

QUARTERLY

Second Quarter 2020



A publication of the Gift of Adoption Greater Board members. Please join along as you can with the help of our board members. Thank you so much for being a part of our organization.

1 2 3 4 news

All of the information you need to know about the latest news in adoption, including the latest in adoption law, is here for you.

Dear Greater Board Members,

This quarter's guest perspective is provided by Greater Board member and Illinois Chapter Board member Jillie Lewis.

The concept of adoption has always been with me. I was five when I learned that I was adopted as a baby. My birthparents, whom I don't know, were in high school—they made the difficult choice that they couldn't raise me.

Before getting married, my soon-to-be and I discussed whether adoption would be an option for us to build our family. We decided it was a definite yes.

After about eight years of marriage, we were ready to start a family. We shared the same mission statement: it'd be a shame to have two people with a lot of love to give but no children with whom to share it while there are kids who want a forever family but don't have one.

We started the process and ended up moving forward with an international adoption about three and a half years ago. We adopted a brother-sister group of four ranging in ages from 4 to 11. The timing was perfect, as some activities will split large sibling groups to ensure we're the matching parent with a family—we came in at just the right time.

Supporting Gift of Adoption

About a year and a half ago, I started looking at different options to get involved on the board of a



With Family and Family

non-profit. My year-and-a-half search ended when I found and realized that to really stay passionate about my board commitments, I needed to be involved with a non-profit that was important to my core.

That brought me to Gift of Adoption. When I looked at the fact that the Greater gov is one of the biggest donations for people who are willing to adopt, it looks very good. I can give a lot to the mission when I go home and look at my kids.

My service on both the Gift of Adoption Greater Board as well as the Illinois Chapter Board means that I'll be able to expand that mission and help make sure other kids, like me, are able to find a home where there's love.

Gift of Adoption Greater on finding adoption. The great we created without any prejudice or restrictions based on when applicants believe or who they are. It's all about the kids.

I love the fact that every dollar, from a chapter contribution perspective, goes toward the mission—connecting kids with families.

One day my wife and I went out to look for the first time in Poland, you would look in their eyes and tell they were scared. They had stuffed bags with their belongings, their whole world was in those stuffed bags. We gave them a small gift and their eyes started to light up. We saw hope. We saw a knowing that everything was going to be okay. It was a knowing that they were going to have all of the opportunities that we could give them through the gift of adoption.

Being able to give this gift to other children and families is, for me, what Gift of Adoption is all about.