

QUARTERLY

Second Quarter 2018



A publication of the Gift of Adoption Society Board of Directors. These pages reflect all opinions and are not intended to give legal advice. Such comments will be found in photos and captions throughout.

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Gift of Adoption is a national nonprofit organization that provides support and resources to families who are providing a loving, permanent home for children in need. For more information, visit www.giftofadoption.org.

Dear Investor Board Members,

This quarter's perspective is authored by Investor Board members Allison and Rick Zol and their family – while on holiday vacation in rural Virginia visiting Allison's parents.

It's All in the Family

This summer, we traveled to China—a heritage trip for our daughters, Sarah, who was adopted 12 years ago and a graduation present for her adoptive parents, Brian. It was a wonderful adventure that included her visit for an overnight at The White Swan Hotel in Nanjing, the place where our journey as her family began. In 2008, we brought our son, then 8 years old with us to China to meet his new sisters. He patiently waited during the whole process, even while the jobs got their phones taken on the hotel "red carpet" in the lobby of the White Swan.

Since then, the hotel has had a make-over and upon our arrival this summer, we eagerly asked the front desk about the red carpet. We were told that it is now a common place with a rug around it and a sign explaining its significance to Western families who adopt Chinese children. Unintended, we quickly found it, saved the rug, got a little messy and took some photos. While the hotel is no longer at the center of Chinese adoption stories, the red with lives on in our family as the symbol of where our family's adoption story began.

Thank Gift of Adoption.

With our adoption agency now closed, we were looking for an adoption case to support. Our neighbor introduced us to GCA, and we immediately loved the way it makes a clear impact on both kids and parents in finding their forever families. The mission is simple: finish the adoption so families can start living and loving together ASAP.

We quickly chose GCA as our family's charity where we serve on the Executive Board, but also try and give as much time to fundraising as we can. As part of the West Suburban Child Care Committee of the IL Chapter, we have enjoyed meeting the many wonderful people who give time and of this mission. We challenge ourselves to talk to as many people as we can about GCA. In spite of our kids rolling their eyes, I even make up

introductions with strangers to talk about their adoption stories and to share ours – and often, Gift of Adoption comes up too.

Our whole family is involved with GCA in different ways. My dad moved his GCA board but still wears his adoption commitment, and one was posted on Facebook a picture of his sister as a baby on the red carpet along with a photo of them when we were in China this summer which led to many donations to GCA. He saw the impact of sharing our story and will now have the chance to support GCA as a junior board member for the upcoming Mid South Chapter.

We are delighted to see him embracing GCA and charitable giving because as we all know, when it comes to the value of supporting Gift of Adoption, it's all in the family.



Meet Chloe

Chloe was born a healthy baby with Down syndrome. Her birth parents live in a culture which would severely limit Chloe's opportunity for a full, happy life, so they made the decision to place her for adoption.

Brian and Elizabeth of Springfield, IL, had always wanted

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