

QUARTERLY

First Quarter 2015



A publication for Gift of Adoption Investor Board members. Please pass along to others who may be interested in this cause. Send comments and feedback to pdevereux@giftofadoption.org

1 2 3 4 news

Gift of Adoption is a national charity that fills the void that separates child from family – by providing the final funds needed to complete the adoptions of vulnerable children.

Dear Investor Board Members,

This quarter's guest perspective is provided by Sharon Komlofske, a member of the Investor Board and the National Board of Governors.

I am proud to be a member of both the National and Investor Boards of Gift of Adoption. If you did not get a chance to view the webcast we held in August, Gift of Adoption reached two major milestones in FY14 which ended June 30th. First, we topped \$1 million in revenue, and more importantly, we helped 197 children successfully make it to their forever families. That's a 27% increase over FY13 and means we are halfway to our goal of helping one child per day. We could not have done it without your financial support and faith in our organization, so thank you.

Gift of Adoption's growth is one testament to the fact that our mission is relevant and important both to those we help and to all those who care about children. But the adoption landscape is constantly evolving,

Meet Julian

Julian was born in Texas in October 2012.

The first 30 days of his young life were spent in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit so that he could be treated for neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), a term for a group of problems a baby experiences when withdrawing from exposure to narcotics.

Jamie and Angel of Rockwell, Texas had just become licensed foster parents when they were contacted about the opportunity to become Julian's foster parents.

Because Jamie is a pediatric nurse, placement of Julian so soon after his birth and right from the NICU was a way to quickly help him adapt to a life of tender love and care that every child needs to thrive.

As Jamie shared, "Ours is the only family Julian has known."



Not long after Julian was placed with Jamie and Angel, it became clear to their foster care social worker that Julian's birth parents could not parent him and Jamie and Angel were named Julian's Permanent Managing

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** joined this quarter ** renewed this quarter*

Dear Investor Board Members... continued

and we must remain nimble to continue to serve our base effectively. I'll give you three examples of what this means.

This year, the Democratic Republic of Congo inexplicably delayed exit visas for legally adopted children from that country. Families had to cover the cost of extra time in foster care for their children, or see them returned to orphanages that lacked basic sanitation and food, endangering their lives. Gift of Adoption quickly stepped forward to provide additional grant support to the GOA recipient families who found themselves in this circumstance. We are grateful that our founders, Lucy and Gene Wyka, helped with this unexpected need for funds so our grantees had one less worry and their legally adopted children, while still so far from home, remained in position to receive the best care possible.

The National Council on Adoption estimates that there are currently over twice as many domestic infant adoptions as international adoptions. Gift of Adoption recognized this trend five years ago and began building and strengthening our relationships with the domestic adoption industry. Adoption agencies and lawyers know our funding priorities and can advise their clients to contact us if they are good candidates for a grant. Generally these situations are those with very short timeframes: a baby abandoned in the NICU who might otherwise enter foster care, or a birth mother calling the parents of her first child to adopt the second and raise the siblings together. Monthly grant selection meetings ensure a quick response to these families, allowing more to say yes. Our 4th annual Domestic Fund fundraising event is scheduled for April 16th, 2015 in Chicago. It's a wonderful evening and we would love for you to attend as our guests!

Finally, Vietnam just announced that it is once again allowing international adoptions. Children available for adoption must be 5-years-old, part of a sibling group, or in need of medical attention difficult to access in Vietnam. These are exactly Gift of Adoption's funding priorities, and we look forward to helping these children land in forever homes in the years to come.

All of these examples show that Gift of Adoption is listening to the industry and our grantees, and quickly responding to best serve the parentless children of the world and the wonderful people who step forward to love them. As my teenage daughter says, Gift of Adoption makes sure these kids are #finallyhome! Please know that we would also love to hear your feedback.

Thanks again for continuing this journey with us.

Upcoming Gift of Adoption Events

Investor Board members receive gratis entry to any of these events. Contact Pam Devereux to reserve a spot for you and a guest.

Carolinas
4th Annual Gala
 Saturday, February 7
 Charlotte, NC

Florida
Annual Tampa Event
 Friday, November 14
 Tampa, FL

Illinois
Annual Chicago Event
 Saturday, February 21
 Chicago, IL

Texas
2nd Annual Benefit with Special Guest Neil Sperry
 Saturday, November 15
 Dallas, TX

National
4th Annual Domestic Fund Event
 Thursday, April 16, 2015 (tentative)
 Chicago, IL

Meet Julian... continued



Conservators (PMC). In Texas, when a parent or parents are named a child's PMC, the foster care system is no longer involved and, if adoption is eventually pursued, it is done so as a private adoption.

Jamie and Angel, wanting to give Julian a family and all of the rights and benefits of a true familial relationship, made the decision to adopt Julian.

"We were over the moon at getting PMC for Julian and without hesitation worked with an adoption attorney to do all the work necessary to adopt him. We had been foster parents to Julian for nearly two years and were excited to have him have our last name and to finally become a permanent member of our family.

Julian is an amazing child, son, and little brother. He is a smart little guy who has overcome a rough start in life and made huge steps with his development. He lights up the room when he walks in and he brightens everyone's day!"

With the help of a grant from Gift of Adoption, Julian's adoption into a permanent, loving family was finalized on August 27.

"Our family is now complete and Gift of Adoption is the reason for that."