

QUARTERLY

Fourth 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

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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,

This quarter's perspective showcases insights from two chapter presidents who were interviewed by Samantha Chipman, a summer intern.

Linda Buczynski, former president of the Wisconsin Chapter and current president of the Illinois Chapter, and Adam Pfeil, president of the Texas Chapter, started volunteering with Gift of Adoption over seven years ago. Both joined the cause primarily because of the strength of the Gift of Adoption mission.

Linda says that volunteering at Gift of Adoption is different from working with other nonprofits, due to the immediacy of Gift of Adoption's work. Adam agrees that this is a key differentiating factor from other organizations. One hundred percent of the money raised by chapter volunteers is paid out in adoption assistance grants which immediately improve the lives of children in need of families. Thanks to the commitment of the Investor Board and National Board members who cover the core operating costs and administration of the grant program, both presidents feel that there is a full and immediate return on the investment of their time, demonstrated by the positive outcomes of children helped with a Gift of Adoption grant.

Their favorite part of the work at Gift of Adoption is, "Talking and meeting the grant families; hearing their stories." Adam mentioned a case in which a fourteen-year-old girl from China needed to be adopted within a



Welcome home greeting at Raleigh Airport.

week, or she would have aged out of her country's orphanage system. Gift of Adoption's help in completing that adoption may have saved her life. Linda recalls hearing two teenagers from Ethiopia speak many years ago. "The opportunities and chance to go to school show just how adoption improved their quality of life and hope for the future."

Adam shares that the "top two moments of my life" were the two Welcome Home greetings he organized for families bringing their children home through the Dallas airport. With signs and balloons, a small group of volunteers cheered the families as they walked through the doors of Customs, officially entering the U.S. with their new citizens and members of the family. Even though exhausted from travel, the joy of the new families was inspiring.

While the overwhelming numbers of orphans worldwide can seem daunting, Linda cites the starfish parable, in which

a child is questioned for hurling one of many starfish stranded on the beach back into the ocean. The child points out that even if he can't save all of the starfish, the mission is still worthwhile, due to the profound impact on the individual starfish he is able to save. Similarly, just helping one child find their way home to a permanent family positively improves the trajectory of that child's life, and for generations to come.

Linda says that, Gift of Adoption might be "the best kept secret in philanthropy." Adam points out that Gift of Adoption's growth is changing that scenario. With the addition of new chapters, the ever expanding Gather for the Gift event in Chicago, and the Charity Navigator rating, Gift of Adoption will continue to increase its impact, helping more children in need of families.