

*As Gift of Adoption pursues connection with more corporate supporters, we chose to highlight an Investor Board member who feels strongly about the critical and mutual benefits derived through corporate-charity partnerships. This quarter's perspective is offered by Anne Gross. Gift of Adoption recently spoke with Anne about her role in corporate philanthropy and her personal reasons for joining the mission of GOA. Anne has been a donor for 14 years and joined the Investor Board in 2018.*



Anne Gross

Anne Gross leads Data Citizens with Purpose at KPMG and is an Investor Board Member. She recently shared with Gift of Adoption how she views the relationship between business and philanthropy.

Anne grew up in a close-knit Midwestern family. "I had loving parents and opportunities for education. I graduated from Indiana University and had such a good time that I chose to go back for my master's degree. Eventually, I entered the world of international development where I saw firsthand the lack of opportunity that so many experience, both globally and at home.

A commitment to address social issues – like access to education and career opportunities, and health equity – was seeded and continues to grow."

Anne originally joined KPMG as a consultant, bringing her knowledge of grantmaking and humanitarian issues with her to this Big Four professional services and accounting firm. It was clear to her that the good work of many nonprofits could be enhanced with additional knowledge and resources from the business world.

"The Data Citizens with Purpose team, which I lead, leverages KPMG's people - our professionals who are growing their data and analytics skills. We help nonprofits use available data, that they may not have the expertise or bandwidth to analyze, as they seek to better serve their stakeholders and communities. For our professionals, these short-term, pro bono projects run parallel to existing client work. The engagements provide our professionals an opportunity to serve the community while enhancing their data and analytics experience as they work to solve real challenges."

When asked what motivates her to do this work, Anne says, "Working with non-profit partners to make meaningful, impactful change takes all actors. It can't just be the government; it can't just be individuals – it takes all of us working together. The commercial sector brings problem solving and business know-how that is important to healthy communities and healthy economies. Actually it's enlightened self-interest. Our businesses can only thrive if we have a robust talent pipeline and healthy environment."

Anne describes her role as "working at the intersection of business and society to help both be stronger. The services we provide to non-profit collaborators help them serve their beneficiaries more effectively and efficiently. And by providing these pro bono opportunities to our employees, we are helping them grow their skills, networks, and expand their career opportunities."

Anne also believes strongly in personal giving. "I do not have children of my own, but I want to play a role in nurturing the next generation. Based upon my work in international development, I know that a leading way to help a child is to be sure that he/she has a loving home and access to opportunities to thrive. Before kids can succeed in education and the economy, they need the structure and support of a loving home. I joined the Investor Board because it makes sense. I am investing in both a child's future, and the future of a community. Moving children into families (and out of social service institutions) is an excellent means of maximizing resources. The gift of adoption is the gift of family, gift of sanctuary, gift of safety and gift of love."

*"To whom much is given, much is expected. If I can help someone have more so that they can in-turn share generosity, it is a ripple effect I want to be a part of."*

*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 [devereux@giftofadoption.org](mailto:devereux@giftofadoption.org)