

# QUARTERLY

Second 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 fills the void that separates child from family by providing grants to qualified parents – giving children who need families a permanent home and a chance to thrive.*

This quarter's guest perspective is provided by Debbie Hogate, a Chief Compliance Officer with the investment advisor firm, Grant Koehler & Levin LTD. Debbie was an inaugural member of the Gift of Adoption Investor Board and remains an Investor today. In addition to being a GOA Investor, Debbie has a unique perspective as she was involved from the early days of GOA in helping to evaluate grant applications. Debbie played an integral role in developing our grant selection process which evaluates the circumstances of the child with priority on serving the most vulnerable first.

## Dear Investor Board Members,

What would you say if someone came to you with a business opportunity that had a return on investment that was many multiples of the original investment? You would be interested and want to hear more, right? Well, that is what adoption provides children in terms of their likelihood of being productive members of society and Gift of Adoption plays an important role in that. An adopted child is less likely to be living in a home that is below the poverty line, is more likely to have parents who read to them every day and more likely to have a stable home environment. All of these factors are indicators of better outcomes for children and leads to them becoming stronger, more productive members of society. Is this opportunity for a child and our society worth \$3,700 (Gift of Adoption's average grant size to an adoptive family in 2015)? Where else do you get this kind of bang for the buck?

...continued

## Meet Isaiah



Two years ago Amanda and Anton of Georgetown, Kentucky adopted their son Jordan. In September 2015, they received a call from their agency and learned that Jordan's birth mother would soon be giving birth to another child. Amanda and Anton had no hesitation about adopting again and making it possible for these brothers to grow up together but share, "We were not financially prepared for this huge commitment but our hearts and our family were ready to say yes to this child." Isaiah was born two days later, a month premature.

He is now three months old, healthy and happy. Amanda says "Isaiah is just as precious as can be. We are so blessed. Isaiah's birth mother loves him so deeply. She spoke with us candidly about her deep love and concern for him. Through her tears she told us that her

heart was joyful, and that for the first time in her pregnancy she felt peace. Our children will be raised to love and respect their birth mother, because her sacrifice was indeed selfless. We know that our sons will grow up thankful for their bond of brotherhood and they will grow up with unconditional love, support, stability, safety, and provision. Your organization has blessed my family with peace. It let us know that we are not alone in this journey, and that we are indeed doing the right thing. Thank you so much for your generous gift. Simply put, adoption is beautiful: a beautiful sacrifice, a beautiful commitment, a beautiful blessing, a beautiful mercy-filled journey of redemption, grace, and love."

The family received a Gift of Adoption grant to finalize Isaiah's adoption that was funded by donations made in memory of our co-founder, Gene Wyka.

**Dear Board... continued**

I am not discounting the “feel good” aspects of our mission but saying there is more. And we can attract more and wider support for this very worthy mission by discussing the real economic impacts adoption has on children’s lives. I think this is an important selling point in attracting new money to the organization. \$3,700 is such a small amount to help bring a child into a

loving family that, on average, creates better adult outcomes for these children. These families have been thoroughly vetted by adoption agencies already and have also invested their own money in the adoption. They are very motivated families who want these children to be a part of their lives.

Not everyone is touched by adoption or even believes in the model. But I believe by making a cogent economic argument

for adoption we can greatly increase our giving base. It may be an easier sell to those who have been closely touched by adoption who see the effects on these children and have the opportunity to have the “feel good” experience, but it is time to broaden our base of support to people who believe, as I do, that with a very small investment we are creating better outcomes for children and these better outcomes will make for a better and stronger society in the future. I ask again, where else do you get this kind of bang for the buck?



Visit [giftofadoption.org](http://giftofadoption.org), newly redesigned with a generous grant from The John & Carol Walter Family Foundation recommended by Ashley & Noah Pettit.

**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 Signature Event  
 Thursday, April 28, 2016  
 Keynote Speaker: Tony Dungy  
 Chicago, IL

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

**Illinois**  
 Annual Chicago Event  
 May 2016 (tentative)  
 Chicago, IL

**Minnesota**  
 Rod Simons' Golf for the Gift  
 Thursday, June 23, 2016  
 Hudson, WI

**Wisconsin**  
 Annual Trivia Event  
 Saturday, March 5, 2016  
 Milwaukee, WI

**Investor Board Members**

- Ann G. Airey
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Claire & Bud Bach
- Sol & Angela Bahng
- Mr. James Bauman
- Robert & Maureen Bland
- Tatia Caldwell
- James & Judith Callan
- Kath M. Carter
- Molly Kastory Carter
- Stephen & Kim Chipman
- Mr. & Mrs. Keith Crow
- Pam Devereux & John Brassil
- Greg DiDomenico
- Gloria & Joseph DiMario
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Downing
- John & Melanie Furlan
- William & Christine Guthrie
- Didi Haase
- Debbie Hogate
- Maureen & Ben Ivory
- Sharon & Gerry Komlofske
- Glen R. Mangold
- Daniel & Tiffany Neely \*\*

- Christopher & Linda Ohmacht \*\*
- Michael & Suzanne Parks
- Mr & Mrs. Richard Porter
- William & Anne Rankin
- Meg & Mike Revord
- Jim & Laura Roth
- Lydia & Patrick Ryan
- Robert & Louise Sanborn
- Gary & Lana Stachlowski
- Matthew Steinmetz
- Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Stemler \*\*
- Brad & Paige Sullivan
- Tim & Sue Sullivan
- Christa 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

*\* joined this quarter \*\* renewed this quarter*