

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 Karen Callaban Roddy. Karen is a former GOA National Board member and a long-time friend and supporter of Gift of Adoption along with her husband, Joe, and their children and parents.

IN VINO VERITAS...

Sometimes, it all just starts with a bottle of wine. About five years ago my well-traveled childhood/college friend Pete Gutrich was breezing through Chicago again. As usual, the text came though late at night, the prior evening. "Coming through Chi-town tomorrow. Can we connect?" The following evening, over a good Cabernet, Pete, my husband Joe and I stayed up too late and caught up on our families, old friends, jobs and what was next for each of us.

I told Pete that I had recently joined the National Board of the Gift of Adoption Fund. He wanted details of the organization; how it was run, the credentials of the CEO, Board recruitment, the expected growth. He wanted to know some of the stories about the children and their families that GOA served. He wanted to know all about Gene and Lucy Wyka, the founders, and how they came up with the concept. Specifically, Pete wanted to know what I was working toward as a new National Board Member.

I shared with Pete the idea behind an Investor Board and my recruitment goals. I explained that since the IB funds were not going directly to families but to the underlying operation, that it

Meet Maryn Genevieve



Maryn is the first child to be adopted with a grant from the Peter S. Gutrich Memorial Fund. We are honored to share this story with Peter's fellow Investor Board members and with those who made a donation in Peter's memory.

Maryn's adoptive mother, Jessica, of Colorado Springs, Colorado shared the following:

"I think adoption is an incredibly beautiful thing comprised of the courageous decision by a first mother, the determination of a mother's heart, and the unconditional love of a child.

My daughter Maryn Genevieve is named after my Grandmother Mary Genevieve and she is amazing. She is my world and I don't take the privilege of being her Mom lightly. I am her advocate, her cheerleader, her nurturer, her disciplinarian, her friend and her biggest

fan. I can't wait to see the wonderful things she becomes!"

Maryn's entrance into the world was difficult as her birthmother struggles with drug addiction. I was so proud of her birthmother for making the hard decision to place her baby in a position for a better/different life. Because her birthmother has a 4-year-old son who was removed from her care, my guess is that had Maryn stayed with her birthmother she also would have been removed and would be placed in foster care. I know her birthmother felt proud of her decision about Maryn's adoption and I think it has helped her with her self esteem.

Now at 9-weeks-old, Maryn has come through the other side and is a happy healthy little baby. She has more strength and determination than most

In Vino Veritas... *continued*

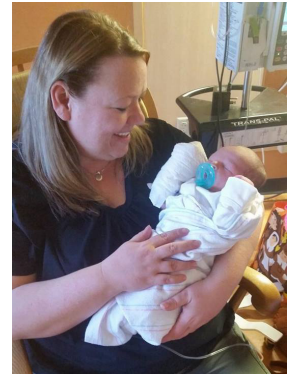
was a hard sell. Without being asked to join, Pete responded, "It's brilliant. I'm in." He meant it. Pete joined the Investor Board within a matter of days. He flew in (from God knows where) to attend the first and second Domestic Fund Events. When I asked him why he was so willing to invest he told me: "I may never have the opportunity to be a parent so this is one way I can help create a family." It was a reminder to me that we just never know what will move someone to action and their reasons behind that decision.

On April 13, 2015 after a two-year battle with brain cancer, Pete Gutrich died at the age of 48. It was and will remain, a devastating loss. In his eulogy, his father Tom asked the hundreds of attendees to please support the Gift of Adoption Fund.

He told the congregation that GOA was an organization doing great work on behalf of children and that GOA meant a lot to Peter. To date over \$35,000 has been donated in Peter Gutrich's memory. It is estimated that over 14 adoptions will be completed by 2028 as a result of the generosity of Peter's family and friends through the Peter S. Gutrich Memorial Fund. Pete was a successful businessman. He had literally traveled the entire world and had been approached many times over for help with a variety of worthy charitable organizations. Yet, this was the only charity he chose to support. He appreciated the solid leadership and foundation. He respected and understood the mission. For a man who was never a father, he will certainly build families.

Meet Maryn... *continued*

adults to get through what she has already. She knows what she wants and lets you know – I love that she has her own ideas even at this young age.



My hope and prayer is that my daughter can live a life where she will be loved, cherished, and challenged every day. She will get to be a child and enjoy a stable loving home.

Maryn's adoption will be finalized in July, 2015 and hers is the first family built by the Peter S. Gutrich Memorial Fund.

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 Domestic Fund Event
Thursday, April 21, 2016
Keynote Speaker: Tony Dungy
Chicago, IL

Colorado

Annual Event
Thursday, November 5
Boulder, CO

Connecticut

Annual Event
Sunday, September 27
Litchfield, CT

Minnesota

Rod Simons Rock for the Gift
Sunday, September 20
Minneapolis, MN

Texas

Annual Event
Saturday, October 17
Dallas, TX

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
Jeff Harting & John Toniolo
Debbie Hogate
Maureen & Ben Ivory **
Sharon & Gerry Komlofske
Glen R. Mangold
Doug & Denise Nash

Daniel & Tiffany Neely
Christopher & Linda Ohmacht
Michael & Suzanne Parks
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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
Tim Swett & Suzanne Burke
Michael Uzer & Leslie Smith
James & Elizabeth Van Horn
Jill & Jim Vint
Lucy & Gene Wyka
Allyson & Richard Zak **
Renato & Gina Zanichelli

In Memoriam

Peter S. Gutrich

** joined this quarter*

*** renewed this quarter*