

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

Meet Annie and Denni



Annie and Denni, adopted from Liberia in 2018

Sisters Annie and Denni spent their early years in an orphanage in Liberia. When Annie was 6 years old and Denni 4, they were matched with Amanda and Joey of Belle, Missouri, a couple who already had three sons but were deeply moved by the girls' story.

Amanda and Joey were awarded a grant from Gift of Adoption in 2018 which enabled them to bring Annie and Denni to the United States. "We had reached the point, financially, where we just didn't know how we would make this happen. We were

denied other grants and we already had children. We were giving up hope and so were our girls. They have since shared with us that they prayed every day for a family but did not think they were ever going to leave the orphanage. The Gift of Adoption grant was a blessing, and we will forever be grateful that you helped make our family whole!"

Liberia is a developing nation and Annie and Denni would have faced significant challenges had they remained there as orphans. Unadopted children overseas have a dramatically increased probability to becoming victims of crime, trafficking (especially girls), substance abuse and suicide. Amanda and Joey worried this would be the outcome for Annie and Denni if they didn't find a home.

Today Annie is 10 and Denni just turned 9. Amanda shared that, "Annie is still the loving and nurturing older sister. She takes pride in doing well in school and has become confident in her abilities. She has a passion for basketball, horses, and her family. Denni is strong willed, competitive, and loves a challenge. This has helped her catch up to her peers in reading

and language skills. She was able to skip a grade in school and has made the travel gymnastics team! Since coming home the girls have learned to play sports, have gone hiking and camping, bought a puppy, won art shows, been flower girls in a wedding, and learned to roller blade- just to name a few experiences! We are open about that fact that adoption is beautiful but also difficult. As the girls grow, they are dealing with more and more complex emotions around their past and their adoption. We continue to work through these issues and at the end of the day, all our lives are better for it. These girls make the world a better place. They keep us, their parents, on our toes, and we are so thankful for this opportunity to be a family."



Annie and Denni with their mom and brother

See all upcoming Gift of Adoption Events at giftofadoption.org/upcoming-events

Investor Board members are invited to participate in events. If you would like to join in the fun, please email: hschwartz@giftofadoption.org.

Investor Board Members

* joined this quarter

** renewed this quarter

Anonymous
Ann G. Airey
Andy and Janis Arno
Sol and Angela Bahng**
Barrette Family Fund
Bhavana Bartholf
James Bauman and Candace Moore
Charles W. and Kimberly W. Bernard
Robert and Maureen Bland
Verne Bragg
Karen and Dan Brennan
Rob and Shanna Brokaw
Meghan and Dan Burns
Chris and Pety Butler
James and Judith Callan
Katie and Jake Carney
Kath M. Carter
Shashona Chau
Stephen and Kim Chipman
Kevin and Linda Coenen
Carrie and Ed Del Hierro
Pam Devereux and John Brassil
Siobhan Flynn and Alec Dike
Mitch and Melanie Dolloff

Dave Eilers
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Frey
Randi Friedman
Kate and Dan Gibbons
Anne Gross**
Christine and William Guthrie
Alison Gutterman
Laura and Gary Hill
Debbie K. Hogate
Timothy and Nancy Hoying
Tom and Colleen Huffman
Maureen and Ben Ivory
Amanda Jacobowski
Jerry James and Kitty Bliss
Tatia Jones
Doug and Carol Kelly
Andrew P. Kerai, Sr.
Ms. Lisa M. Kieres and Mr. Frank P. Salathe Jr.
David and Amanda Knight
Sharon and Gerry Komlofske
Steven and Allison Koppel
Mr. and Mrs. David Lukas
Glen Mangold**
Corinne and Bill McClintic

Mr. and Mrs. William McHenry, in honor of parents William and Jeanne McHenry
Scott Carver and Teri McIntire
Keith and Judy McNiff
Michelle McVey
The Morgret Family
Ed and Nancy Mulligan
Chris Myer and Rachel Wilkin
Daniel and Tiffany Neely
Parker, Gemma, Jack and Mariana
Elizabeth and Ben O'Connor
Christopher and Linda Ohmacht
The Gerald C. Palmer Family
Dr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Parker
Judith Pendell
ArLynn Presser
Jonathan Pryor, In Loving Memory of Dr. Jan Huston Pryor
Jeff Ramson and Kerry Corbit
Meg and Mike Revord
Jim and Laura Roth
Lydia and Patrick Ryan
Jack and Sarah Salzwedel
Robert and Louise Sanborn

Michael and Sheba Sands
Michele Seidl and Neil Shubin
Linda Simon and family
Pam Simons, Annie Simons, in loving memory of Rod Simons
Mark and Mary Sliwkowski
Abby and Mike Smerklo
Leslie Smith**
Cheryl and Bill Sorabella
Gary and Lana Stachlowski
Greg Stemler**
Tim and Sue Sullivan
Tim Swett and Suzanne Burke**
Liz Van Horn
Jim and Jill Vint
Cindy L. Warner
Susan Garner Wenzel
Kelly West
Steven Williams and Yvette Morrison
Lucy Wyka (Gift of Adoption Founder)
Allyson and Richard Zak
Renato and Gina Zanichelli
In Memoriam: Peter S. Gutrich