

QUARTERLY

Second 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, we will take you into the heart of the adoption journey of a recent grant family. It's a road filled with commitment, disappointment, fear, uncertainty, but ultimately, joy.

"My life is about to be turned upside down by a pint sized, curly haired, Indian cocoa bean."

August 17, 2016

Gift of Adoption first meets Caroline when she applies for a grant. She speaks of her decision to adopt and why she is facing a financial hurdle:

My decision to adopt came from an overwhelming desire to provide a loving family for a child who has lost her parents. Until now, I have been a career focused individual, but in the past year I have changed my job for more flexible working hours and better benefits.

I am adopting an HIV+ girl located in Adilabad, India. She will be 1-year-old on October 6th, 2016, and has been in an orphanage since she was 9 days old. Her name is Thea Renee Niharika.

My adoption became complicated due to two failed programs which depleted my savings. After the second failure, I was unsure if I would be able to continue my adoption journey due to the increase in adoption costs. The Gift of Adoption grant will help me complete my final payments to my placement agency and relieve the constant stress I feel worrying about how the payment is to be made.

Fast forward to the countdown to travel--November 23, 2016

Nine more days until I get on that plane. The plane that will take me from Denver, to St Paul, to London to Mumbai and then finally to Hyderabad.

Long travel times, flights or layovers have never been my thing, but I can't let Thea down. I promised I would go get her. I promised her a family and a mom that will tuck her in at night, scare the monsters away and cheer her on as she grows from pint sized to adult sized.

November 27, 2016

I thought today would be my last day of living the childfree lifestyle. Instead I was awake before dawn worrying about formula, diapers and peanut butter. Five plus a few more days then Thea will no longer be an orphan...she will then be my daughter!

November 29, 2016

My faithful Samsonite is stuffed to the brim with everything needed to survive the next couple of months in India. So maybe the bag of Cheerios, 6 pouches of peanut butter, 93 diapers, multiple bags of formula and a gazillion tubes of ointments and lotions specifically for baby skin is overkill. But at this point in time I am not opening the zipper of that over-stuffed suitcase to do any editing, in fear that I'll never, ever be able to close it again in time for Friday's departure.

November 30, 2016

I am literally just sitting here waiting. To be more accurate, I've been waiting 36 months for this adoption to happen, so that's a lot of waiting. Status quo: Adoption petition has been filed in court as of November 17th. The documents should be reviewed by the judge and I'm now waiting for a court date to be set. The court case should be disposed of within two months. Keep in mind, thus far everything has taken eight times longer than the guidelines suggested.

December 2, 2016

Good bye Denver, I will miss you. But



I will be back, with your newest Denver citizen in tow.

December 6, 2016

A delightful hotel breakfast, and a scenic 4.5 hour drive. Pleasant views of rice fields, goat herds, cotton plants and village mule carts calmed my soul as the physical distance between me and Thea gradually decreased.

Then we arrived in Adilabad. We checked in to the hotel and hitched a ride with a rickshaw to the orphanage. They had been expecting my arrival and had all the foster care documents ready. The doctor onsite was signing off on some paperwork and I really wasn't paying much attention, just hoping to be able to see Thea soon. After some friendly chit chat we walked across the dirt courtyard. And there she was. I don't blame her one bit for crying the first time I tried to hold her.

December 8, 2016

It's a bad, bad, bad day. Yesterday I got foster care of Thea and was able to take



her home. Today I was told I need to return her to the orphanage at night because the foster care document was missing the signature of the Dame of the orphanage.

Tonight's going to be a brutal night; hopefully tomorrow is better.

December 9, 2016

She's back! Back in my care and forever it's going to stay that way!!!

We went back to the orphanage first thing in the morning and we were ready to camp out as long as it took for the Dame to sign off on the paper work. Taking Thea back into my arms was rough. She did not trust me and cried like the very first time I had tried to hold her. By one in the afternoon I got the news that the documents had been signed off on and I was free to go..... and that is exactly what I did.

December 10, 2016

My heart is heavy tonight. I probably had the most relaxing day thus far on my trip through India, but at the same time it comes with lots of emotions. Today we hired a local driver to take us to two of the nearby waterfalls. Swapna, the main caretaker at the orphanage, came with us. By adopting Thea, I feel like I am taking Swapna's joy away, but she has asked me not to feel this way. It's amazing what connections, emotions and gestures of human kindness are revealed in this journey.

December 14, 2016

Yesterday we left Adilabad with tears in our eyes and made our journey down to our apartment in Hyderabad. The apartment is good for Thea--her walking skills have improved already!

Today I took Thea to the doctor for a physical as requested by her orphanage. The good news is that Thea is doing well, and I know she will thrive once we are under the care of doctors at home.

December 28, 2016

Caroline continues to wait in India until she can finalize Thea's adoption and return to Denver. We will give you an update next 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.

National

6th Annual Gather for the Gift
Thursday, April 27, 2017
Chicago, IL

Carolinas

6th Annual Gala
Saturday, February 25, 2017
Charlotte, NC

Minnesota

10th Annual Golf for the Gift
Thursday, June 22, 2017
Hudson, WI

New York

NYC Cocktail Reception
Thursday, January 19, 2017
New York, NY

This is a complimentary event. Please contact Pam if you'd like to invite anyone to learn more about GOA

Investor Board Members

Ann G. Airey**
Anonymous
Anonymous
Claire & Bud Bach
Sol & Angela Bahng
Chris & Terry Blake*
Robert & Maureen Bland
Tatia Caldwell
James & Judith Callan
Kath M. Carter
Molly Kastory Carter
Stephen & Kim Chipman
Pam Devereux & John Brassil
Greg DiDomenico
Gloria & Joseph DiMario
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Downing
Mr. & Mrs. Luke Fletcher*
John & Melanie Furlan
William & Christine Guthrie
Didi Haase
Debbie Hogate
House of Huckleberry
Maureen & Ben Ivory
Sharon & Gerry Komlofske
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Glen R. Mangold
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Daniel & Tiffany Neely
Elizabeth & Ben O'Connor
Christopher & Linda Ohmacht
Michael & Suzanne Parks
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Lydia & Patrick Ryan
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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*

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

With the market at an all-time high, if it makes sense for you to prepay your Investor Board pledge as you rebalance your portfolios at year end, you are welcome to do this with a gift of appreciated stock.

Please contact Pam Devereux for more information about making a pledge payment with a gift of appreciated stock.