

# QUARTERLY

Third Quarter 2020



*Gift of Adoption provides grants to complete the adoptions of vulnerable children - giving them a permanent family and the chance to thrive*

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 [pdvereun@giftofadoption.org](mailto:pdvereun@giftofadoption.org)

## 1 2 3 4 news

Dear Investor Board Member,

In light of the current environment, your Investor Board Quarterly is arriving in a new format. First and foremost, we hope all of you are safe and healthy. In these trying times, we are particularly grateful for your ongoing commitment to the children and families Gift of Adoption serves.

Imagine pouring a year or more into saving for the adoption of your child, completing all the paperwork and meetings for your home study, gathering references, asking friends and family to support you on your journey, then having a pandemic threaten your ability to bring your child home.

This is what Bryan and Kathy Lankford faced as they navigated new restrictions on international travel that delayed their teenaged boys from coming home. The urgency they faced was tangible, as this adoption needed to be completed before the boys aged out of the orphanage to face the rest of their lives without the safety net and love of a family. They had a number of starts and stops, flight cancellations, reroutings—taking one leg at a time on their journey from Bulgaria to Dallas not knowing if, when, or where the next leg would take them as borders were closing. They finally landed home in Dallas on March 5, two months later than expected, and the family is using the required quarantine period to bond.

Jillian of San Diego touched down in South Africa to complete the adoption of her daughter mere hours before the country sealed its borders. After several whirlwind days in-country, Jillian discovered that because South African courts and government offices are closed, she won't be able to

complete her daughter's adoption any time soon. Jillian is currently working with the American Embassy in South Africa to arrange travel out of the country. The Gift of Adoption team is monitoring her travel arrangements and the status of her adoption, prepared to provide additional help if needed.



Mario and Robert on their way home

While international adoptions have all stalled, even domestic adoptions are experiencing flight cancellations, and fears of spreading the virus are creating additional hurdles and adding to the expense and anxiety of the final steps of the adoption journey. It is not hard to see how the economic fallout is impacting and will continue to impact the small business owners, contract workers,

salespeople, pastors, manufacturing employees, etc. who are saving, sacrificing and doing all they can to fulfill promises they have made in their hearts and in the eyes of their waiting children.

One thing the pandemic has not changed is the fact that there are too many children who still need homes and families. Applications for adoption assistance are up 68% over last year—about 70 qualified applications each month. Of these, Gift of Adoption can provide the adoption assistance which unites roughly 42 of the most vulnerable children each month with their forever families.

Thanks to your support and to our volunteers in chapters across the country, Gift of Adoption is able to stand by the children and families we serve. We are working creatively with our volunteers, our National Board, and the foundations who have provided consistent support to fill the financial gap that comes from having the many fundraising events planned for March through June at risk.

You know better than anyone the impact of the gift of adoption. The video in the email was shown at the last Gift of Adoption fundraiser, the Gala held by our Carolinas Chapter on February 22nd. Again, thanks to your support, 100% of the funds raised that night will be directed to provide the adoption assistance needed to bring children home to their families in the Carolinas.

We will continue to send the stories of the families made possible by your generosity to provide a bit of hope and sunshine during these uncertain times.

Thank you again for standing by Gift of Adoption.

## Investor Board Members

\* joined this quarter  
\*\* renewed this quarter

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

Kate & Dan Gibbons  
Anne Gross  
William & Christine Guthrie  
Allison 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 Komlosike  
Steve & Allison Koppel  
Me & 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  
Michelle Straite Perlman  
Jonathan Pryor\*  
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 Sitrowski  
Abby & Mike Smerlo  
Andrew Thomas Smith

Leslie Smith & Michael Uzer  
Lana & Gary Stachdowski  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory J. Stember  
Tim & Sue Sullivan  
Tim Sweet & 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  
Alyson & Richard Zak  
Renato & Gina Zanichelli  
Parker, Gemma, Jack & Mariana  
In Memoriam: Peter S. Gutrich