

QUARTERLY

Fourth 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

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.

Dear Investor Board Members,

This quarter's perspective is provided by Elizabeth Kadison O'Connor, Gift of Adoption Director of Development and Investor Board member.

I started working at Gift of Adoption in September of 2015 and in no time at all I was completely immersed in the mission. I found the focus to be so simple, so tangible – to eliminate the financial barriers that often delay or deter a family from completing an adoption. Research shows that 25% of Americans have seriously considered adoption, yet only 1% complete the process, citing the significant upfront cost of adoption (avg. \$25,000) as the primary barrier. This leaves vulnerable, parentless children to grow up in foster homes, orphanages or on the streets – causing them to suffer poor life outcomes at staggeringly high rates.

I thought to myself: I can definitely ask people for money on behalf of a cause like this – no problem. But I wanted to do more. I guess it comes with being Jesuit-educated. I have always been taught to think about the Magis – a Latin word for “more” or “better,” that refers to the philosophy of doing more (for God), and therefore doing more for others.

So my husband and I joined the Investor Board. Never before had we thought about making this kind of financial commitment – not to our private high schools, not to our fundraising savvy colleges, not anywhere. But something about the

MEET DENIS



Denis is a fourteen year-old boy living in an orphanage in Ukraine. With just two years to go before aging out, Denis desperately needed to find a family.

Fortunately for Denis, he participated in a hosting program where he came to stay with George, a Deputy Sheriff, and Stacey, a stay-at-home mom, in Canton, Georgia. He spent six weeks with the couple and their five biological children, enjoying soccer, swimming and life as a kid.

Once Denis returned to Ukraine, George and Stacey were contacted by the orphanage to see if they would consider adopting him. They knew what might happen should he not find a family soon. They had fallen in love with Denis and they wanted him to become a part of their family.

Every day over 38,000 orphans age out of the orphanage system, and most have no place to go. In Ukraine alone, it is estimated that up to 15% of these children commit suicide before they are eighteen. And those who do not, are often headed toward a life of unemployment, homelessness and possibly, criminal behavior leading to imprisonment.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people in memory of Joseph V. Roddy, Denis is no longer at risk. George and Stacey received a grant from Gift of Adoption to complete Denis' adoption and welcome him home this July!

Did you know: 25% of Gift of Adoption grants are received by families of military, police officers, firefighters, and teachers.

mission of Gift of Adoption inspired us to dig deeper, to stretch.

The need speaks for itself: there are more than 153 million orphans in the world and nearly 400,000 children in the U.S. foster care system in need of a permanent family. Nearly 250,000 more children enter the system each year due to abandonment, extreme neglect or abuse. In Illinois alone, there are currently over 16,000 children in foster care. With about 250,000 adoptions worldwide annually, the probability of an orphaned child or a child in foster care being adopted is less than 1.5%.

Putting at-risk children into permanent, loving families is a priceless investment. It not only gives children the love, support and care that they deserve today, but it also significantly reduces

tomorrow's need for a wide spectrum of social services and assistance. Adoption immediately and permanently changes the trajectory of a child's life for the better. And if we can help one child today, it can effect generations to come.

My husband and I became parents for the first time 18 months ago and its funny how quickly our priorities changed. Nothing is more important now than the health and well-being of our son. In some sense, we feel obligated to prioritize the health and well-being of any child, if we possibly can. By supporting Gift of Adoption, we feel like we can. By investing in this mission, we are advocating for parentless children who cannot advocate for themselves.

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
 House of Huckleberry
 Maureen & Ben Ivory
 Sharon & Gerry Komlofske
 Glen R. Mangold
 Daniel & Tiffany Neely

Elizabeth & Ben O'Connor*
 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 and Vernon 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

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.

Carolinas

Annual Gala
 Saturday, February 25, 2017
 Charlotte, NC

Georgia

2nd Annual Peach State Chili Cookoff
 Saturday, October 1, 2016
 Suwanee, GA

Minnesota

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

New Hampshire

Golf for the Gift NH
 Wednesday, July 20, 2016
 Enfield, NH

Cocktail Party

Saturday, July 23, 2016
 Sunapee, NH

Texas

4th Annual Event
 Saturday, October 22, 2016
 Dallas, TX