

# 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 [pdvereux@giftofadoption.org](mailto:pdvereux@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,**

*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.

# Meet Kinley



Kinley is a 9-year-old little girl, full of spunk and happiness. She excels at school and sports and is absolutely the life of the party wherever she goes. Her biggest love is softball, which she has already played for many years.

Courtland has been Kinley’s stepfather since 2013 when she was 3 years old. He says, “I have been blessed to be at every school event, every award ceremony, and I have coached Kinley’s softball teams. I have not only provided for her financially and emotionally, but Kinley’s mother and I have protected her from the dangerous lifestyle of her biological father. We have hoped to complete Kinley’s

# 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

Golf Tournament  
Saturday, September 20, 2019  
Fairhope, AL

## Carolinas

Gift of Adoption Gala  
Sunday, February 2, 2020  
Charlotte, NC

## Colorado

GOA Night Colorado Rapids Soccer  
Saturday, July 20, 2019  
Commerce City, CO

## New Hampshire

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

## Texas

Texas Chapter – Triathlon  
Monday, September 2, 2019  
Waxahachie, TX

Charity Softball Tournament  
Saturday, September 14, 2019  
Arlington, TX

Gala Event  
Saturday, October 5, 2019  
Dallas, TX

adoption for many years. Becoming Kinley’s legal father is absolutely a dream come true for all of us.”

Courtland and Lacey have been making small payments each month to keep the adoption moving forward. A Gift of Adoption grant will pay the final expenses to complete Courtland’s adoption of Kinley in August. Courtland adds, “Kinley asks us once a week to change her last name. Thank you for helping to make this to happen.”

## 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  
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\*  
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 & 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