

QUARTERLY

First Quarter 2017



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 charitable organization 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 perspective is provided by Paul Allvin, Senior Vice President, Brand Advancement at USO and member, Gift of Adoption National Board of Governors.

Next month I will trek out to Arizona to participate in my 30-year high school reunion, and the occasion has put me into that predictable space of taking stock in my life so far.

At mid-life and mid-career, with our three beautiful children midway through their march to adulthood, I frequently find myself brimming with gratitude and emotion at the smallest confirmations that life is turning out as I hoped it might.

My big, boisterous family is putting its mark on this world in remarkable ways – a brother in senior leadership in the Air Force, a sister who is a Dominican nun ministering to incarcerated immigrants, another sister completing a work service project in Fiji, two more tending to voter registration in Washington state. My mother – 83 and going strong, mother of nine, grandmother of 11, great-grandmother of three – still drinks from the cup of life in hardy gulps.

And then there's my own beautiful family – my wife and best friend, remaking the world of early childhood education. Our three kids, ages 10, 9 and 8, keeping us on our toes at every moment.

It is a good life, and I am feeling the very strong tug to pay it forward. So, when I was approached to join the

MEET KREEDE

We recently received this update from Emily and Dustin who brought home their son, Kreede, from China in April, 2014. Kreede had been abandoned as an infant in Nanyang, and lived in an orphanage until he came home to Salida, CO at 22 months of age. At that time, he was not yet walking and he was still using a bottle to feed due to his cleft lip and palate.

Dustin shares, "Kreede was in such shock when we got him and so withdrawn. It took him weeks just to show that he wanted to be held and loved. After being home a few months, we began to see his personality really shine. He is no longer fearful of every new situation, but is secure in who he is and what he has. He has a great sense of humor and is so compassionate and happy. We can't imagine life without him."

Kreede had to have several surgeries once home, but has now recovered fully. He is running and playing like every other 3 year old and has passed his final test to be released from occupational therapy. Dustin adds, "His first day of preschool was the first time he had been away from us since he came home. As we walked into school on his first day, he was meeting with his teachers and he kept touching us saying



'My Mama' and 'My Dada' as if he were introducing us. Precious!"

"We are so grateful to Gift of Adoption for helping to make our dreams of a complete family come true!"

Gift of Adoption board of directors, I couldn't say no. For one thing, I've had the pleasure of working with GOA leaders in a prior career stop, and I'm simply unable to say "no" to my mentor, Paula Van Ness, or to resist the opportunity to collaborate again with Pam Devereux.

My background is in organizational branding, and I come to Gift of Adoption with the intent of plying my insights however they are useful.

Why GOA? For starters, an old friend and late colleague of mine once said she got a thrill out of working for an effort still in its formative stages, to be part of "something in the process of 'becoming.'" I never forgot that, and when the GOA opportunity came along, her words of wisdom came right back.

GOA is in the process of becoming something big nationally, and I am thrilled to be invited to pitch in as the effort gains momentum.

And what an inspiring mission: I can't imagine being part of something more satisfying than helping children make their way to the family they were supposed to be a part of, and to fill the empty seat at the dinner table, to say nothing of the hole in the hearts, of those who feel the absence of the child who completes their family portrait.

I have a lot to learn about this organization, and about the world of adoption. Meantime, I'm off to my high school reunion. Along the way, I get to see a month-old great-niece and an 18-month-old great-nephew whom I've not yet met.

Their mother, by the way is my niece who herself came to our family by way of adoption. If that adoption hadn't happened 25 years ago, I wouldn't be warming up for serious snuggle and tickle time with two beautiful, irreplaceable members of our family.

Like I said, time to pay it forward.

November Brand Campaign



This coming November Gift of Adoption is celebrating National Adoption Awareness Month in a big way!

Throughout November, Gift of Adoption is hosting 30 awareness events in 30 communities across the country to celebrate Gift of Adoption supporters – and challenge everyone to rethink the impact they can have in the life of a parentless child.

Each of the 30 events feature a one-mile walk to represent the final mile in a child's adoption journey.

Visit giftofadoption.org/30in30 for all the details.

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 Anonymous
 Anonymous
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 Brad & Paige Sullivan
 Tim & Sue Sullivan
 Christa and Vernon Sumwalt
 Tim Swett & Suzanne Burke
 Michael Uzer & Leslie Smith
 Jill & Jim Vint
 Susan & Tom Wenzel in memory of
 Jim & Betty Garner
 The Wyka Family
 Allyson & Richard Zak
 Renato & Gina Zanichelli

In Memoriam
 Peter S. Gutrich

** renewed 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.

Colorado Chapter Corporate After Hours Event
 Thursday October 13, 2016
 Denver, CO

Texas Chapter 4th Annual Event
 Saturday October 22, 2016
 Dallas, TX

Georgia Chapter Fall into Family
 Saturday October 23, 2016
 Atlanta, GA

Capital Region Chapter Inaugural Event
 Thursday November 3, 2016
 Washington D.C.

Colorado Chapter 5th Annual Fall Fundraiser
 Saturday, November 5, 2016
 Boulder, CO