About Karen Kaler

Karen Fults Kaler was born in Nashville, Tennessee. She attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville as an art major in both undergraduate and graduate school. She holds a B.F.A. in communication design.

The Kalers met during the summer of 1979 in Tennessee, where Eric was doing summer research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. They married December 30, 1979, in Nashville.

Karen worked as a graphic designer in the Twin Cities as Eric pursued his Ph.D. in chemical engineering at the University of Minnesota. In 1982, the Kalers moved to Seattle where Karen continued to work as a graphic designer. The Kalers’ two sons were born in Seattle: Charlie in 1986, and Sam in 1988.

In 1989, the Kalers moved to Delaware, where Karen founded a design firm working primarily with nonprofits and social service agencies. The Kalers lived in Long Island, New York, from 2007 to 2011.

Karen has performed extensive volunteer work, primarily in support of children and in education. Since moving to Minnesota in 2011, she has particularly enjoyed volunteering at University of Minnesota Amplatz Children’s Hospital, with Habitat for Humanity, and with the U’s Parent Orientation Program.