

# Volunteers

## ABOUT:

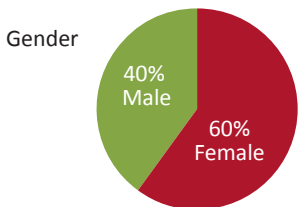
Numbers of active volunteers



Volunteer Demographics

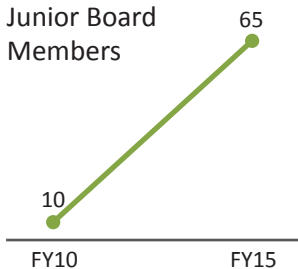
**45** Average age\*

**\$** \$250,000 Average household income\*



**80%** Adopted or adoptive parents\*

Dramatic increase in Junior Board Members



\* Estimated

## WHAT THEY SAY: WHY I SUPPORT THE GIFT OF ADOPTION CHARITY

*My love for children and personal experiences led me to support Gift of Adoption. Gift of Adoption is a national charitable organization that inspires adoption by providing grants to qualified parents – giving children who need families a permanent home and a chance to thrive.*

*Through raising two wonderful children of my own, I have realized that (young) children are sponges with a good heart yearning to learn. Unfortunately, so many children do not have the opportunity to be loved and supported, and can be exposed to a variety of environments, some of which are toxic and discouraging.*

*Reminiscing about the joys I had (and continue to have) raising my children and teaching young children in Sunday School, I sympathize with adults who cannot have children of their own. They are filled with love to pour into a child, but lack the vessel. Fostering a child is an option, but many times families have to go through the heartbreak of giving the child back to an environment they know is less than ideal for the child. I have always been lost for words when couples share their pain with me.*

*Closest to my heart are family members who are continually undermined for their lack of worth because they don't have children. In my culture, the worth of a woman is not her job title or how successful she is in her career. The number of natural born children a woman has and what the children accomplished in their life time determines a woman's worth. My eldest sister went through the trauma of being an outcast for not having children for many years. Our conversations always ended with the same topic – the desire to have a child of her own. Fortunately, after ten years she was able to hold her first born child in her arms – my niece. A few years later she went to the hospital to have her second child, and passed away during child birth leaving my two-year-old niece behind. The opportunity to adopt my niece as part of our family helped ease the pain.*

*For many years I buried myself in my career, but always dreamt about the day I would dedicate my life to serving and working with children. In my search to relieve this deep burden, I came across the Wisconsin Chapter of Gift of Adoption. The Gift of Adoption's mission to pair nurturing parents with disadvantaged children struck me as beautiful and deeply resonated with me.*

*Supporting Gift of Adoption means building a better future for our country as we are giving children an opportunity to receive love and they, in turn, can give love to others. All funds raised are used to directly help families adopt, as all board members are volunteers.*