

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

1 2 3 4 news

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.

Meet Declan

Declan is almost two, and has lived in an orphanage in Bulgaria all his life. Because of his diagnosis of Down syndrome, he spends most of his time in a crib with minimal care.



Declan

Samantha and Aaron of Black Hawk, SD, are no strangers to adoption. Samantha is one of 11 children; 7 of her siblings were adopted through foster care. The young couple (28 years old) have been foster parents for 5 of the 6 years of their marriage and have already adopted a 14 year old daughter and 9 year old son through the foster care system.

Samantha says, "We are both teachers who work extremely hard



Declan's future forever family

to do what is best for our family and are always striving to do more for others. If we can make this adoption happen, anyone can, and we want to help others realize this!"

The \$5,000 Gift of Adoption grant is certainly helping. Declan's adoption is now fully funded. Samantha and Aaron will be traveling soon on the first of two required trips to Bulgaria, and plan to bring Declan home in March.

Samantha continues, "Our son will be given a chance at being a kid who is loved and cherished. We can't wait to give him tons of love and opportunities to develop!"

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.

CAROLINAS

9th Annual Gala
Saturday, February 22, 2020
Charlotte, NC

GEORGIA

**Adopted by You
5k & Fun Run**
Saturday, June 6, 2020
Atlanta, GA

ILLINOIS

Toast to the Gift of Family
Friday, January 31, 2020
Winnetka, IL

Shred415 Class

Sunday, February 9, 2020
Chicago, IL

MINNESOTA

**Rod Simons Memorial
Golf for the Gift**
Thursday, June 18, 2020
Hudson, WI

NEBRASKA & IOWA

Bowling for Families
Sunday, March 29, 2020
Council Bluffs, IA

NEW YORK

Investor Board Breakfast
Thursday, March 5, 2020
New York, NY

OHIO

Columbus Stair Climb
Saturday, November 21, 2020
Columbus, OH

WISCONSIN

3rd Annual Trivia Time
Thursday, January 9, 2020
Milwaukee, WI

Gather for the Gift WI
Thursday, May 14, 2020
Milwaukee, WI

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Consider making your Investor Board donation with a gift of appreciated stock. Please contact Pam Devereux for more information. Gift of Adoption has an account with **Charles Schwab**; account#: 5328-4989 DTC#: 0164

Investor Board Members

* joined this quarter

** renewed this quarter

Ann G. Airey
Anonymous
Sol & Angela Bahng
Cyn Barrette
James Bauman & Candace Moore
Charles & Kim Bernard
Robert & Maureen Bland
Karen & Dan Brennan
Dan & Meghan Burns
Chris & Petey Butler
James & Judith Callan
Kath M. Carter
Stephen & Kim Chipman
Kevin & Linda Coenen
Carrie & Ed Del Hierro*
Pam Devereux & John Brassil
Greg DiDomenico
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Downing
Luke & Lucy Fletcher
Siobhan Flynn & Alec Dike
Randi Friedman

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
Andrew P. Kerai, Sr.
David & Amanda Knight
Sharon & Gerry Komlofske
Steve & Allison Koppel
Mr. & Mrs. David Lauder
Glen R. Mangold
Lynn & Kevin McDonald
Keith & Judy McNiff

Michelle McVey*
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
Michael & Sheba Sands*
Michele Seidl & Neil Shubin
Linda Simon and Family
Mary & Mark Sliwkowski
Abby & Mike Smerklo
Andrew Thomas Smith

Leslie Smith & Michael Uzer**
Lana & Gary Stachlowski
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Stemler
Tim & Sue Sullivan
Tim Swett & Suzanne Burke
Elizabeth & 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