindness, accountability, and gratitude. I grew up independent and curious, with a love for math, science, and problem-solving, but I also deeply value creativity, connection, and meaningful traditions. I enjoy learning, crafting, exploring, spending time with family, and being in nature. Becoming a mother has always been one of my greatest desires because I want to provide the same sense of security, encouragement, and unconditional love that shaped me. I am drawn to motherhood not only to nurture and guide a child, but to celebrate their individuality, support their growth, and build a home filled with laughter, stability, and lasting memories.





WHAT ELI SAYS ABOUT KAREN

I am always impressed with Karen's selfless ability to lead, protect, mediate, and nurture growth around her; and that is just at work! At home, Karen is so much more. She takes the reins and leads the household; from planning a trip or a weekend activity, to working in the garden. She selflessly gives to our relationship, our home and our pets. Moreover, Karen loves and cares for her nieces and nephews as if they are her own, and not just on the good days. I have watched her be a springboard for nephews having bad days up through being a listener to a niece who needs an ear while navigating the rough waters of teenagehood. Those moments alone make her great Mom material. Karen is a classic foodie as well. We spend a ton of time in the kitchen, playing music, or just talking our way to making something tasty. Out and about, I am always stepping back in moments to admire Karen's ability to connect with anyone; stranger or friend, child or adult, from all walks with ease.



MEET ELI

My brother and I were raised rural near the family farm. Our upbringing taught us creativity and the family's meager beginnings focused our education from young ages. We learned by doing, which has helped us lead unique lives. I have been a mechanic, designer, semi driver and contractor - a classic jack of all trades. When we are not hiking, camping or traveling, I can be found tinkering in the shop on anything from motorcycles to giant tractors, working on the latest garden project with Karen as her loyal shovel-armed groundhog, or playing ball with our dogs. We have rebuilt the farm from the ground up, and visit my parents there regularly, where we regularly play with beef cows and help with the latest harvests. Since 2012, I have been a volunteer for ASP, a home-build youth mission, where I get to teach kids how to use construction tools and connect to people and scripture.





WHAT KAREN SAYS ABOUT ELI

Eli is a loving and dependable presence in our home. He offers unconditional love, fosters a true sense of belonging, and consistently shows up for his family — dogs included! With patience and emotional awareness, Eli will support our future children through life's questions, big emotions, and the unique and meaningful aspects of their adoption story. Eli has shown me what a healthy, love-filled life rooted in patience and creativity looks like, empowering me to become my truest self. I have no doubt he will nurture that same sense of confidence, security, and authenticity in our child. Eli embodies these qualities through his unwavering commitment, compassion, and wholehearted readiness to be a devoted and present father — bringing warmth, steadiness, and a natural sense of humor to everyday life.



OUR

little WORLD





We live just outside Philadelphia, which is a cultural, historic, and culinary capital of the nation. With a 10 minute walk through the neighborhood and 20 minute train ride, we have access to a plethora of museums, restaurants, and parks of all kinds. In the local town and county, we have access to even more parks, rivers, and all kinds of community activities.

We live on a half acre in the back of a quiet older neighborhood with a lot of younger families rotating in from older generations. We have built up our home with a huge front garden and a backyard raised vegetable garden, complete with greenhouse built by Eli and Karen's Father. Across the backyard, Eli's shop is home to any number of projects, with a dedicated bay to his grandfather's hotrod.

On the farm upstate, we back up to state game lands, turning a 400 acre cattle farm into a 1600 acre forested oasis. The property has been passed down over three generations to our conservancy. We raise black Angus cattle, a few pigs, and harvest hay, corn and even apples from the orchard. We are always working and playing with family to recharge. Local to this area there are larger state parks, and rivers to explore.

We have several pets apart from cows and pigs on the farm. Eli meticulously watches over an aquarium which is home to several fish and a pair of turtles, Toby and Sheldon, which we have raised since they were smaller than a quarter! They keep watch over our family room and are a quirky bunch to watch. We also have two dogs, Boomer and Hazel, that we rescued in 2018 as puppies and have been raised together. Hazel is the epitome of a lazy dog. As a little bulldog who can sleep, it seems, 25 hours a day, we are pretty sure she has the soul of an old cat. Her calm temperament lends well to children, often being a fuzzy pillow to nieces and nephews when visiting and extremely tolerant of toddlers that are curious about what the tongue of a dog looks like. Boomer is a classic black lab. Naturally happy and very well behaved, he goes to work with Eli wearing a home-sewn (by Karen) work vest and mooches his way around construction sites as the eternal employee of the month. When on the farm, both pups can be found running around open fields, enjoying a hike on a trail with us, or rolling around on the living room floor with their biggest fan, Eli's father.



Siblings and friends at our wedding



Karens Stepdad helping renovate



Nephew's Christmas Play



Eli and his bestie Nici - Karens sister



Halloween - carving pumpkins



Eli Officiating Becca and Anthony's wedding

EXTENDED FAMILY + VALUES



Karen and her oldest nephew Chase



Eli's parents Jim and Amy-Jo



Karens family at our wedding



Eli & his Dad on the Scottish Highlands

Family is one of the greatest joys in our lives, and we feel incredibly grateful to be surrounded by a large, loving group of relatives and friends who are excited to welcome a child into our family. We truly believe it takes a village to raise a child, and we are so fortunate to have a village full of people who are ready to love, support, and celebrate this child every step of the way.

One of the most special parts of our family is our group of seven nieces and nephews—and the family is still growing! They bring so much energy, laughter, and happiness into our lives. Being an aunt and uncle has been such a meaningful experience for us, and we love spending time with them—whether it’s playing games, celebrating birthdays, cheering them on at sports, or simply enjoying time together during family visits. Any child we are fortunate enough to welcome home will have a plethora of role models and lifelong friends.

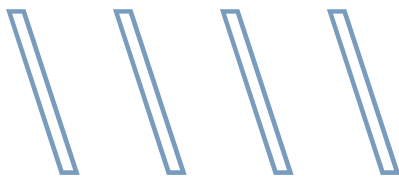
Our families love spending time together; even across family aisles. Eli’s father has helped Karen’s Dad build a garage, and for years, Karen’s Dad has visited the farm to play and work along with Eli’s folks. Holidays, birthdays, and family gatherings are always filled with laughter, storytelling, and lots of delicious food. Some of our favorite moments are the simple ones—kids running around and playing T-ball in the front yard, adults catching up around the table (while Eli and Karen’s sister cook), and everyone genuinely enjoying the particular moment together. These gatherings remind us how lucky we are to have such a strong and supportive family.



Eli's family at our wedding

Beyond our relatives, we are also blessed with close friends and neighbors who truly feel like family. Many of them have been part of our lives for nearly the decade we have known each other, and they are just as excited as we are about the possibility of welcoming a child one day. These friendships add even more love and support to the community that will surround this child.

Our greatest hope is that a child growing up with us will always feel the warmth of being deeply loved and supported—not just by us, but by a whole circle of people who are eager to encourage them, celebrate their milestones, and walk alongside them throughout their life. There will always be cousins to play with, family members to learn from, and so many people cheering them on as they grow.



Karen's sister Becca and her husband Anthony

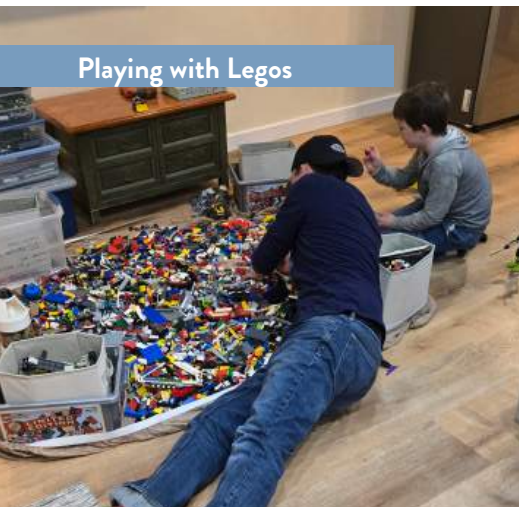
We have developed and grown many traditions over the years together. Since we enjoy cooking so much, we love to host Thanksgiving every year for family and any friends passing through the area. In May, the family generally descends to the farm from wherever we are and camps on the mountain above the farm house, or out in a pasture below the barns (depending on the weather). We use the long weekend to ‘open up’ the farm for the season as well as enjoy local activities in the community around the farm area, and a big game of Yard-zee (a giant outdoor version of Yahtzee, played with wooden block dice lobbed from a 5 gallon bucket down a hill). Shortly after, in early June, we celebrate our wedding anniversary in the little town we were married - just the two of us - and enjoy a bike ride, hike or a local restaurant in celebration of our special day. During the Christmas season, we make a special trip to the same Princeton theater to experience “The Christmas Carol,” as Karen has done literally every year her entire life (she has a framed poster on the bedroom wall from the earliest version she remembers). It’s always a great time to enjoy the season and remember what it is for.



Eli and Dad working on the farm



Harvesting Lavender



Playing with Legos



Paddleboarding

HOBBIES + FUN

Major Trips - Scotland, Hawai'i, Finger Lakes and NYS camping in general, Colorado, Tampa/St. Pete to visit family
Visiting any aquarium or museum (so easy in Philly)!

Camping with our travel trailer.

Visiting the Family Farm.

Day trips on the Pontoon Boat

Paddleboarding on local streams/lakes.

Hiking - literally anywhere we can!

Biking.

Cooking, Baking, Grilling

Sewing and Looming (yes, Eli too).

Yoga (Karen)

Playing the drumkit (Eli)

Movies - all kinds!

Gardening, both flower and veggie gardens.

Mowing the lawn - yes, Eli considers this a 'hobby'

Tinkering in the shop

Woodburning and Leathermaking

Working on the C10 Hotrod

Drawing

Board Games & jigsaw puzzles

Reading

Watching a well anticipated baseball game with friends and neighbors

Thrifting and Antiquing (leading to Eli's favorite road game - hauling)



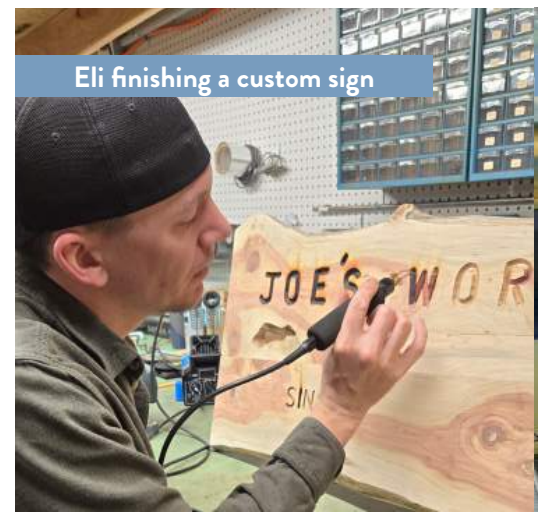
Eli's family making sushi



Eli and Karen's sister mud-running



Building the greenhouse



Eli finishing a custom sign



Camping trip grilling



Eli Harvesting Zucchini and Squash



Eli playing games with nephews



Playing with butterflies



Mini-Golf!



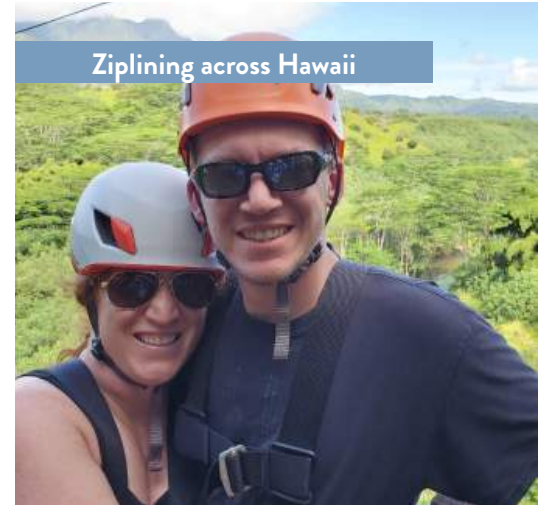
Eli Working on Greenhouse



Karen - Halloween



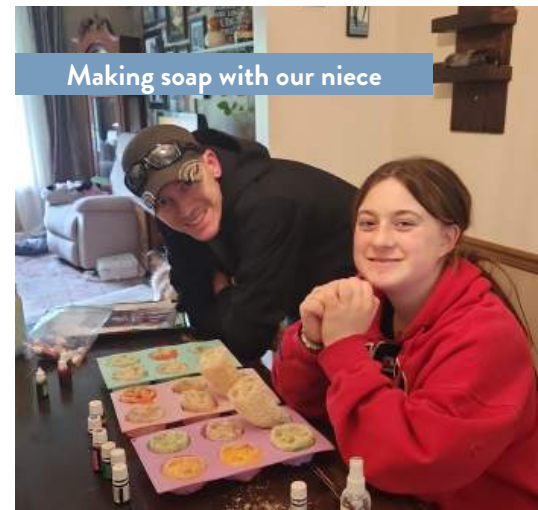
Karens latest looming project



Ziplining across Hawaii



Looming while camping



Making soap with our niece



PARENTING + ADOPTION VALUES

Parenting, to us, is about love, guidance, and showing our children that they are valued just as they are. We want to nurture a home filled with laughter, curiosity, and confidence—a place where every child feels safe to explore who they are and grow into who they are meant to be. We believe that each child has a unique purpose and special gifts, and it is our privilege to help them discover and celebrate these gifts every day.

We also deeply value the role of family, heritage, and community. We want our children to know the richness of their culture, the beauty of their story, and the joy that comes from belonging to a larger world. Their roots are an essential part of who they are, and we hope to honor and celebrate these in every part of our lives.

Part of celebrating this child is honoring you. We are committed to creating a loving, open, and respectful relationship with you. Open adoption has become much more important to us as we learn more about adoption. We want this child to feel proud of where they come from and confident in the love and care that surrounds them. We hope to share milestones, photos, letters, and stories, and to encourage a lifelong dialogue about their adoption journey. This journey can be beautiful, and we want it to be a source of joy, connection, and pride—for all of us. On the other hand if you at any time decide you prefer to do a more distant relationship we will honor that also – we heavily value boundaries and respect .

Thank you for considering us and for trusting us with the gift of your child. We promise to love them fiercely, guide them with patience, and celebrate every part of who they are—with your story always a cherished part of their own.



FAMILY INFORMATION



Father's Name
Eli

Occupation:
General Contractor Senior Manager /
Black Angus Farm Co-Owner

Education:
Bachelor's of Science

Religion:
Christian

Date of birth:
1986

Hair Color:
Brown

Eye Color:
Steel Blue (Karen Says so)

Height:
5' 8"



Mother's Name:
Karen

Occupation:
Financial Crime
Investigations Supervisor

Education:
Bachelor's of Science,
Criminal Justice

Religion:
Christian

Date of birth:
1989

Hair Color:
Red

Eye Color:
Blue/Green

Height:
5'0"

Date of marriage: 2023

Children: None yet!

Interest and hobbies: Eli is a tinkerer. He can regularly be found in his shop, working on his '67 Chevy or any number of handyman projects. He is always drawing - no sketchbook is safe! If it's not raining, he can be found in the yard, working on gardening and hardscaping projects, or working on cars and equipment from the family farm. We regularly visit the family farm, where Eli and his parents care for cattle, plant and harvest grains, and work on restoration projects. Karen loves to sew, seam, crochet and weave - pretty much anything with string and she's game. Outdoors, she can be found in the garden tending to plants, reading or catching up on a call with a friend or family from a lounge in her greenhouse. We both love road-trips and have been known to take a long weekend and haul a few states away to camp, hike, and learn about a new area. We are both audio learners, so especially on these drives we enjoy podcasts, music, and even listen (and re-listen) to large chunks of old and new Testament to re-balance after a long week.

Home: Our house is at the back of an older subdivision in the burbs of Philadelphia. There has been a lot of turnover in recent years of retirees to young families (gauged best by Halloween candy). The house is on a double lot, shared with Eli's shop and our garden and fully fenced for the dogs. Our little neighborhood backs up to a shopping center where we can walk to get groceries, chinese food, hit the post office and get to a pharmacy. Neighbors are always walking past our quiet dead-end to visit these stores. Neighbors are quick to help each other - just this winter, Eli fixed a snowblower for a neighbor that a few years prior helped us replace a sump pump.

Pets: Our dogs are some of the best behaved pets anyone will meet. Our little bulldog, Hazel is extremely patient and protective with children, even infants. Boomer, our large Lab, is a gentle giant. Perpetually happy, he travels anywhere Eli can take him. He's the business mascot and best employee on Eli's construction sites.

Why are you interested in building your family through adoption: We struggled several long years with starting a family and after several emotional and heartbreaking rounds of IUI, then IVF, we came to a fundamental realization - We want to be able to raise children, even if they are not our biological match. As our extended families grow and our parents age, we feel there is a missing component of life; a link for the future that we feel obliged to connect; an opportunity to pass on a legacy. We wish for our parents and siblings to be able to spoil grandkids and nieces/nephews properly. We want to teach the livelihood of farm life and pass on our heritage to a new generational steward. We want to experience the new and old places of the world alongside eyes that see them differently. It may seem a simple life, but we wish to share it with the youth our our time.

Openness to birthparent(s): We were initially opposed to an open adoption for fear. Once we listened to a few podcasts and began to understand the perspectives and lingering emotions that reside with birth parents and children, we realized that their bond is often best respected. We have read and heard of so many 'modern families' forming by a mutual love for a child. Though still very different, we relate by Karen's family, which includes a divorce with new parents and stepchildren. You wouldn't know it. Regularly Eli has to ask "which 'Dad?'" when discussing family. All parents live close. They all raised the children - not 'their one child' - but leaned on each other to raise a family. It is remarkable to understand, but it really did take a village. At the end of the day, any source of unconditional love is necessary in order to bring up a child.

Childcare plans: Eli is primed to be 'Dad'. We have planned that he works part-time in the early years to offset childcare. His job also allows for 50% remote work, which may allow a longer, and full-time coverage option. Additionally, Karen works 80% remote, which would also supplement nicely. Finally, we have plentiful local day-care options available in the area,



THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to learn a little bit about our family and for considering us as you consider your own child's future. From a few pieces of paper and some imagery, we cannot fathom the impossible decision before you. However, as you read through these books, we wish to provide you with some hope:

God Blessed it, Rascal Flatts sang it, We dance to it: Life is a Broken Road. At our worst, we found each other. Every time. This decision has every opportunity to make a life-long connection between you, this child, and another family out there - even if it's not us - that has a possibility to bring the best of all. Though today may be grey, hope is always ahead. For you, we truly do pray for the best outcome.

With loving respect,

KAREN + ELI