

*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.



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

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