

QUARTERLY

Third Quarter 2017



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, Suzy Parks.

Aren't We All Adopted?

Michael, my husband, and I rely on our faith every day. Our faith provides us with strength and peace, hope and love. We take nothing for granted, and we know that we are very blessed. One of our greatest blessings is our community and the people who, through their love and support, adopt us nearly every day.

We first realized that we are adopted as we began our journey of parenthood. Michael and I have six children. Carolyn is 27, starting her residency in Ob-Gyn, and recently married. Mick is 23 and launching (no pun...) his plans to become a Navy Pilot. John is 21 and studying creative writing. Luke is heading to college to study criminal justice. He wants to be a policeman.

Danny is a freshman in high school, and Mary Elizabeth is in 7th grade. Each of our children has special gifts, as well as individual challenges, and, as a result, each day has many surprises.

Furthermore, one of our children is adopted. I point this out only to stress that, biological or adopted, we have the same love for, and we lack the same control over, each of our children.

Someone said to me once that he would not consider adopting because, with an adopted child, he could never predict how his child would turn out and that often adopted kids have problems. Show me, please, someone whose children are not full of surprises, often which are "problems". There is simply no way to control this journey.

The thing of it is, raising children, ALL CHILDREN, is a journey like no other. Each child has his or her own special and unique dreams and struggles (not the least of which may be grappling with

adoption itself).

For me and Michael, our journey of parenthood is a shadow of our original plan. Our plan: have children and live happily ever after. As we embarked upon our plan, we quickly learned that we could control nearly nothing including pregnancy.

As a result, we decided early on that we would do whatever we could to have a family. From there, most often we simply try to enjoy the journey and take in the wonder of it all.

Nevertheless, with all of its joy and miracles, the journey of parenthood can be difficult and scary, and often sad and exhausting. To our great fortune, however, with every struggle, we have persevered and become better parents and, hopefully, better people. Our perseverance is a direct result of others who take the time to care for and love us through it all.

Such people are our adopted family- a

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Jim & Betty Garner
The Wyka Family
Allyson & Richard Zak
Renato & Gina Zanichelli
In Memoriam
Peter S. Gutrich

* joined this quarter ** renewed this quarter

Dear Investor (cont)

family much broader than the one under our roof. These people enter our lives, sometimes almost magically, and help us through the toughest of times. In other words, they adopt us. Neighbors and friends, doctors, coaches, teachers, and the occasional random angel, all of them, at one time or another, adopt us.

With the help of our adopted family, we are better able to prosper amidst our challenges. Along the way, we raise our children. These children, with all their unique gifts, grow and hopefully continue the adoption process: helping others with acceptance without judgment.

Inspired by our adopted family, Michael and I joined Gift of Adoption's Investor Board. As members, we help complete the financial void that often separates a child from his forever family. We, thereby, hope to inspire acceptance without judgment - the cycle of adoption.

In conclusion, as we celebrate the uniqueness of our children, we celebrate those who have adopted us and ensured that we persevere through our daily surprises. As I see it, our world is better because, thankfully, we all are adopted.



Meet Ava

Ava was born on January 3rd, and was placed directly with Michelle and Joshua of Henderson, NV. Ava's birthmother had not anticipated a pregnancy, and while placing her child for adoption was an extremely difficult and emotional choice for her, she knew it was the right thing to do for herself and Ava.

Michelle and Joshua had adopted twice before to build their family, and are overjoyed to add Ava. She will be embraced by her two older siblings, Jack and Emma, ages 5 and 2. Michelle shares, "One of the things that has been wonderful about this adoption process has been having my other children watch another adoption unfold. While they are very aware of their own adoptions (my

son knows his adoption story by heart), it has been neat for them to actually observe a birth mom, see her love for her child and the sacrifice she is making."

"We were at a point when our adoption had cost us about double what we had anticipated and had saved for. It was a tremendous source of encouragement and hope to learn about Gift of Adoption. We were reminded that we are not alone in our adoption journey and that others share and support the mission of adoption."



Thea Update

In our December 2016 issue, we shared with you the story of Thea and her mother Caroline. At that time, Caroline was in India waiting to return home with her daughter, Thea.

We are excited to share with you: Thea is home!

"Thank you. Without the grant I would not have been able to leave my life in Colorado for three months to travel to India and to bring my daughter home.

If I had to wait until the agency had completed the process I am convinced my daughter would have been stuck in the orphanage an additional year."

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

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

6th Annual Gather for the Gift
Thursday, April 27
Chicago, IL

Georgia

Adopted by You 5k & Fun Run
Saturday, June 10
Atlanta, GA

Michigan

2nd Annual Picnic in the Park
Saturday, May 20
Birmingham, MI

Minnesota

10th Annual Rod Simons Golf for the Gift
Thursday, June 22
Hudson, WI

New Hampshire

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

Pennsylvania

1st Annual Golf for the Gift PA
Saturday, June 17
Butler, PA

Washington

Lucky 13! Event
Thursday, April 13
Bellevue, WA

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Gather for the Gift
Thursday, May 18
Milwaukee, WI