

# QUARTERLY

First Quarter 2016



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](mailto:pdevereux@giftofadoption.org)

## 1 2 3 4 news

*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.*

### Dear Investor Board Members,

The Gift of Adoption family is saddened by the loss of our co-founder, Gene Wyka. Having faced extreme health challenges over the course of his entire life, Gene passed away in the company of his loving family at their home in Grafton, Wisconsin.

Some of you, I know, have had the same remarkable pleasure that I've had in spending time with and getting to know Gene. He was an astute, accomplished businessman, who lived his life authentically, in service to his faith and his family and always with a light-hearted sense of humor. As one of Gene's close friends, Gina Buchanan, says it best, "Gene was a true and kind spirit with a crazy, crazy laugh."

This past August I visited Gene and Lucy (Gift of Adoption co-founders) at their home. Gene shared that he felt his work with Gift of Adoption was one of the things he was most proud of and he expressed a deep appreciation for all that continues to happen for children in need of families through the efforts of the Gift of Adoption team.

The inspiration for Gift of Adoption is captured in Gene's reflection below:

After Gene and Lucy were finally home from spending months (instead of weeks, as had been anticipated) in the adoption process in Lima, Peru, adopting their oldest son, Joe, whom they fondly nicknamed 'smiling Joseph', they were troubled by one question:



*How was it that they were home safe and sound while so many other would-be adoptive parents had to abandon the adoption process and leave children to languish?*

They couldn't bear to let children suffer in the shadow of their good fortune. Thus, Gift of Adoption was born.

Since that founding moment, Gift of Adoption has positively changed the lives of 1,575 children – giving them permanent families and the chance to thrive.

Gene touched so many during his life. Below is just one of the many loving tributes that I received in the last week.

"Gene and I were friends for nearly 40 years, having met our first day

of college in 1976. We had adjacent dorm rooms for our first two years at UW Whitewater. We stayed close through the years after graduating. Because I work at a bank, I was actually the one who got a pretty good stack of fresh \$100 bills for Gene and Lucy when they made the initial trip to Peru to pick up Joe. New bills were easier to conceal in a money belt, and they knew they would be there for an extended period of time. Along with a couple other college buddies, we visited with Gene and Lucy several times over the past few months, the most recent being just last Thursday night. Although his body was failing, he was still the same old Gene to talk to – defending the Chicago Bears right to the end.

Your comments regarding his feelings toward Gift of Adoption were right on target. He was proud of what your organization has accomplished, but he was happier for the families you have helped. His own three kids made their family complete, even if their time with Gene as their father was shorter than it should have been. Keep up the wonderful work you are doing." – Brian Casper

*Thank you for all you are doing to make Gene's vision a reality.*

Pam Devereux

## The Road Home

We want to thank you for the part you played in Jackson joining our family. He has been home for two months now and is adjusting remarkably well. As we were driving home from the airport the night we brought him home, he said, "Mama, this is a good road... because it's the road that goes to our home." I thought of how we drive down that road over and over and it had no meaning, until we saw it through his eyes. The value of having a home is so much greater to those who have never had one. Jackson has already shown us how to slow down and thank God for the many things we take for granted.

*Dedrick & Crystal,  
Jackson's parents*



## Investor Board Members

Ann G. Airey	Daniel & Tiffany Neely
Anonymous	Christopher & Linda Ohmacht
Anonymous	Michael & Suzanne Parks
Claire & Bud Bach	Mr & Mrs. Richard Porter
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John & Melanie Furlan	Jill & Jim Vint
William & Christine Guthrie	Susan & Tom Wenzel in memory of
Didi Haase	Jim & Betty Garner *
Jeff Harting & John Toniolo	Lucy & Gene Wyka
Debbie Hogate	Allyson & Richard Zak
Maureen & Ben Ivory	Renato & Gina Zanichelli
Sharon & Gerry Komlofske	<b>In Memoriam</b>
Glen R. Mangold	Peter S. Gutrich
Doug & Denise Nash	

\* joined this quarter

## 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.*

### National

*5th Annual Domestic Fund Event*  
Thursday, April 28, 2016  
Keynote Speaker: Tony Dungy  
Chicago, IL

### Carolinas

*Annual Gala*  
Saturday, February 27, 2016  
Charlotte, NC

### Colorado

*Winter Wonderland Gala*  
Thursday, November 5  
Boulder, CO

### Florida

*A Night of the Roaring 20's*  
Friday, November 6  
Tampa, FL

### Michigan

*2nd Annual Comedy Night*  
Thursday, May 19, 2016  
Royal Oak, MI

### New Hampshire

*Gathering for the Gift*  
Thursday, November 12  
Lebanon, NH

### Tennessee

*Chapter Launch Event*  
Thursday, October 29  
Nashville, TN

### Texas

*Annual Event*  
Saturday, October 17  
Dallas, TX

### Wisconsin

*Kidding Around Event*  
Friday November 13  
Milwaukee, WI