

# QUARTERLY

Third Quarter 2019



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](mailto:pdevereux@giftofadoption.org)

## 1 2 3 4 news

*Gift of Adoption provides adoption assistance grants to complete the adoptions of vulnerable children - giving them a permanent family and the chance to thrive.*

### Dear Investor Board Members,

#### *RareIs Adoption Fund: A Gift of Adoption and Horizon Pharma partnership*

*by Roberta Curtin, GOA volunteer*

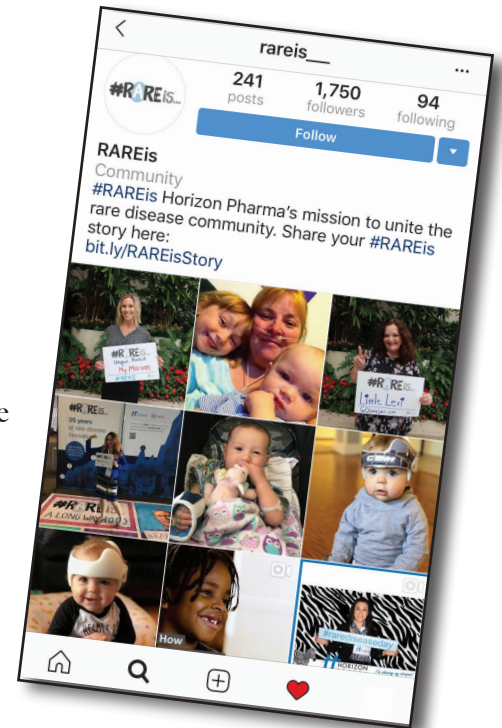
A maxim sometimes quoted to students in the health care professions as they are learning to make diagnoses is: “when you hear hoofbeats, think of horses, not zebras.” This advice is meant to focus diagnostic problem solving on medical conditions which tend to occur commonly. At Gift of Adoption (GOA) and at Horizon Pharma, we are very aware that sometimes hoofbeats are in fact caused by “zebras”, i.e., by rare diseases.

A disease or disorder is defined as rare in the US when it affects fewer than 200,000 individuals at any given time. Horizon Pharma is highly invested in the rare disease community. In February of 2017, the company launched RAREis™, an initiative that aims to elevate the voices, faces and experiences of people living with rare diseases, as well as highlight programs

and resources for the rare disease community. Horizon Pharma backs up this initiative with R&D of orphan drugs for specific rare diseases.

Gift of Adoption is also highly invested in children with rare diseases, accounting for about 12% of the children we help annually. Though these children are at very high risk and need both immediate and ongoing care and although there is no guarantee of their future health, there are generous families willing to love them and to care for them regardless of the work, expense and heartache that loving them might entail.

Horizon Pharma and Gift of Adoption Fund have formed an exciting partnership designed to help orphaned children suffering from rare diseases to find a home. Horizon Pharma has contributed \$150,000 to create the RareIs Adoption Fund at Gift of Adoption, dedicated to funding adoption assistance grants for 30 children with rare diseases over three years through GOA’s application process. In a permanent home, treatment can be sought and



**Horizon Pharma’s ‘RareIs\_’ campaign on Instagram.**

implemented, symptoms can be controlled, and life expectancy can be maximized. In addition to medical care, these children will have a family to provide the love, security, advocacy and nurturing that will make their extended life as happy and fulfilled as possible.



### Meet Abby

Abby came home to her forever family from China in May, 2015 at the age of 9. Abby has epidermolysis bullosa, a rare skin condition which causes her skin to blister and peel off easily, leaving open wounds. This condition cannot be cured and can be fatal if not cared for correctly.

Sarah, her mother, says, “When we

brought her home she had many large wounds all over her body. The orphanage did their best to care for her but she needed the daily attention of a family to have the proper clothing, proper treatment, and proper care.”

“Emotionally Abigail is receiving the love, attention, snuggles, and nurturing that is fanning the beautiful flame of her courage, compassion, kindness and joy.

*continued...*

**Abby** *(continued)*

What an indescribable blessing it has been to see her spread the wings that were held so close and really start to soar!”

In Abby’s own words, ” I love my family! Sometimes I get hurt easy on my skin because I have fragile skin. Mom takes care of me and she wraps my legs. My brothers and sister and Mom and Dad are always gentle with me and take good care of me.”

Abby now attends school, and gets to draw, color and dance to her heart’s content. The picture she drew in China of a being able to jump rope beside a safe home has become a reality. Her future is limitless.



## Upcoming Events

*Investor Board members receive gratis entry to any of these events. Contact Pam Devereux to reserve a spot for you and a guest.*

### Alabama

80’s Prom Night  
Saturday, May 18, 2019  
Fairhope, AL

### Georgia

Happy Hour Benefit  
Tuesday, May 7, 2019  
Atlanta, GA

Adopted by You 5K  
Saturday, June 8, 2019  
Atlanta, GA

### Illinois

Celebrating Family  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019  
La Grange, IL

### Minnesota

Rod Simons Golf for the Gift  
Thursday, June 20, 2019  
Hudson, WI

### Nebraska & Iowa

Bowling for Families  
Saturday, June 8, 2019  
Council Bluffs, IA

### New Hampshire

Golf for the Gift  
Wed., July 17, 2019  
Enfield, NH

### New York

CORE: club Event  
Thursday, May 2, 2019  
New York, NY

### Ohio

Trivia Night  
Friday, June 21, 2019  
Westerville, OH

### Texas

Charity Softball Charity  
Softball Tournament  
Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019  
Arlington, TX

### Wisconsin

WI Gather for the Gift  
Wed., May 8, 2019  
Milwaukee, WI

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Gather for the Gift**  
**Thursday, June 13, 2019**  
Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago

## Investor Board Members

*\* joined this quarter \*\* renewed this quarter*

Ann G. Airey  
Anonymous  
Claire & Bud Bach  
Sol & Angela Bahng  
Cyn Barrette  
James Bauman & Candace Moore  
Charles & Kim Bernard\*  
Chris & Terry Blake  
Robert & Maureen Bland  
Karen & Dan Brennan  
Dan & Meghan Burns  
Chris & Petey Butler  
James & Judith Callan  
Kath M. Carter  
Stephen & Kim Chipman  
Kevin & Linda Coenen  
Pam Devereux & John Brassil  
Greg DiDomenico  
Gloria & Joseph DiMario  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Downing  
Luke & Lucy Fletcher  
Siobhan Flynn & Alec Dike  
Kate & Dan Gibbons  
Anne Gross  
William & Christine Guthrie  
Alison Gutterman

Deborah K. Hogate  
House of Huckleberry  
Tom & Colleen Huffman  
Laura Hunt & Gary Hill\*  
Maureen & Ben Ivory  
Amanda Jacobowski  
Jerry James & Kitty Bliss  
Tatia Jones  
Cheryl Kaeser & Bill Sorabella  
David & Amanda Knight  
Sharon & Gerry Komlofske  
Steve & Allison Koppel  
Mr. & Mrs. David Lauder  
Glen R. Mangold  
Lynn & Kevin McDonald  
Keith & Judy McNiff  
Ed & Nancy Mulligan  
Tiffany & Daniel Neely  
Ben & Elizabeth O’Connor  
Christopher & Linda Ohmacht\*\*  
Suzy & Mike Parks  
Lydia & Richard Porter  
ArLynn Presser  
Jeff Ramson  
Meg Gibson Revord & Mike Revord  
Jim & Laura Roth

Lydia & Patrick Ryan  
Robert & Louise Sanborn  
Michele Seidl & Neil Shubin  
Mary & Mark Sliwkowski  
Abby & Mike Smerklo\*  
Andrew Thomas Smith  
Lana & Gary Stachlowski  
Matthew Steinmetz  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Stemler\*\*  
Tim & Sue Sullivan  
Christa & Vernon Sumwalt  
Tim Swett & Suzanne Burke  
Michael Uzer & Leslie Smith  
Elizabeth and Brian Tenner\*  
Jill & Jim Vint  
Wedner Family Foundation  
Susan & Tom Wenzel in memory  
of Jim & Betty Garner  
Sam Wijesekera  
Steven Williams\*  
Lucy Wyka (Gift of Adoption Founder)  
Hye Yu  
Allyson & Richard Zak  
Renato & Gina Zanichelli  
Parker, Gemma, Jack & Mariana  
**In Memoriam:** Peter S. Gutrich