

QUARTERLY

First Quarter 2020



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 pdvereux@giftofadoption.org

1 2 3 4 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, Xavier, 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 Zarahyah.

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 guest.

ARIZONA

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

Grant Thornton Stair Climb

Sunday, November 17, 2019
Chicago, IL

CAROLINAS

9th Annual Gala
Saturday, February 22, 2020
Charlotte, NC

MICHIGAN

Stepping Up Stair Climb
Saturday, November 23, 2019
Southfield, MI

FLORIDA

Fiesta for the Fund
Friday, November 15, 2019
Tampa, FL

MINNESOTA

Rod Simons Memorial Golf for the Gift
Thursday, June 18, 2020
Hudson, WI

GEORGIA

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

Adopted by You 5k & Fun Run

Saturday, June 6, 2020
Atlanta, GA

TEXAS

7th Annual Event
Saturday, October 5, 2019
Dallas, TX

Stepping Up Stair Climb
Saturday, November 23, 2019
Houston, TX

ILLINOIS

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

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.*

Investor Board Members

* joined this quarter

** renewed this quarter

Ann G. Airey
Anonymous
Sol & Angela Bahng
Cyn Barrette
James Bauman & Candace Moore
Charles & Kim Bernard
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
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Downing
Luke & Lucy Fletcher
Siobhan Flynn & Alec Dike
Randi Friedman*

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
Andrew P. Kerai, Sr.*
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
Michele Straite Perlman
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
Linda Simon and Family
Mary & Mark Sliwowski
Abby & Mike Smerklo
Andrew Thomas Smith

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)
Hye Yu
Allyson & Richard Zak
Renato & Gina Zanichelli
Parker, Gemma, Jack & Mariana
In Memoriam: Peter S. Gutrich

Please see the enclosed sheet with financial highlights from FY19 (which ended June 30, 2019).