

was three years old. Alison was adopted by her new father and would eventually take over as CEO of his company, Jelmar.

At the age of 13, Alison decided she would adopt children when it came time to start a family. "My biological father suffered from a hereditary disease of which I am a carrier. I have this distinct memory of being in middle school and realizing that the only way to ensure my own children would not have the disease would be to go through intense medical treatments," Gutterman said. "I was so young, but I felt deeply that there were already kids in this world that needed a parent. My decision to pursue adoption remained with me from that moment on."

Gutterman adopted both of her daughters, Michaela and Eliza. Michaela was adopted from Guatemala in 2006, and Eliza was adopted from Houston, Texas in 2010. Both girls were diagnosed with learning

single parent can be lonely at times. I would not have been successful in adoption without the support of family and friends."



Gutterman is the third-generation family owner and CEO of Jelmar, a leading cleaning products manufacturer. Her company consists of 20 employees, and it aims to produce more environmentally friendly products for everyday use. "As an environmentally friendly company, you

certainly made me a better person and CEO. Since my daughters are from different races from each other and from me, I am aware of perspectives that I had not considered before. It has made me more open to ideas and experiences, beyond those I had before I had the privilege of raising my daughters."

Philanthropy has always been a big part of Gutterman's family. Now that Michaela and Eliza are older, Gutterman is at a point in life where she has more time to give. She joined Gift of Adoption's National Board of Directors to help improve adoption access for children in-need.

*"Adoption is a gift, but there are significant costs involved. When thinking about my legacy and what I can do to better society, I chose to use my skills to further*