

THIS IS US

THE ADOPTION ISSUE

Karim & Ben

Open Up

An exclusive interview about
the prospect of welcoming a
child into their family

Plus

Our Promise:
A House Full of Love & Support

Meet Our Crew

Our Commitment to Your Child

At Home with Ben & Karim



A Message From Our Family

Hello! We are Ben & Karim. Thank you for taking time to learn about our family. We appreciate you for considering an adoption plan for your child, and we hope you will consider us as potential parents. We are a fun, warm, and loving couple eager to welcome your child into our family. Becoming parents is the biggest decision of our lives, and should you decide to choose us as parents for your child, please know we will parent them in a house full of love and support, surrounded by family and friends. We are excited about taking the first step to grow our family. We will be working dads. Ben

works from home and his schedule allows us the flexibility to provide ongoing attention and childcare for an infant in the comfort of our home as we welcome a new baby into our family.



Although brief, we hope the next few pages will tell you more about us and the life we hope to provide to your child. We believe an open adoption process is the best way to ensure a lifelong bond between our child and the birth parents. We look forward to being

invited to spend quality time with you before your child is born and we commit to invite you to share in the life of our family.



Cooking is one love we have in common (eating too).

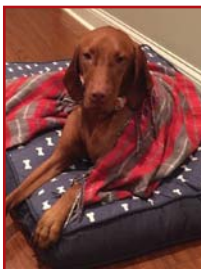


Ben became an honorary Buckeye two weeks after we started dating. Go Bucks!



This is Max

The third member of our family is Max (or "Baby Max" as they call him at daycare). Max is as sweet as they come. He's a 5-year old Vizsla, about 45 pounds (on a slim day). Max loves kids and curling up in his blanket by the fireplace. We love our daily walks through the park and to our local coffee shop, where everyone knows him. Max hangs around the house with Ben during the work week and is always excited for his daily belly rub when Karim gets home from work.



We both are passionate about raising money for cancer research and awareness and have participated in Pelotonia, a 100 mile bike ride to End Cancer. Service to others is one of the values we hope to share with our family.



Ben and Karim decorating Christmas cookies with friends.

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by Karim

Ben is from the Portland, Maine area where he grew up on his family farm. He is an AMAZING cook and developed a passion for cooking and hosting family parties at age five. He further developed his culinary skills at the Culinary Institute of America in Napa, CA. Whenever we go home to Maine, Ben spends all his time in the kitchen catching up with Nana, his aunts, and his cousins. It's clear that



the loving way Ben hosts our friends was learned from hosting dinners with his very large and loving family. Everything Ben does is a chance to share an experience with the people he loves. He invited his parents to ride with us on Ben's first three Pelotonia charity bike rides for cancer awareness.

Ben with his Big Brothers Big Sisters "Little" at an OSU football game.



Ben road his first Pelotonia ride in honor of his mother who died of cancer when Ben



was 11 years old. I admire Ben mostly because of his massive heart and uncompromising kindness. He volunteers frequently at a local homeless shelter, creating relationships

with the people he serves. A simple but common example of his caring nature occurred during a recent walk home, when Ben saw one of the guys from the shelter. Ben stopped to talk to guy from the shelter like he was an old friend. Finally, Ben spoils me with his culinary school training by preparing dinner most days and packing the leftovers for lunch (or as I call it, the "daily double!"). Ben is basically the glue that keeps our house running. When he's not home or volunteering for one cause or another, he works as a systems consultant in the insurance industry.



Ben and Max at work reviewing spreadsheets

by Ben

Karim the "Fun Uncle," as our nieces call him, is from Houston, Texas, but moved to Columbus to pursue his MBA and law degree. Karim is a partner at a regional law firm and an adjunct law school professor. He loves music, running, and photography. The greatest thing about Karim is his commitment to building long lasting relationships. He is an excellent listener



Karim dressed as "Darth Lawyer" heading to work on Halloween.

and great friend, and is always willing to make time to connect by making periodic phone calls to check-in or sending an occasional post card.

A big kid at heart, you will often find him reading his weekly collection of comic books, working on his stand-up



comedy routine, or practicing his Rosetta Stone French lessons. Karim is driven at home and at work as he is always reading to actively improve himself and have a positive impact on the community. I admire Karim for his ability to remain grounded and his constant willingness to imagine what is possible; "imagine the possibilities" he frequently likes to say. Although I do most of the cooking, I appreciate that Karim is always willing to give a helpful hand. We are a true team. BTW - one more thing, Karim really wanted me to mention his great sense of humor in his profile, so, I'll just say--Karim "believes" he has a great sense of humor, which means he will definitely be the "Fun Dad!" As a devoted Star Wars fan, I am certain Karim is eager to teach your child all of his Jedi skills and the ways of the Force.



Our Promise

A house full of love & support



Our family and many friends joined us on our wedding day.

Our Friends and Family are a big part of our lives. We are fortunate to have a very large and diverse group of family and friends, and we take every opportunity to spend quality time with them. We've traveled to go camping with the family in Acadia National Park in Maine, and we make annual trips for Thanksgiving in Boston and Christmas in Texas. Our family is very excited about the prospect of welcoming a new addition to our family. The prospect of having kids was one of the first big topics that we discussed on our first date. Ben shared that he told his 1st grade class on career day that when he grows up he wanted to be a stay-at-home dad. Yes, we are ready to be Dads so Ben can spend hours teaching our kids family recipes and Karim can develop a new tradition of taking our children on weekly visits to his favorite comic book store. We can't wait to continue old traditions and make new memories.

At Home

Our Commitment to Your Child

It took one date for us to realize that we found something special and unique in each other, and we've been building a life together ever since. You will find



us together most Saturday mornings at our favorite coffee shop or on our standard Thursday date night grabbing dinner. We live in a historic urban neighborhood in the center of the city, but it feels like an old neighborhood where we

know all of our neighbors and frequently have neighborhood gatherings. We live across from one of the new city parks specifically designed for kids and families, and we are a 10 minute walk from the largest parks in the city. Our neighborhood is full of other young families and readily available childcare options. We plan to use a mix of formal child care and in-home care options given Ben's flexible work schedule and ability to work from home. We are committed to providing a warm and loving home, and are eager to welcome you and your child into our life. Thank you for considering us as parents for your child. Our family and friends wish you the very best as you continue to explore the right family options for you and your family.

Ben & Karim



Fun times with nephew Rashaad.



Karim and Ben teaching nieces to decorate cookies for Thanksgiving.



Karim and 3 of our nephews taking a break from shopping at a book store.