Family Spotlight: Back in the ‘Burgh

Our family is not originally from Pittsburgh, but we’ve chosen to make it our home for the second time. The first time Nathan and Kara moved to Pittsburgh, we moved for Nathan to attend CMU for graduate school. We were lucky enough to spend 5 years here and send our oldest child, James (now 7), to the Children’s School. He had Mrs. Tomer in the 3’s and Mrs. Cherin in the 4’s. He loved the Children’s School and learned every song they ever taught him. We are so thankful for caring staff and wonderful community. James was not, however, able to attend Kindergarten here because we moved again – this time to Chicago for Nathan to do a post-doc at Northwestern University.

Kara was a teacher and then got a Master's in Social Work before the first move to Pittsburgh. Since James was born, she has been keeping busy staying at home. Our youngest, Madelyn (1), is a delightful handful. We have, of course, registered her for the Children’s School, too.

This second time we moved to Pittsburgh this past summer, we again moved for Nathan’s work. He now works for CMU as a member of the research staff. It is a good gig: he gets to solve interesting problems for the Software Engineering Institute and work on fundamental social science methodology at the Heinz College of Public Policy.

More importantly, however, now that we are back in Pittsburgh, we get to send our middle child, Lillian (4), to the Children’s School. She is in the 4’s with Mrs. Opferman and amazes us with how different she is from her brother James. She does every art project and tells us everything that ever happens during her day. She loves it here. We couldn’t be happier to rejoin this community that makes us feel like being back in the ‘Burgh is like returning home.

Kara, Nathan, James, Lillian, and Madelyn Van Houdnos