

QUARTERLY

Second Quarter 2018



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 authored by Investor Board members Allyson and Rick Zak and their family - while on holiday vacation in rural Virginia visiting Allyson's parents.

It's All in the Family

This summer, we traveled to China—a heritage trip for our daughter, Sarah, who we adopted 12 years ago and a graduation present for her older brother, Brian. It was a wonderful adventure that included her wish for an overnight at The White Swan Hotel in Guangzhou, the place where our journey as her family began. In 2005, we brought our son, then 6 years-old with us to China to meet his new sister. He patiently waited during the whole process, even while the girls got their photos taken on the famed “red couch” 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 couch. We were told that it is now a museum piece with a rope around it and a sign explaining its significance to Western families who adopted Chinese children. Undeterred, we quickly found it, moved the ropes, got a little teary and took some photos. While the hotel is no longer at the center of Chinese adoption stories, the red sofa lives on in our family as the symbol of where our family's adoption story began.

Enter Gift of Adoption.

With our adoption agency now closed, we were looking for an adoption cause to support. Our neighbor introduced us to GOA 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 GOA as our family's charity where we serve on the Investor Board, but also try and give as much time to fundraising as we can. As part of the West Suburban Chicago committee of the IL Chapter, we have enjoyed meeting the many wonderful people who gravitate toward this mission. We challenge ourselves to talk to as many people as we can about GOA. In spite of our kids rolling their eyes, I even strike up

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

Our whole family is involved with GOA in different ways. My dad wears his GOA baseball hat around his retirement community, and our son posted on Facebook a picture of his sister as a baby on the red couch along with a photo of them when we were in China this summer which led to many donations to GOA. He saw the impact of sharing our story and will now have the chance to support GOA as a junior board member for the emerging Mid-South Chapter.

We are delighted to see him embracing GOA 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.

Bryan and Kendahl of Springfield, IL had always wanted

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