

QUARTERLY

Second 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 pdevereux@giftofadoption.org

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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 guest perspective is provided by Investor Board member and Illinois Chapter Board member, Mike Sands.

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 now-wife 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-mindset: 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 Polish sibling group of four ranging in ages from 4 to 11. The timing was perfect, as some countries will split large sibling groups in order to ease the matching process 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



Mike Sands and Family

non-profit. My peers and mentors asked what causes I liked and told me 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 financial gap is one of the biggest detractors for people who are willing to adopt, it broke my heart. I can put a face to that statistic when I go home and look at my kids.

My service on both the Gift of Adoption Investor 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 ours, are able to find a home where there's love.

Gift of Adoption focuses on funding adoptions. The grants are awarded without any prejudice or restrictions based on what 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.

The day my wife and I met our kids for the first time in Poland, you could look in their eyes and tell they were scared. They had duffle bags with them containing all of their belongings. Their whole world was in those duffle 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 this gift of adoption.

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