QUARTERLY



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

1234 news

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

Dear Investor Board Members,

This quarter's perspective is provided by Gift of Adoption staff member, Zachary Senn. Zachary is the PR & Social Media Manager.

Joining Gift of Adoption

Adoption forged my family. My family is blended, diverse and beautiful. My family is borne of multiple marriages, adoptions and includes occasionally messy dynamics; at the end of the day, however, my family is a place of love and safety.

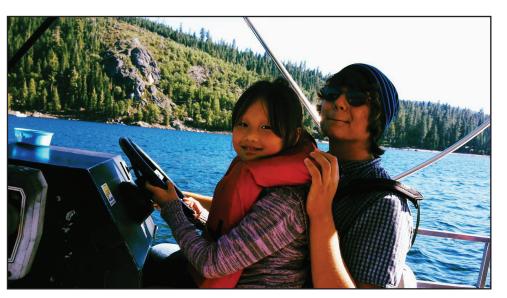
My mom and step-dad welcomed my first sister, Rachelle, home from Haiti just a few months after their wedding. Her biological sibling, Risi, followed her just over a year later. My brother, Zavier, was born only a few months after Risi came home.

After moving to California, my family felt the call to adopt once again; this time, two sisters from the state foster care system came home: Makaylah and Zarayah.

When I was 16, my mom traveled to China to bring home my sister Janayah – to my delight, I was invited to travel with her. Through this experience, I formed a special bond with Janayah. Just a few days after leaving her orphanage, she and I were swimming in the pool on top of the Guangdong Victory Hotel overlooking Shamian Island.

Just a year after Janayah came to California, my family adopted Josiah, who lived with her at the same orphanage.

A number of cultures are celebrated and different levels of physical and



Zachary and his sister Janayah shortly after she came home from China.

intellectual ability are honored in my family – our diversity and differences are a key part of what bring us together.

My family now owns and operates a small farm in Indiana. Each of my siblings pursues their own passion and dream: my sister Janayah breeds and trains service dogs, like the one she uses to help her navigate the world in her wheelchair. My sister Risi works as a classroom aid at a preschool, overcoming her learning challenges to help empower other children in her community.

None of this would've been possible without adoption. Today, my siblings are thriving because my parents responded to the call to nurture and love and the people in their communities stepped up with emotional, financial and spiritual support.

Because of the important role adoption played in my life, I'm excited to be joining the Gift of Adoption team.

Gift of Adoption strives to make adoption more accessible for children and families of all nationalities, religious creeds, sexual orientations and ethnic backgrounds. This commitment to providing adoption grants on a non-discriminatory basis is important to me.

I'm looking forward to contributing to Gift of Adoption's communications strategy; I'm grateful for the opportunity to provide children and families with the same rich opportunities for growth and learning I experienced as a child.

Zachary joined the Gift of Adoption team on September 9. His position was created to support the organization's social media, influencer outreach and PR strategy which was developed through donations of time and talent from Sylvia Marten of Grow Strategically (growstrategicallynow.com) and Manisha Shah of Emstar Consulting (linkedin.com/in/manishashahemstar). The position is partially funded by a generous grant from the Ralph & Eileen Swett Foundation.



Meet Ina and Ino

Ina and Ino are twins who were 7 years old when adopted from the Philippines by Patrick and Misty of Effingham, Illinois. Patrick and Misty had saved every penny, dime, and dollar to contribute toward the expenses of the adoption process. Patrick took a second job and Misty taught additional online courses. A \$7,500 Gift of Adoption grant covered the final costs so Ina and Ino could come home in 2015.



Ina and Ino in 2014

Misty sent this update recently:

"Regino (Ino) is still struggling to learn reading and math, but his speech has improved immensely. One day, he decided he wanted to sign up for a swim team. The boy has



Ina and Ino in 2019

never had a lesson in his life... but we signed him up about 6 months ago. It turns out, Ino is a fish."

"Regina (Ina), is still independent, creative, athletic, and determined. She paints, sketches, makes jewelry, designs costumes and accessories and loves to cook. Regina is primarily involved in sports (softball and basketball) right now. Although she has been coming out of her shell for a while now, her confidence is really starting to shine... and I love it!"

"I can't imagine my family without these twins in our lives. I'm not sure how we were so fortunate to have adopted 7-year-olds who have fit into our family from Day One. We are blessed beyond measure."

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ARIZONA

Living Room Wine Event Saturday, November 9, 2019 DC Ranch/Scottsdale, AZ

CAROLINAS 9th Annual Gala

Saturday, February 22, 2020 Charlotte, NC

FLORIDA Fiesta for the Fund

Friday, November 15, 2019 Tampa, FL

GEORGIA

Giving at the Gallery Saturday, November 2, 2019 Atlanta, GA

Adopted by You 5k & Fun Run

Saturday, June 6, 2020 Atlanta, GA

ILLINOIS

College Gameday Pick-Em Raffle Party Saturday, November 16, 2019 Chicago, IL

Grant Thornton Stair Climb

Sunday, November 17, 2019 Chicago, IL

MICHIGAN

Stepping Up Stair ClimbSaturday, November 23, 2019
Southfield, MI

MINNESOTA

Rod Simons Memorial Golf for the Gift

Thursday, June 18, 2020 Hudson, WI

TEXAS

7th Annual Event

Saturday, October 5, 2019 Dallas, TX

Stepping Up Stair ClimbSaturday, November 23, 2019
Houston, TX

WISCONSIN

Gather for the Gift Thursday, May 14, 2020 Milwaukee, WI

Did you know?

You can direct your United Way gift to Gift of Adoption! Just write in **Gift of Adoption** (FEIN 39-1863217) on your pledge card.

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Keith & Judy McNiff

* joined this quarter ** renewed this quarter

Lana & Gary Stachlowski Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Stemler Tim & Sue Sullivan Tim Swett & Suzanne Burke Elizabeth and Brian Tenner Jill & Jim Vint Wedner Family Foundation Susan & Tom Wenzel in memory of Jim & Betty Garner Sam Wijesekera Steven Williams & Yvette Morrison Lucy Wyka (Gift of Adoption Founder) Hve Yu Allyson & Richard Zak Renato & Gina Zanichelli Parker, Gemma, Jack & Mariana In Memoriam: Peter S. Gutrich