



Shannon & Gen



Hi, there!



Thanks for stopping by!

We are grateful that you are considering us as adoptive parents and understand you are making a big decision. We wish you strength and love in the process.

As writers and teachers, we believe that stories shape us and our dreams. In these pages, we share our journeys and hopes for you and your baby: the chance to keep discovering and creating your own stories.

When our dog Wyatt was a puppy and we were getting him used to the car, we started calling our bright blue hatchback the “Magic Blue Bus.” Our story here is organized around “stops” on our blue bus that will give you a glimpse into our lives, our families, our values, and joys. Thanks for joining us on the ride!

Wishing you peace and comfort on your journey,

Gen & Shannon



Departs from: Dogland!

When we met in graduate school in 2008, Shannon was afraid of dogs, and Gen lived with two large dogs, Tye (2006-18) and Lynkn (2007-2022). One weekend, Gen asked Shannon to dog sit (not knowing she was afraid). Ever-willing to tackle her fears, Shannon agreed. Tye and Lynkn took care of the rest

Our relationship blossomed on neighborhood walks, hikes in the woods—and other adventures with our ball-chaser (Tye) and our mischief-maker (Lynkn). When Tye passed in 2018, we were living in NJ, and Wyatt the Riot joined our pack.

Lynkn, then 12, was an incredible “parent” to Wyatt—showing the generosity, patience, and good humor we aspire to. Lynkn passed shortly after we moved to Indiana to take new jobs. We paused before considering another expansion to our family. Now that we have settled, we are excited to welcome a new family member!

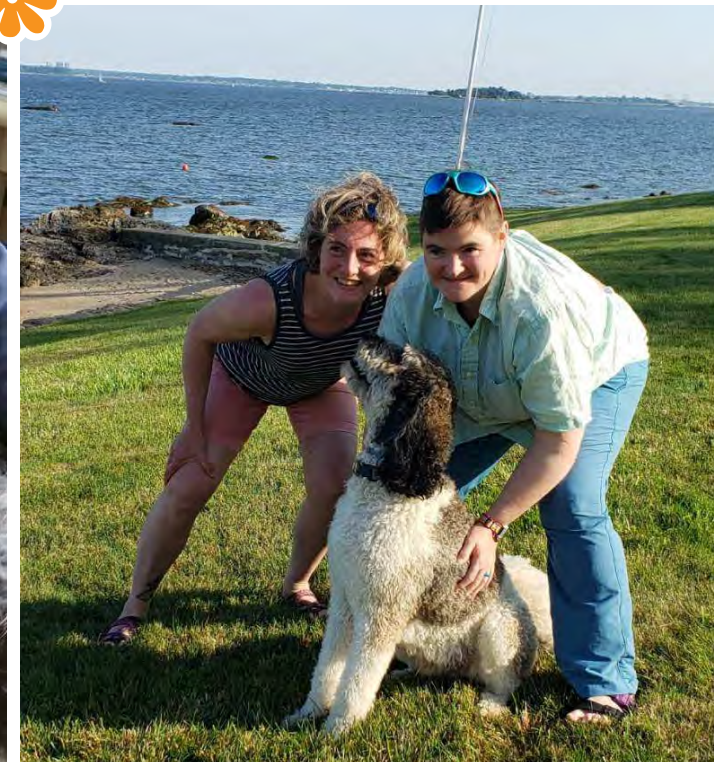
Gen and Shannon hike through the NJ Sourlands.
Living with dogs we go weekly hikes in new places!



Tye chases his ball in Lake Superior.



Lynkn lays claim to Gen.



Shannon, Gen, and Wyatt visit Gen's mom in NY.

Wyatt admires Gen's niece as she gets ready to jump in the pool at Grandma's in NY.



WHY ADOPTION?

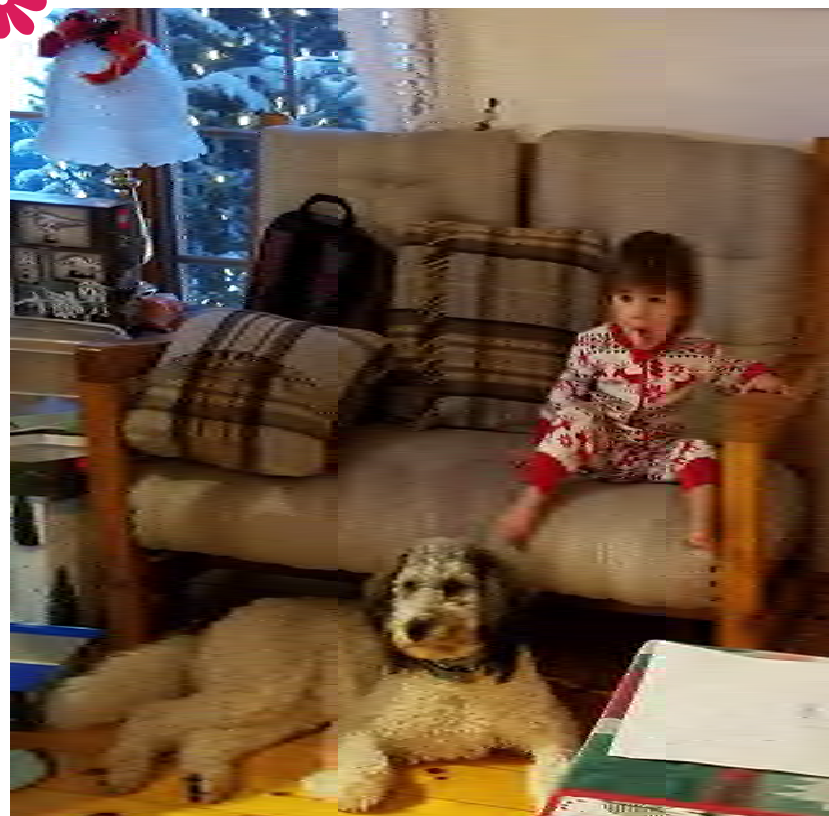
Living with and learning from our dogs over the past twenty years has brought us together and pushed us to grow and experiment with new ways to build relationships.

In the twelve years we have been together, we have talked on and off about adoption. Now that we have settled in Indiana, we are excited to welcome a child into our home. Given Wyatt's love of children, we know he will be a trusty sidekick on lots of adventures.



With Wyatt and buddy, Walter, on a Sunday Funday outing!

Puppy Wyatt claims Lynkn as his best buddy.



Wyatt finds refuge from Christmas chaos in the family home in French Canada with the kids!

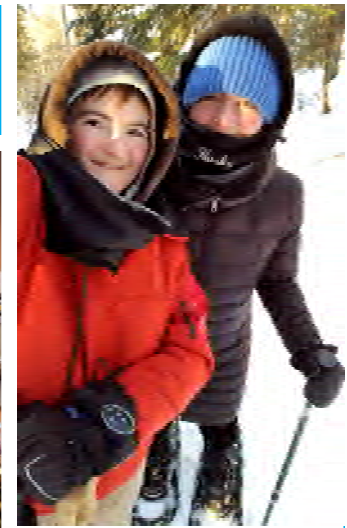


Language Lodge

Buying peaches in Bologna, Italy on a recent visit.



Gen and her mom with friends in Paris.



Snowshoeing in Quebec.

BONJOUR! CIAO! HOLA!

We are both writers and educators whose passion for languages and learning brought us together. We met at the University of Michigan, where we studied world languages and literatures. Gen was born in Montreal to a French Canadian mother. She went to a French-American school and spoke French to her mother and English to her Queens-born father. She later learned Spanish. In college, Gen moved to Cape Town, South Africa to study the mbira (a thumb piano).

Shannon's love of languages was instilled when her family moved to Paris during her mother's graduate studies. At 11 years old, she became fluent in French. In college, she majored in Italian and lived in Bologna, Italy. After graduating, she moved back to France to teach English. In graduate school, she spent a summer in Morocco learning Arabic.

We both love exploring the world and learning about other languages and cultures.



Shannon at El Barracuda in Mexico.



Education Station

We are life-long learners. Both of us have Ph.D.s in World Literatures and MFAs in Creative Writing, which we earned while working full-time.

We go to lectures and museums and take classes (pottery and glass-blowing are next on our lists!). We enroll in creative writing seminars and online workshops whenever we can.

Shannon recently learned how to drive (Beep! Beep!) and Gen takes saxophone lessons. On a family trip to Italy, we learned how to make ravioli and spaghetti. We cannot wait to learn alongside your child and help them discover their own passions.



Gen with our friends Richard and Elijah at the Wonderlab Museum, learning about the science of bubbles.

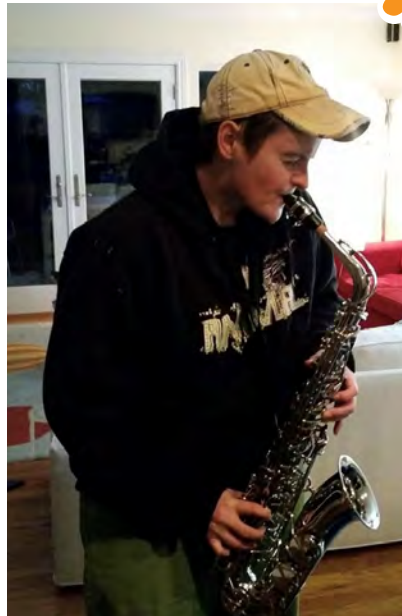
Learning how to make ravioli at a reunion with Gen's family in Tuscany.



After completing our "Terrific Teens" training class. The certificate says Wyatt's name, but we were all learning!



Celebrating Shannon's MFA graduation.



Practicing using a reed—which is surprisingly hard.



With the flamingos at the Cincinnati Zoo.



Shannon's Universe

"Shannon is growth-oriented and self-reflective in ways that will make her a great co-parent and guide for your child. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her outgoing nature will continue to build a strong community around us. Shannon also leads with nonjudgmental openness that will allow us all to explore and learn together."

-Gen about Shannon

FUN FACTS ABOUT SHANNON

- ◇ Tell her a pun and she is guaranteed to laugh.
- ◇ Flamingos are her spirit animal and she wears a lot of pink.
- ◇ She loves having dance parties in the house!
- ◇ Her friends tell her she has a distinctive giggle.
- ◇ When she's not reading a good book or writing or grading, she is probably at a group exercise class.

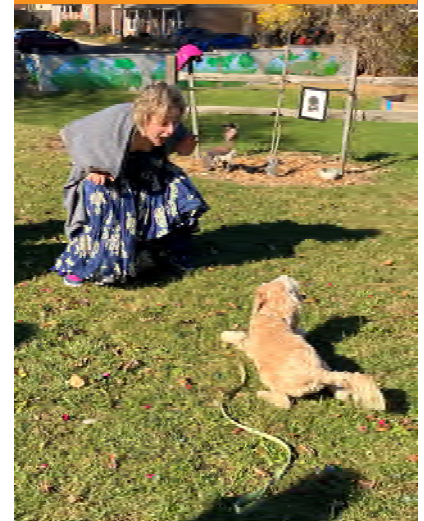


Demonstrating a Pure Barre move to friends in San Francisco.



Walking in Venice, Italy.

Play bows with a friend's dog on our wedding day.



"Gen ordered this cake to celebrate my Ph.D. The image of the woman swinging captures me perfectly: I'm a combination of whim and fancy and hard work and dedication"
—Shannon

At a public art installation in MI.





Sister, Erin, mom, Jane, and Shannon together for the holidays.



Shannon with her sister and nephews.



Brother Peter and nephew Joaquin in California.



Playground family reunion!



Shannon has a younger sister who lives in Wisconsin with her three boys. She also has two older brothers who live in Washington and California. Although she moved around as a child, she considers the Chicagoland area home. She was raised by a single mother, a now retired university professor, who hand-made all of Shannon's dolls and sweaters, took her kids horse-back riding, and never missed a violin recital.



While Shannon's brothers lived far away, they were always there for her and are very close. During summers, Shannon's mom packed up the car, and they embarked on epic road trips on the West Coast for family reunions where her brothers would have her listen to new tunes, cookout, and tease her about well... anything (oh, older brothers!)



With brother Erik and his wife Carla in NYC.

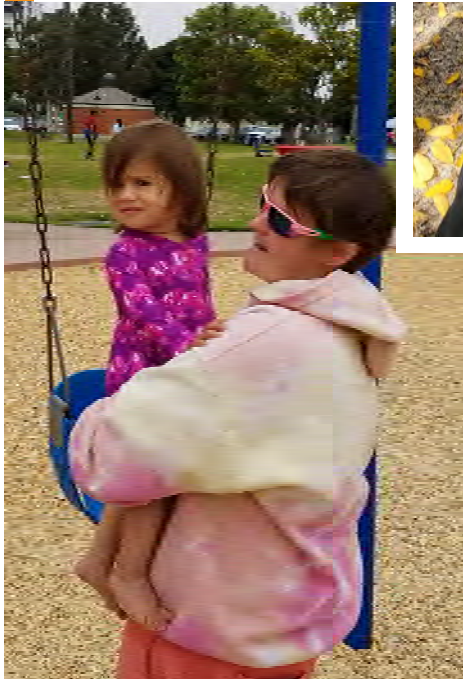


Gen, aka Dr. Fun at Disney World.

Gen stops to give Snoopy, the rescue pig in our neighborhood, a back scratch.



Gen's siblings (sisters Michele and Juliette and brothers JP, David, and Johnny), cousin Melissa, and mom in Tuscany.



With niece, Kk's daughter, Juni.

Gen grew up with a twin brother, two older brothers and two older sisters. All of her siblings have children, and many of their children have children. While some are spread around the country—from NY to Connecticut, D.C. to California and Alaska—they still get together regularly in the family home in NY that her mom, Diane, and late father, John, have lived in for 30+ years.



Gen's mom loves to host family and friends. Her house is often busy with dinner parties (she is famous for her cooking), kids splashing in the pool, and lots of laughs. The visits each other and travels together—from Hawaii to Chicago to Italy. If one cousin or sibling is on the move, another is likely to join in.



The crew of kids (and a few parents) in Tuscany.

Gen's Galaxy

“Gen is the perfect combination of calm and curious, playful and serious. She takes on challenges in an even-keeled and thoughtful way. I am in awe of her generosity towards others and her commitment to introspection. She will be a steady, loving, and joyful parent to your child.”

-Shannon about Gen

Playing Cinderella/Harry Potter with twin brother JP's kids Penelope, Emma, and Zara.



FUN FACTS ABOUT GEN

- ◇ She is a twin!
- ◇ She would always rather be wearing a hoodie.
- ◇ She builds LEGO to unwind.
- ◇ Her research about theme parks led friends to call her “Dr. Fun.”
- ◇ She feels at home in and near any body of water.



Gen officiates at niece Zondie and husband Matt's wedding.



We are close to Gen's cousins and see them regularly. 40 of us had a Hawaii Thanksgiving reunion two years ago. Here is a group of us together on a mountain hike.



Gen and her mom cross the Brooklyn Bridge on their way to a NY Liberty game.

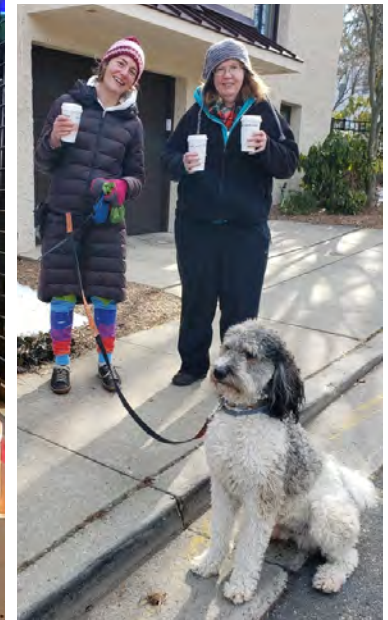
Friendship Forest

We are lucky to have friends that are just as close as family—college and grad school friends are regular visitors and co-travelers; NY-NJ friends are Zoom-mates and stops on our trips east, and our communities in Indiana are joyfully expanding. Your child will be surrounded by adults who care for them, and we're excited to build new friendships with them.

Friends and some of Gen's family after birthday axe-throwing.



Coffee and walk with Margie in NJ.



Exploring San Francisco with Michigan friends, Helena and Laurie.



Gen and her college friend Kristin meet up at Disney World.



Visiting Shannon's college friend, Peri, in Monterrey, CA.

Richard and Anna explore the Wonderlab with us and Elijah (their 10-year old photographer).



Land of Play

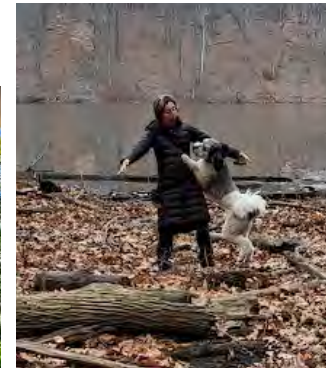
Our friend Richard married us on the Michigan playground where we spent hours in grad school.



Shannon visits the playground in NY where Gen played as a child.



We work hard, and we also love to play! Shannon loves playgrounds and swings and finds them wherever she goes. Gen loves basketball, hockey, and building LEGOs and puzzles. We play tug and chase with dogs, games with our nieces, nephews, and friends. We got married on a playground, and bring joy and play into every day!

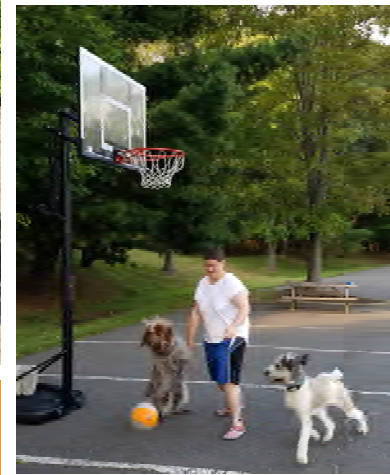


At a hockey game in Ohio:
GO Cyclones!

Gen's writing desk!



Finding a swing by the beach in Mexico.



Gen and the dogs competing for a rebound!



Gen loves Pixar movies, and Monsters, Inc. is a fave!





Christmas pajamas with Shannon's family!



Christmas hats (thanks to cousin Melissa) with Gen's family in Canada.

Tradition Alley

Our families have many traditions: Gen's family goes to the Nutcracker each December at Lincoln Center and then celebrates Christmas in Canada. Shannon's family gathers in Wisconsin. Both love holiday pajamas.

Gen's mom was born on Halloween, and she likes to hand out goodies—the kids line up for hours! In our Indiana town, we go to a glass pumpkin patch and costume party every year and now go to the Nutcracker in Indiana and NYC!



Gen's nephew at his first NYC Nutcracker.

After the Nutcracker, the adults play ring around the rosy with the kids!



Halloween festivities!



The East Coast kid crew at Gen's mom's in NY for Easter!

Explorer's Lounge

Jersey shore ridin'.



From Canada to Mexico and Chile, Maine to Minnesota and Hawaii, we love to travel and explore new places! Gen's mom also loves to travel, and we go to Canada and Mexico with her every year. Whenever possible, we try new things—whether that's taking a helicopter ride, hiking, finding the best local coffee, or trying new cuisine. We explore our “backyard” in Indiana and everywhere else we go.

Discovering Hawaii in a helicopter!



Watching the solar eclipse.



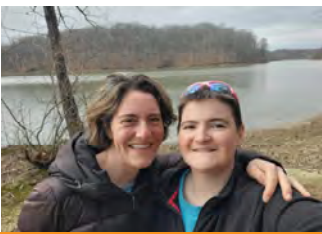
Trying out the new gondola with Gen's mom in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico.



Lake George, NY.



Hiking in Indiana



Louisville, KY.



Shannon and her mom walk from NJ to PA.



Carriage ride in South Carolina with Gen's mom and her late father.



When 40 cousins meet in Hawaii and no one plans Thanksgiving dinner... We find a food truck! Shannon and Gen's cousin Beth load up the car with turkey bowls.

Adventure Antarctica!

In 2023 Gen's mom decided to go to Antarctica for her 70th and Gen's 40th. We took a cruise in the southern oceans in December, stopping in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. We saw penguins, seals, and whales, went on hikes, learned about birds, and kayaked around glaciers and icebergs. Gen even did a polar plunge on new year's day ! It was magical and confirmed our commitment to living sustainably.

Getting on and off the ship was rarely dry but always exciting!



First iceberg sighting in the southern ocean!



A wet but beautiful hike along the coast near Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands.



Checking out baby penguins on a hike.



A New Year's polar plunge.



Shannon paddling around through an iceberg museum!

Ice Cream Corner

At the original Ben & Jerry's in Vermont!



What's your favorite ice cream flavor? Gen's is Moosetracks and Shannon's is sea salt caramel! We love sampling ice cream wherever we go and enjoy trying new flavors. We also honor Gen's father through our ice cream outings. His favorite was always chocolate!



Duluth, MN.

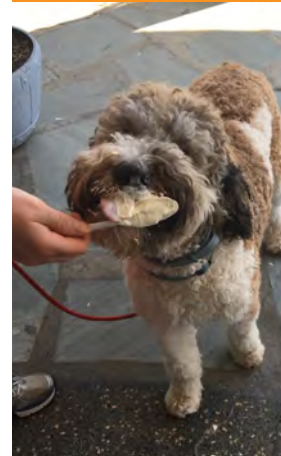


In San Antonio, with cousin Beth.

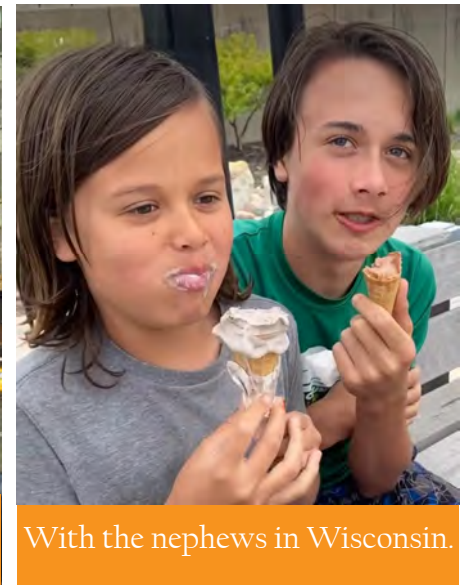
Our favorite gelato in Italy: Mascarpone (in Bologna).



We all scream for ice cream—Cape May, NJ.



Our favorite ice cream of all in NY.



With the nephews in Wisconsin.

Water World

Enjoying the Pacific Ocean in Mexico.

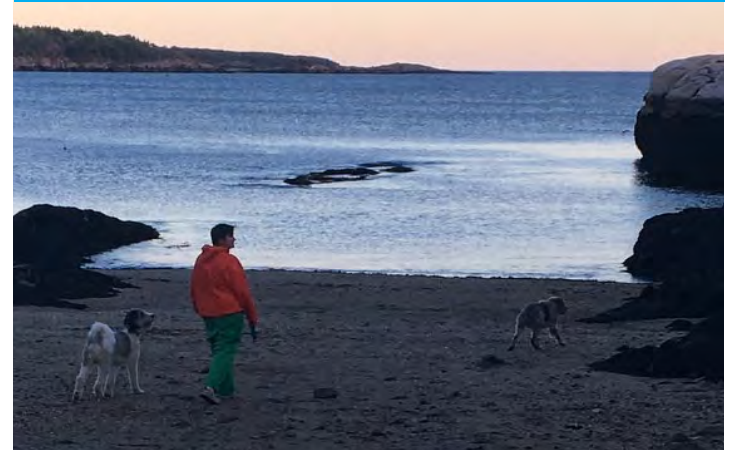


We love the water and seek it out to swim, play, sail, snorkel, paddle, and restore.

Relief from the heat at Montreal Jazz Fest.



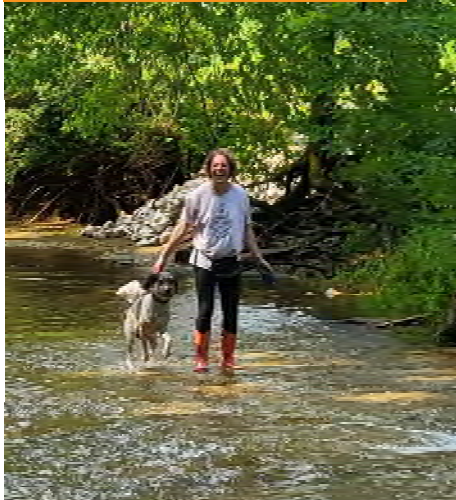
Walking on one of Gen's favorite Maine beaches.



Looking for sea glass on the beach by Gen's mom's in NY with the nieces.



Sunday outing at the creek!



Sailing a catamaran off Honolulu.



Paddle boarding with Shannon's nephews on Lake Michigan.



Gen teaches Wyatt to swim at her mom's in NY.

Habitat Haven

We volunteer every year for our local Habitat for Humanity to build houses. Gen is team co-leader with a friend for the Women + Build. Our team works on two houses each year for local families. It's a great community—and we learn new skills every time we build.



Gen, co-leader Suzanne, and friends.



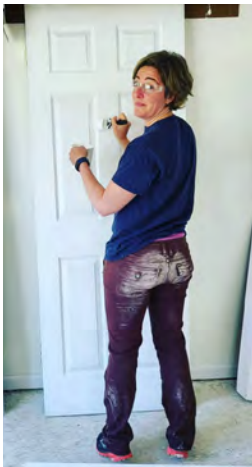
With friends Indermohan and Colleen, still going strong at the end of the day!



Shannon and friends receiving the trusses.



Gen and Debbie (also an adoptive parent) securing trusses.



Gen and the truss crew getting ready to lift.

Snuggle City

We love being active, but we also value downtime and cuddles with our family. Wyatt loves his cozy time, too. He has an advanced



Wyatt loves a good foot or lap to rest on.



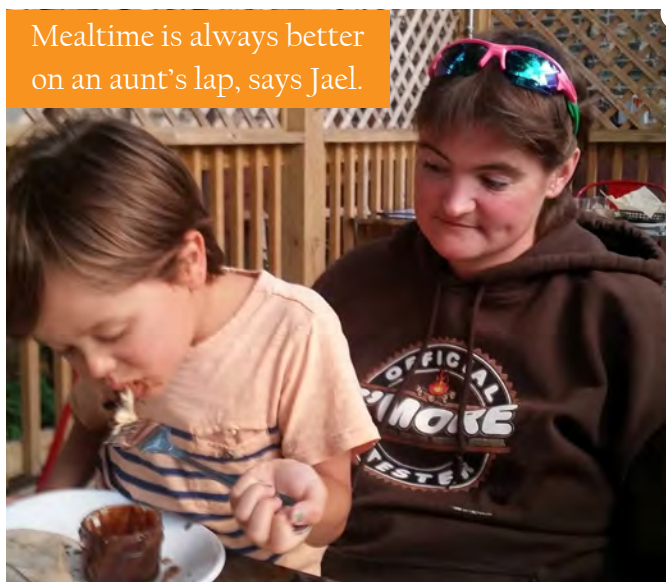
Emma introduces Aunt Gen to baby Penelope on a NY visit.



Wyatt soaks up the Margie and Brian love on a visit to NY.



Gen meeting baby Juni in San Diego.



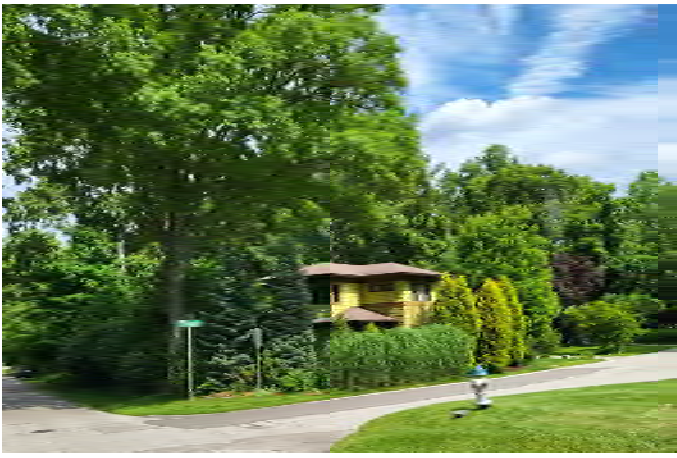
Mealtime is always better on an aunt's lap, says Jael.



Shannon meets baby Naia, Gen's niece.



Christmas snuggles with Aunt Shannie!



Green House Garden!

Welcome to our house! With tall grasses and evergreens in the front yard, our home has three bedrooms, four bathrooms, a finished basement, and a fenced in yard. It is both cozy and spacious.



Our kitchen is the social center of the household, connecting the dining, living, and family rooms and opening onto the porch.

We live a short walk from the elementary school, several parks, and the community pool. We are also a few blocks from a large university known for its music programs, theater, and sports. The university attracts a diverse community with many languages, religions, and cultural activities surrounding us and lots of different activities, festivals, and foods to choose from!



Our deck and Gen's backyard office.



Our family room is a good hang out spot for friends and family.



Looking for friends through our living room windows!



Erik relaxing in our living room.



We have flexible work schedules, and each of us works from home 2-3 days a week. Shannon also has summers off. We have many friends and family who are ready to help out, too! Your child will have a large care-taking community.

Thanks again for considering us as adoptive parents for your child.

If you think we may be a good fit for your child and are open to having contact with us, we would be excited to build a relationship with you. We understand that your feelings may change, and we are committed to honoring your needs.

If you would like to get in touch, please contact our agency, Forever Families Through Adoption:

Telephone: 914-939-1180

Email: adopt@foreverfamielsthroughadoption.org

Wishing you comfort and peace on your journey,
Shannon & Gen

Thank You!