



## Highlights of the Year:

**Jan:** Brodi graduates from puppy school

**Feb:** Dan and Kara move into their first Denver apartment together

**Mar:** Dan and Kara go cruising with the Hadleys to Cozumel, Mexico

**Apr:** Kara gets accepted as a UCD graduate student

**June:** Dan and Kara travel through CO and UT national parks with Holwick family

**Aug:** Hadleys come to visit and travel through national parks in CO and UT

**Aug:** Dan is sent on 2 week deployment mission to Hurricane Isaac

**Sept:** Brodi celebrates his first birthday

**Sept:** Dan and Kara finish their first half marathon

**Nov:** Kara completes 12-month term of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA starts new job at Community Food Share

# Holwick Herald



*Dan and I enjoying warm tea in Buena Vista, CO the night before our half marathon*

## Merry Christmas from our Family to Yours!

We hope this letter finds you all in good heart and health! Much love to all of our dear friends and family on the east coast who are very much missed!

God has blessed Dan and I enormously this year. He never fails!

## How 2012 Started Off

Our year started with the highlight of Brodi "graduating" from puppy school in January. While he has proven to be much more intelligent than our last Dominican pup, Mia, he still could use a few lessons on how to refrain from snatching sandwiches off the table. His sneaky side especially comes out when he is with his best friend and "cousin": Zoey (Jo and Julia's dog). As mischievous as he is, he is a smarty and we love him to death!

In February, Dan and I moved out of Karen and Jerome's basement (a big thank-you to them for being so generous!) and into our own apartment in the Denver neighborhood of Berkeley. We love our apartment and being walking distance to groceries, restaurants, antique shops, and our beloved Mexican coffee house.



## Other 2012 Undertakings

### *Family Vacas!*

In March, Dan and I ventured off with the Hadleys on a Carnival Cruise from New Orleans to Cozumel, Mexico. We enjoyed lots of family time, strawberry daiquiris, zip lining, and exploring Mayan ruins. Dan especially enjoyed the unlimited 24-hour pizza and ice cream. 4am trips to the cafeteria became part of his nightly ritual.

In June, the Holwicks invited Dan and I on their cross-county RV adventure. They traveled through Great Sand Dunes, Canyonlands, Arches National Park, and Zion National Park in Utah. If you haven't seen these sights yet, I highly recommend taking a trip out West. There's nothing like it!

The Hadley family came out in late August to travel through the national parks in

Colorado and Utah as well. They saw the Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde, Arches National Park, Dead Horse State Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Even though we did practically the same trip twice, the traveling, sightseeing, and being with family was great! Brodi even enjoyed a few hikes near Granby, CO and became best friends with Faith (she was the only one who would play fetch with him for hours).

### *Never Ending School...*

In April, I was officially accepted as a graduate student at UC Denver for their Masters of Public Administration program. I've been taking classes there since January. Just 2 more years!

Dan also continues to do extremely well with his prep classes for nursing school.

### *September Happenings*

#### **Half Marathon**

Throughout the summer months of 2012, Dan and I trained for our first half marathon. The race took place in the beautiful mountain town of Buena Vista and started at 10,000 feet elevation. Although daily 5am workouts were difficult, we're really glad we went through with it! We finished 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> out of about 270 runners. Even though after the race we walked like penguins for a week, it was worth it! Also, Dan and I are trying to convince a few friends and/or family members to join us on a 5 day mountain biking trek from Telluride, CO to Moab, UT sometime in Fall 2013 or Spring 2014.

#### **Anniversary**

A few days after the half marathon, Dan and I celebrated our 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Vail, CO. The highlight was a beautiful all-day hike through the aspen, which were colored perfectly at that time. The past two years went by in a flash! Can't believe we've been married 27 months and together 5 ½ years. We've been so blessed through our marriage and still love spending as much time together as possible.

#### **Brodi's Birthday**

Brodi celebrated his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday with a doggie donut and with the Hadley family during their Colorado trip. My mom was sure that he would not want to eat the whole donut treat...she obviously didn't know Brodi quite as well as Dan and I. After he sat patiently through our dissonant birthday singing, the donut was gone in less than 20 seconds.

### *Work, work, work...*

#### **Kara's New Job**

Most recently, I completed my 12-month term of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA at nonprofit, Mile High Youth Corps. Leaving was bittersweet as I'll greatly miss all the youth and staff members. I did enjoy my 2-week break from not working, but even more so enjoyed receiving a new job with Community Food Share as their Agency and Programs Coordinator. I started December 6<sup>th</sup> and love it so far!

#### **Dan's Deployment**

Dan is a paramedic for AMR in Denver and loves the diverse and ever-changing work environment. In late August, Dan was sent on a deployment mission as a paramedic for Hurricane Isaac. He spent two weeks in Louisiana in the New Orleans and La Place area assisting in ICU evacuations. Unfortunately, he had to miss out on the Hadley's vacation out to Colorado, but he was easily and quickly forgiven.

