

*Rachel and Charlie Morgret received a Gift of Adoption grant in 2018 to adopt their son, Owen. This year, they joined the Investor Board. Gift of Adoption recently spoke with Rachel about their adoption journey and decision to give back.*

Q) Can you share your adoption story with us?

A) Owen was born in 2018 to a birth mother who knew she was not in a position to care for a child. My husband, Charlie, and I were matched with her and have been fortunate enough to know 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 so much that I didn't expect. However, with strength and support from others, we worked through the struggles. If we had known the rewards of adoption before starting it, we have done it even sooner.



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

A) We knew that adoption would be attainable 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 GOA 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? Your life?

A) Owen struggles with minor special needs. We are regularly connecting with people who are qualified to help him overcome these 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 saviors 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 Investor 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 more children home.

## *Did you know?*

As part of Gift of Adoption's 25th Anniversary Celebration, we are creating a Legacy Society. To learn more about planned giving and endowment opportunities, please contact Julie Pendell ([jpendell@giftofadoption.org](mailto:jpendell@giftofadoption.org)) or Sharon Komlofske ([skomlofske@giftofadoption.org](mailto:skomlofske@giftofadoption.org)).

*Gift of Adoption provides adoption assistance 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 [pdevereux@giftofadoption.org](mailto:pdevereux@giftofadoption.org)*

## Then and Now –Keriann



*Keriann's Adoption*

Keri was found as an infant, abandoned at a bamboo and timber shop in China- probably due to China's one-child policy of the time. She entered the care of a kind foster family and was then adopted in 1999 with the help of one of the earliest grants awarded by Gift of Adoption. Her mother, Donna shared the following with Gift of Adoption:

"Keri and I became a family 22 years ago after a long journey of paperwork, travel, and patience- a journey of love. Over the years Keri became extremely close with my father, her grandfather, and we adopted a Sheltie pup named Shannie. In her early teens she dyed her hair blue...and green... and pink...and purple. Having worked as a middle school teacher for over 20 years, I thought I was prepared for those years! Keri participated in soccer, stage crew, jazz band, and was a part of the State Champion marching band. Keri received a scholarship to attend Ball State University in Muncie, IN. She completed her BA degree in Public Relations in 3.5 years! Our family continues to grow as Keri is now engaged to a wonderful young man, and they are planning a wedding for October 2022."

Children become ineligible for adoption in China at age 14. For those who 'age out' of the Chinese

social services system life outcomes are, generally, poor as educational opportunities and access to medical care are severely limited for them. Keri and Donna's story embodies Gift of Adoption's mission- to make sure the cost of adoption does not stand in the way of children like Keri receiving the life-changing opportunity to grow up in a family that provides for their every need and gives them the opportunity to thrive.



*Keriann's Graduation*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FLORIDA

**Champa Bay for the Children**  
Friday, November 12, 2021

### MICHIGAN

**Stepping Up 2021 Stair Climb**  
Saturday, November 6, 2021

### MINNESOTA

**Rod Simons Golf for the Gift**  
Tuesday, August 3, 2021

### NATIONAL

**25th Birthday Walk**  
Thursday, August 26, 2021

### GATHER FOR THE GIFT

Thursday, October 14, 2021  
Chicago, IL

Save the Date for our signature event in person at the Four Seasons in Chicago or attend a local chapter Gather Event.

### NEBRASKA & IOWA CHAPTER

**TopGolf for Families**  
Sunday, October 10, 2021

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Golf for the Gift**  
Monday August 16, 2021

### WISCONSIN

**Gather for the Gift - Madison**  
Thursday, October 14, 2021

**Gather for the Gift - Milwaukee**  
Thursday, October 14, 2021

*Investor Board members are invited to participate in any of the events listed here. If you would like to join in the fun, please email: [hschwartz@giftofadoption.org](mailto:hschwartz@giftofadoption.org).*

## Investor Board Members

*\* joined this quarter*

*\*\* renewed this quarter*

Anonymous  
Ann G. Airey  
Sol and Angela Bahng  
Barrette Family Fund\*\*  
James Bauman and Candace Moore  
Charles W. and Kimberly W. Bernard  
Robert and Maureen Bland  
Jerry James and Kitty Bliss  
Karen and Dan Brennan  
Meghan and Dan Burns  
Chris and Petey Butler  
Tatia Jones  
James and Judith Callan  
Katie and Jake Carney  
Kath M. Carter  
Stephen and Kim Chipman  
Kevin and Linda Coenen  
Ed and Carrie Del Hierro\*\*  
Pam Devereux and John Brassil  
Greg DiDomenico  
Siobhan Flynn and Alec Dike  
Melanie and Mitch Dolloff\*

Randi Friedman  
Kate and Dan Gibbons  
Anne Gross  
Christine and William Guthrie  
Allison Gutterman  
Debbie K. Hogate  
Tom and Colleen Huffman  
Gary and Laura Hill  
Maureen and Ben Ivory  
Amanda Jacobowski  
Doug and Carol Kelly  
Mr. Andrew P. Kerai, Sr.  
David and Amanda Knight  
Sharon and Gerry Komlofske  
Steve and Allison Koppel  
Glen Mangold  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill McClintic  
Mr. and Mrs. William McHenry, in honor of my parents, William and Jeanne McHenry\*  
Keith and Judy McNiff  
Michele McVey

The Morgret Family  
Steven Williams & Yvette Morrison  
Ed and Nancy Mulligan  
Parker, Gemma, Jack and Mariana  
Daniel and Tiffany Neely  
Elizabeth and Ben O'Connor  
Christopher and Linda Ohmacht  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Palmer\*  
Judith Pendell  
Michele and David Perlman  
ArLynn Presser  
Jonathan Pryor, In Loving Memory of Dr. Jan Huston Pryor  
Jeff Ramson and Kerry Corbit  
Meg & Mike Revord  
Jim and Laura Roth  
Patrick and Lydia Ryan  
Jack and Sarah Salzwedel  
Robert and Louise Sanborn  
Mike and Sheba Sands  
Michele Seidl and Neil Shubin\*\*  
Linda Simon & family

Pam Simons, Annie Simons, in loving memory of Rod Simons  
Mark and Mary Sliwkowski  
Abby and Mike Smerlko  
Leslie Smith  
Cheryl & Bill Sorabella  
Gary and Lana Stachlowski  
Greg Stemler  
Tim and Sue Sullivan  
Tim Swett and Suzanne Burke  
Brian and Elizabeth Tenner  
Liz Van Horn  
Mr. and Mrs. James Vint  
Cindy L. Warner  
Susan Garner Wenzel  
Kelly West  
Lucy Wyka  
Allyson and Richard Zak  
Renato and Gina Zanichelli  
In Memoriam: Peter S. Gutrich