

Hi and Thanks for Reading About Us!

We are Karen and Bill from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. But before we tell you about us, we want you to know that we have a great deal of respect and admiration for your courage in considering adoption. It takes a unique, selfless and caring individual to consider making a plan for adoption. Any child we are lucky enough to adopt will be raised to appreciate the love and care that went into your decision.



We'd Like to Share Some History with You

We both grew up in a small town in Illinois and have known each other for 25 years. We dated years ago and made a pact to someday get married. Bill spent time out west in Yellowstone and in Montana after having served in the Air Force, then finished college and moved to Wisconsin to live near his parents. Karen moved to Massachusetts when she was 21 to go to Boston University and has been here since; her family relocated here as well. Eventually our paths crossed again and we realized how much we enjoyed each other and decided we wanted to marry. Bill works for a world-renowned oceanographic research facility in the department that oversees the safety and security of their facilities. Karen works part-time from home as an artist and plans on being a full-time stay-at-home mom. We're financially secure and are dedicated to raising a child with love, encouragement and support to realize their dreams.

Our Path to Adoption

Adoption, as a path to building a family, is natural in our families. Karen's father was adopted and she grew up knowing of his positive experience. We also have friends and family who were either adopted or who have adopted children as they've grown their families. Our family knows first hand that love is what makes a family.

Both of us have always wanted to adopt a child (or children) regardless of whether we had been able to give birth. We like the idea of helping people in such a profound way. Because of our positive feelings about adoption, learning from doctors that we couldn't give birth to a child, while disappointing, was not as difficult for us as it sometimes is for other couples. Adoption is the way many of our loved ones joined our family and circle of friends, so we are excited about adoption being the way we welcome a child into our hearts and lives.



Our Philosophy on Life

We are not your average couple. Both of us strongly believe that success is about quality of life not wealth, prestige, or material gain. We live a very low key but comfortable lifestyle and rarely worry about what others think. No suit-and-tie careers or “keeping up with the Joneses” for us! We agree with Thoreau who wrote “Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes.” Having said that, we are dedicated to providing our child with the emotional and financial support to lead a happy and healthy life.



Karen at the beach with her nephews

Spirituality is an important part of our lives. We are always in awe of the way destiny or fate has a way of working things out. Though we both believe in the dignity of all people’s individual spiritual journeys, we do enjoy celebrating the Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter. We have really nice family gatherings on most holidays. One thing that we do each Christmas Eve is play a game of Christmas bingo with fun gifts for each winner. And, of course we open presents the next morning. On Easter we have baskets for the kids and a grab bag gift exchange for everyone that always makes us all laugh.

Our Philosophy on Raising Children

We are both very curious by nature and are excited about the prospect of watching a child experience the world through new eyes. We believe that children have as much to teach us about life as we have to teach them. Our children will have a lot of freedom to explore their world fully and safely. We value education and will strongly encourage our children to attend college, backed up by our financial and practical support. And, we will make sure they know that their birth parents love them.



Bill takes our friends’ son out kayaking.



Karen with our cat, Ziggy

About Karen

I am an artist with a degree in Art History and a minor in Studio Art. I also have a Graphic Design degree. I have been doing freelance artwork for 15 years from home. Before getting married I supplemented this income by managing real estate. When Bill and I moved to the Cape I began to focus on freelance work. This has been great because I can schedule my work around my life, not the other way around. It’s a perfect situation that will enable me to be a stay-at-home mom.

My connection with adoption is a close one. My father was adopted, which worked out well. His parents were wonderful to my brother



*Karen with her grandmother, mother and niece -
We didn't mean to dress alike!*

and I as we grew up. The only problem with this adoption experience was that it was a completely closed adoption. Because of this, we lacked some medical information that could have helped me with a genetic problem with my thyroid that went undiagnosed for 15 years. I have since found out that all of the women in my biological grandfather's family had this problem. Thankfully, I am fine now (except for the short-term impact the thyroid condition has had on my weight!) but I wish I had known sooner. I now know, first hand, why it is so important to share some information in adoptions for the sake of the child's health and sometimes even the grandchildren.

Also, after I met my biological grandmother I realized how tremendously hard it was for her to know nothing about my father for all those years. And, I have an appreciation for the on-going caring and love that the child's birth family has; we think it's great for a child to know everyone who loves him or her.

On a lighter note...While writing this I didn't want to just tell you about things that interest me like painting, drawing, crafting, reading, etc., I wanted give you an idea of who I am. So, here are a couple of little stories that might give you an idea about what I am like.

I love joking around and having fun with my niece and nephews who call me Aunt Wiggles.

Once, while visiting my brother and his family, my nephew took me to meet his kindergarten class. He introduced me to his class by saying "This is my Aunt Wiggles. She really IS silly!" He now visits us for a good portion of each summer.

For 2 years I watched my friend's son after school. After he did his homework we would play games outside. One winter we built a snow fort and a huge snowman that we decorated with "Froot Loops". Then we had a warm spell and we were afraid our new friend would melt so we decided to do a "snow dance" (instead of a rain dance) in hopes he would be revived. I'm sure the neighbors got a laugh out of it! We did get more cold weather but eventually our colorful snowman melted leaving bright colored specks all over the melting snow.



*Samples of Karen's
artwork*



About Bill

I can't wait to be a father! I've known a number of interesting careers and I have traveled. Now that Karen and I have made a life together, I look forward to hearing happy little feet running through our house. I was initially trained as a print and broadcast journalist, but I quickly found that a heavy dose of news, as it's reported today, drained the optimism right out of me. So, after being a journalist for the Air Force, I focused on what I love, working in beautiful places and meeting new people.

Unlike most people, I've never identified myself primarily by my occupation. How I earn my living has never been as important to me as where I work and with whom I work. One of my favorite jobs that I had for several years was being a tour guide at Yellowstone National Park. In 2006, I organized a reunion of former Yellowstone co-workers on relatively short notice and was extremely pleased that more than 100 people from all over the country traveled to Montana to attend. We look forward to further gatherings as well.

I prefer outdoor settings where nature keeps me in a constant state of awe and I plan to share this love of nature with our child. My job in the security department ("faux po" say the students) at a nearby oceanographic institute fits me perfectly. The institute is essentially a campus that's in both a wooded and shoreline setting and is chock full of interesting people, primarily scientists. It's the premier oceanic research institute in the world, and I'm happy to be involved with it. I look forward to sharing all of the interesting events at my workplace with our child. There are interesting ships, labs, publications and exhibits at the institute – even the deep-water sub that found the Titanic is housed there!



Bill's parents say "Hi!"



*M*ore than anything, I value relationships—even those that have lapsed. I don't lose friends: We may just lose touch for a while. It's extremely gratifying to Google someone who I haven't talked to in years, call them, and then reconnect as if a day hasn't passed since we last spoke. I will enjoy teaching our child about friendship and the importance of being a good friend to others.

Some of the other interests I look forward to sharing with a child

WE LOVE ANIMALS!



Kerby can't wait to spend Christmas with a child!

are reading, playing guitar, and looking for treasures on the beach. Karen, our dog Kerby, and I love to comb the nearby beaches. We look forward to showing our child all the pretty shells, rocks and little critters along the shore. And Kerby and Sophie will be glad to teach our child all about digging in the sand!



Bill and our friends' daughter watch an osprey fly by



Karen's mother who lives just around the corner can't wait to have another grandchild!

Our Family and Friends

All of our family members and friends are very excited about our plans to adopt. Karen's mother and aunt live around the corner and can't wait to be an adoring grandmother and grandaunt to a child. Karen's brother and his family visit often, and her family enjoys huge get-togethers (with lots of kids!) every summer in Maine. Bill's parents live in Illinois, but plan on seeing the child as often as possible and will certainly run up their phone bill every week! There are lots of aunts, uncles and cousins, some of whom were adopted, in our families; our child will grow up in a large extended family all of whom are very comfortable with adoption and will enthusiastically welcome our child.



Our house at tulip time

Our Home

We live in a 3-bedroom house on Cape Cod that borders conservation land. It's in a nice neighborhood with lots of kids. Because we live in a resort area, there's always something fun on the calendar. We are also close to the ocean and spend a lot of time exploring the beaches year round. Our town has great schools, too! We've had the opportunity for a solid education and will provide the same for our child.

Our Pets

Being animal lovers, we have 2 cats, Ziggy and Binky, and 2 dogs, a big dog named Sophie, and a little dog named Kerby who thinks he's a big dog. Several kids in the neighborhood like to come over to play with our pets, especially with Kerby. Binky was rescued at 2 weeks old and was practically raised by Kerby, so the two of them are best friends. Their wrestling matches provide us with entertainment every day.

We have some unofficial pets, too. There's a box turtle the size of a tennis ball out in the backyard that we spotted just



Best friends



We promise...

to teach our kids to:

- be curious
- share
- be creative
- laugh
- love books
- love the earth
- explore
- be respectful of all people,
(even if they disagree)
- help those in need
- be kind to animals
- be gentle
- be strong
- look at the stars at night
- follow their dreams
- and
- to remember that their
birthparents loved them!



before mowing the lawn, and Karen feeds the birds, chipmunks and squirrels on the deck. The cats are amused by this, but Kerby goes bonkers and jumps up and down (what we call the hippity-hoppity routine) against the sliding door until he collapses from exhaustion.

Staying in Touch

We'd be very open to sharing photographs, letter updates and even DVD's of your child "in motion" over the years, if we're blessed to be his/her adoptive parents. We're open to learning what would be most reassuring and meaningful for you in the years to come – written updates, some phone contact, or in-person contacts as well. We look forward to hopefully talking with you.

Thanks again for taking the time to read about us. If you'd like to talk with us or find out more about us, please call Full Circle, toll free at: 1-800-452-3678. Please know that we wish the best for you and your expected child in the days ahead.

Thinking of you,

Karen & Bill



Bill, Sophie, and Kerby



Karen and her nephew, Michael



Sunset from Nana's front porch



Binky is a Red Sox fan