

QUARTERLY

Second Quarter 2015

 Gift of
Adoption
FUND

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 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,

This quarter's guest perspective is provided by Investor Board member Didi Haase

As a new member to the Gift of Adoption Investor Board, I'm reminded to reflect back on my own experience with adoption, now 5 and 11 years ago, and how I can now help others.

As an only parent, I adopted my first two children, Aiden and Alissa from Ukraine in 2003 when they were 1½-years-old. I adopted my third child, Alex, from Ethiopia in 2009 when he was 2½-years-old.

Being employed at Microsoft, which has adoption funds available for employees, is one of the reasons I decided to adopt a third child. Microsoft also matches "giving" funds, which allows me to help in bigger ways.

Meet Elena Hope

Elena was born with only one kidney among other congenital malformations. Her birth parents, thinking they could not give her proper care, relinquished their rights at the hospital. She remained at a rehabilitation home for 0-5 year olds in the Ukraine for the first two years of her life.

Randall and Angela decided to adopt after going on a mission trip in 2013. Randall explained, "Our minds just couldn't begin to wrap around how huge the problem is – we saw children starving: physically, emotionally and spiritually."



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* joined this quarter

** renewed this quarter



Elena Hope...
continued

Since Ukraine gained independence in 1991, there has been a noticeable decline in economic stability. The standard of living in Ukraine has decreased dramatically and an increasing number of families are living in extreme poverty; inability to access proper nutrition and healthcare has greatly contributed to the growing number of children in need of families. It is estimated that there are over 100,000 orphans in Ukraine.



I frequently get asked by others about my story as so many people are in the “consideration” phase and can’t get past the financial impact to move forward. I’m purposefully very open with my story to try to inspire others to think about it, talk about it, and (hopefully) do it.

I have a very hectic job and am living proof that it can be done, even as one parent, but it can’t be done alone. We all need help sometimes and I’m so pleased to be part of an organization that makes other people’s dreams come true. It’s those little souls who need to find forever homes in great families that make me want to get involved here.

Also, I’m a big believer of “signs”. With my first two children, I tried artificial insemination for two months (April and May of 2002) and then decided it wasn’t for me. I completed the adoption of my first two children 1½ years later and they were born back in those same two months – April and May 2002. My son’s birthday is the same as my mom’s. Lastly, my youngest son’s last name at birth was Goa. So you see, it’s all just meant to be!

I’m honored to be part of this group as an investor and introduce others to the Gift of Adoption.

At 16 years old, an age when most American children are still in high school, children in Ukraine age out of care. The future is bleak for a child in need that is not united with a forever family before he or she ages out of the orphanage system. Though Ukraine is making strides to place children in families within their own country, many times older children, sibling groups, and children with special needs, like Elena, are overlooked.

The recent tensions between Ukraine and Russia have made it critical that

families in the adoption process are able to travel as soon as possible to bring their children home. This often means less time to save and fundraise for their adoptions. Gift of Adoption grants have already helped complete seven adoptions from Ukraine in the first half of this fiscal year (compared to three in all of last year).

Thanks to a grant from Gift of Adoption, Randall and Angela were able to bring Elena home this fall. Angela shared, “Elena will be able to get the education she needs. She is so quick and bright. We feel also, with the medical technology here, she will receive the care she needs for her kidney.”

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

Wisconsin

5th Annual Trivia Event
Friday, March 13
Milwaukee, WI

Illinois

There’s Nothing Sweeter than Family
Saturday, February 21
Chicago, IL

National

4th Annual Domestic Fund Event
Thursday, April 16
Chicago, IL