



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 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 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 Komlofsky
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
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 Sliwowski
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