

QUARTERLY

Fourth Quarter



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 provided by Investor Board member, Huck Nicola.

Boy 23 & Me

At 45 I had achieved more success than I could have dreamed, my career had been a magical journey of working for some of America's most revered companies. I had recently moved to Tampa, FL for a new career from NYC where I had spent the last 21 years. I'm not sure if it was the salt air, the reprieve of a big city, or just an awakening but I woke up one Saturday and felt a hollowness, a worthlessness; I wanted to share my success but had no one to share it with. I had never felt so alone. I thought to myself "I remember wanting a family. I remember wanting kids. What happened? Was I too old now?" I had spent so much time on one aspect of my life that time had slipped by. I have never been a traditional man, I was not about to start now. Single, I

decided at that moment I would adopt a son, maybe two!

As strange as it sounds, today I remember thinking I was going to change the life of a boy, I was going to course correct the trajectory of someone's life. Little did I know that it was me who was about to be saved. I played Ice Hockey almost every day of the week, I wished for sons who shared my love of the sport and Latvia gave me the start. I guess it was shortly after that when I had another awakening, I can't explain it any other way. Out of the blue I decided to enter the Waiting Children program where they place a range of special needs children.

It was Valentine's Day 2012 when my first son, Bear, and I landed back in the USA. We were still getting to know one another after a 4-week stay in Latvia, his birth country. We met when he turned 8, I knew immediately he was my son. He spoke Russian, I spoke English, and we soon created a made-up sign language that worked for us. We laugh about it today as



we look back and wonder, "how'd we do that?" His profile, "boy 23", listed him with physical development delays, small size, ADHD, and some other minor concerns we've overcome during the last few years. Learning English and catching up in school took priority after the initial pediatric visits and of course he wanted to play ice hockey like his dad. Now a teenager, Bear is thriving at school, plays ice hockey four times a week and proudly

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In Memoriam
Peter S. Gutrich

** joined this quarter ** renewed this quarter*

Dear Investor (cont)

skates with #23 on his jersey. I asked him the other day if he wanted kids, and he said, "Papa, I think I want to adopt. I want to go back to my orphanage and adopt like you did." It's moments like that which truly take my breath away, so unexpected, so innocent, so honest. My life really started the moment I met him, I realize that now.

I remembered at times unexpected costs, some heartbreak, and miscalculated budgets and penalties. There is no way to know for sure what might happen or the cost of adoption until it's over. That's what moved me to be involved with GIFT OF ADOPTION. I love that they can step in and help complete the process of a family that might not otherwise move forward due to unforeseen financial costs.

Fast forward to today, I have three sons, Bear (13) from Latvia, Grayson (8) from Russia, and I went back to Latvia for #3. I flew out to meet a 9-year-old boy and came back with Easton who was three at the time, in diapers and stole my heart. The adoption journey, at times, is unbelievable but without doubt the most rewarding decision I could have made. I followed my heart the entire time, thankfully. Our story is still unfolding but I can tell you that I was saved three times over and live with the riches only children can bring. I've stopped searching but the door will always be open for #4.

Where Are They Now?

Adopted by Troy and Stephanie, Austin, TX

Grant awarded August 2014. Update provided by Isaac's mom.

Back in August 2017, when Isaac first came home with the help of a grant from Gift of Adoption, he had just turned three. Medically he was beyond fragile, having nearly succumbed to a parasite infection.

As a small, fragile toddler, having spent the previous years in an orphanage in Ethiopia, it's understandable that when we met Isaac he was fearful, clingy, and



sullen. He would wander from room to room and melt down at any moment with anger or defiance.

Over time he began to trust us little by little and we began to see the real Isaac and he began to know what it means to be family.

Now, Isaac loves life! He loves cars and swimming and riding bikes, he makes friends easily, and he is growing into a full understanding of what it means to be loved. He told me today he wants to live with us forever, but that he'll have a wife and children, so we'll need to make space for them.

He's a strong learner and he just passed his kindergarten assessment to enter kindergarten with his age-appropriate peers. He has access to excellent healthcare, and his emotional wounds and fear of abandonment are healing. But most importantly, he knows that he has his forever family. We will always be a support structure for Isaac as he grows up into adulthood and throughout his life. He's not, nor will he ever be, alone – thanks to the terrific family we share and because of the generous support given to us by you. Had he not been adopted when he was, given his critical medical condition, it's very likely that he wouldn't have survived.

Thank you Gift of Adoption for helping us to complete Isaac's adoption so that he could recover physically, regain the wonders of childhood, and begin to truly thrive!

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

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

California

Inaugural Reception
Thursday, September 14
San Francisco, CA

Illinois

North Shore Toast to Family
Thursday, June 22
Wilmette, IL

Minnesota

Rod Simons Golf for the Gift X
Thursday, June 22
Hudson, WI

Ohio

Trivia Night
Friday, June 23
Powell, OH

New Hampshire

2nd Annual Golf for the Gift NH
Wednesday, July 19
Enfield, NH

Texas

5th Annual Event
Saturday, September 30
Fort Wort, TX



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