

Rachel and Charlie Meyer received a Gift of Adoption grant in 2021 to adopt their son, Owen. This year, they joined the December Board. Gift of Adoption recently spoke with Rachel about their adoption journey and division in give back.

Q Can you share your adoption story with us?

A There was never a need to a birth mother who knew otherwise as it is a position to care for a child. My husband, Charlie, and I were married with her and have been fortunate enough to have Owen from day 1. We came to adoption due to infertility. It took me some time to accept, but my faith allowed me to understand that my path to becoming a mother was just going to be different than I had expected. Multiple people had mentioned adoption to us and fostering children was something we had previously discussed, so it felt right.

The adoption process was a roller coaster for many reasons, and there was no doubt that I didn't expect. However, with strength and support from others, we worked through the struggles. I've had lessons the rewards of adoption before starting it, we have done it more so often.



Q How did Gift of Adoption factor into your adoption process?

A We knew that adoption would be available for us if we were to receive financial assistance. We did some research and learned about Gift of Adoption. When we found out that we had been selected for a GOF grant, we were so relieved and knew our final expenses would be covered. We were able to focus all of our attention on our son.

Q How has adoption impacted Owen's life? How did?

A Owen struggles with minor special needs. We are regularly connecting with people who are qualified to help him overcome those challenges. We have been blessed, in many ways, with the ability to provide him with the proper resources he needs to learn and grow.

We certainly do not see ourselves as carriers for adopting him because, in the end, I think we needed him more than he needed us. The pure joy that comes from life with him is indescribable. Even on the hard days, I would never change a thing.

Q Why is it important to you to help other children find forever families?

A During the holidays, it became a tradition in our family to donate to an organization. I started to wonder why we were only donating once a year rather than choosing something meaningful that we could participate in all year long. Of course, adoption is very close to our hearts and knowing how much Gift of Adoption helped us on our journey made me curious about how we could give back. The December Board was the perfect option for us. We are grateful to be able to help others facing the same struggles we once did and to be a part of bringing new children home.

Did you know?

As part of Gift of Adoption's 10th Anniversary Celebration, we are creating a Legacy Society. To learn more about planned giving and endowment opportunities, please contact Julie Pinedell (jpinedell@giftofadoption.org) or Sharon Kunkel (skunkel@giftofadoption.org).

Gift of Adoption provides adoption assistance grants to complete the adoption of vulnerable children - giving them a permanent family and the chance to thrive.

A publication for Gift of Adoption, member based newsletter. Please join along in others who may be interested in this issue. Send comments and feedback to adoption@giftofadoption.org