

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

continued...

Chloe ... continued

to adopt. After having two children, they made the decision to move forward on the desire to welcome a child in need of a home into theirs. They share, “Knowing there were grants available helped make jumping into adoption a lot less scary.” They tapped into savings, sold their house to take advantage of the equity, held a t-shirt fundraiser and applied for grants to fund the adoption. Gift of Adoption was able to expedite the review of their application so as not to delay the adoption.

Bryan and Kendahl were on the road to pick up Chloe when they received word of the Gift of Adoption grant. They had no idea how they were going to cover these final costs, and the GOA grant brought them relief just in time to bask in the joy of meeting their new daughter.

Chloe has been home since August. She has overcome a few medical setbacks and is thriving in her permanent, playful, and loving home.

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

Investor Board Breakfast
Friday, February 2, 2018
Chicago, IL

7th Annual Gather for the Gift
Thursday, June 14, 2018
Chicago, IL

Carolinas

7th Annual Gala
Saturday, February 24, 2018
Charlotte, NC

Georgia

2nd Annual Adopted by You
5K & Fun Run
Saturday, June 2, 2018
Atlanta, GA

Illinois

North Shore Party
Saturday, January 27, 2018
Wilmette, IL

Minnesota

11th Rod Simons Golf for the Gift
Thursday, June 21, 2018
Hudson, WI

New Hampshire

2nd Annual Toast to Family
Wine Event
Friday, March 30, 2018
Enfield, NH

3rd Annual Golf for the Gift NH
Thursday, July 19, 2018
Enfield, NH

Wisconsin

2nd Annual
Gather for the Gift Milwaukee
Wednesday, May 10, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Consider making your Investor Board donation with a gift of appreciated stock. Please contact Pam Devereux for more information. Gift of Adoption has an account with Charles Schwab; account#: 5328-4989 DTC#: 0164

Investor Board Members

Ann G. Airey
Anonymous
Claire & Bud Bach
Sol & Angela Bahng
Cyn & Ray Barrette
Chris & Terry Blake
Robert & Maureen Bland
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Burns
Tatia Caldwell
James & Judith Callan
Kath M. Carter
Stephen & Kim Chipman
Keith Crow
Pam Devereux & John Brassil
Greg DiDomenico
Gloria & Joseph DiMario
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Downing
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Fletcher
Siobhan Flynn & Alec Dike*
John & Melanie Furlan
William & Christine Guthrie
Didi Haase

Debbie Hogate
House of Huckleberry
Maureen & Ben Ivory
Amanda Jacobowski*
Jeremiah James & Katherine Bliss
Cheryl Kaeser & Bill Sorabella
Sharon & Gerry Komlofske**
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Koppel
Mr. & Mrs. David Lauder
Glen R. Mangold
Kevin & Lynn McDonald
Keith & Judy McNiff
Candace Moore & Jim Bauman
Daniel & Tiffany Neely
Elizabeth & Ben O'Connor
Christopher & Linda Ohmacht
Michael & Suzanne Parks
Mr & Mrs. Richard Porter
Jeff Ramson
William & Anne Rankin
Meg & Mike Revord
Jim & Laura Roth**

Lydia & Patrick Ryan
Robert & Louise Sanborn
Mr. Andrew Smith
Gary & Lana Stachlowski
Matthew Steinmetz
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Stemler
Brad & Paige Sullivan
Tim & Sue Sullivan
Christa & Vernon Sumwalt
Tim Swett & Suzanne Burke
Michael Uzer & Leslie Smith
Jill & Jim Vint
Susan & Tom Wenzel in memory of
Jim & Betty Garner
Sam Wijesekera
Lucy Wyka
Allyson & Richard Zak
Renato & Gina Zanichelli
Parker, Gemma, Jack, & Mariana
In Memoriam: Peter S. Gutrich

* joined this quarter ** renewed this quarter