

*This Investor Point of View article is provided by a new Investor, Kiera Horton. Kiera is a member of the Rotaract Club of Birmingham, Alabama, and Founder & CEO of Jumpshot, jumpshottv.com, a non-profit organization that provides media support to high school basketball players in metro Birmingham who lack the resources to attract the attention of college recruiters.*

Dear Investor Board Members,

My name is Kiera Horton and I see the Gift of Adoption Fund as a grand service of compassion and good-heartedness. It takes an extraordinary organization to see a child's empty hole of love, and work to fill it. They are not only pushing to place our children into permanent, happy, and fulfilling homes, they are standing as an amazing example of how you should treat others and bring about positivity in this world. I am extraordinarily delighted and honored to be an Investor Board Member of the Gift of Adoption Fund.

I have not had any personal experience with adoption, but I come to you as someone who has had a plan her entire life to adopt children in my future. I was raised by a beautiful, strong woman who raised me as a single parent. I am my mother's only child, and I am one of the six children of an absent father whose full name and personality I may never know. I always will have grand love for my mother and I am so blessed for the life she gave me, but due to her dark past, her emotional availability has been caged my whole life with many failed attempts to pry it open. Yes, I was raised by one of my biological parents, but I know what it feels like when your life has an absence of spiritual love, self-worth, and emotional support and motivation.

The very real and difficult aspect of adoption is that the pain and brokenness that adopted children bring into a family, does not get erased when they receive a new name.



*Kiera Horton*

These children must be nurtured and supported with great care. The recipients of the GOA grants are people who stand strong in the commitment to the journey of sacrifice and unconditional love. These astonishing people are sometimes prevented from spreading their love to children in need because of the ranges of adoption fees. I was flabbergasted to find out that adoption fees range from \$4,000-\$40,000. The work that GOA is doing to provide these future parents with the financial resources they need is outstanding!

I'm not only an Investor Board Member who comes to you with plans of adoption in the future, but I also come to you as a proud

woman of service. With a strong desire to serve others, I chose my first job as a Nursing Technician at Shelby Baptist Hospital. I have also worked for UAB hospital as a Patient Care Technician within the Spain Rehabilitation Center and Post Anesthesia Care Unit from 2016 - 2019. I have now committed to provide support in my role as an Administrative Associate at the UAB Heersink School of Medicine (HSOM) Dean's Office, because I see an opportunity to help leaders serve with greater impact.

As a member of the Rotaract Club of Birmingham, one of the largest, strongest, and most effective service clubs in the world and the founder of Jumpshot, a non-profit organization for the young athletes of metro Birmingham that provides media support – free of charge – to high school basketball players who lack the resources to attract the attention of college recruiters, I am someone who's professional and personal leadership is anchored in a commitment to put service above self.

*It is my absolute honor to proudly stand as an Investor Board Member for the Gift of Adoption Fund. GOA is undoubtedly an asset to the Alabama community and the world. I support them with the highest level of enthusiasm and without reservation.*

*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)

## Meet Oliver



*Oliver*

Oliver is a charismatic 3-year-old boy. He has a charm that is magnetic, is warmhearted, thoughtful, eager, innovative, and joyful.

Oliver was born with scoliosis which has caused a few unexpected hurdles in his little life, but he always overcomes them. He adapts quickly and has achieved every milestone. He recently learned how to swim, can count to 100 and knows his ABC's.

Oliver's birth mother was not in a position to raise him and was matched with Wendy, a nurse

in Owensboro, KY a week before his birth in 2019. Wendy wanted nothing more than to be a mother, but the quick match meant she did not have time to save enough money to cover the adoption cost. A grant from Gift of Adoption enabled her to say yes to Oliver and be with him from the day of his birth.

Less than a year after Oliver's adoption, Wendy felt ready to pay her gift forward. She joined the Gift of Adoption Kentucky Chapter Board of Directors to help raise funds to complete the adoptions of more vulnerable children in Kentucky. Oliver has also joined in the fundraising! Oliver raises his own chickens in his and Wendy's backyard. He gives the eggs away, accepting donations only for Gift of Adoption Kentucky. This past year he donated \$250. A local company was so inspired by his efforts that they matched his donation and a close friend of Wendy's double matched with a \$500 dollar donation. Little Oliver has raised \$1,000 to unite another child and their forever family!

Wendy shared, "Our grant from Gift of Adoption was, and continues to be, a blessing that never

goes uncounted. We have been privileged enough to be able to pass that blessing along to others. I'm grateful for Gift of Adoption and everything that it allows us to do. We are a part of something that makes a generational impact on children and families. It is a privilege to be part of this work. This past year we spent Christmas with some of Oliver's birth family. They count both of us as family and my heart was overwhelmed with joy. Oliver has the opportunity to stay connected to his biological family but also has the stability and security I am able to provide. I am so honored to be this amazing boy's mother."



*Wendy and Oliver*

See all upcoming Gift of Adoption Events at [giftofadoption.org/upcoming-events](https://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](mailto: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 Petey Butler  
BSPC Foundation,  
Joan and Bob Compagna\*  
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  
Tristen Haddad\*  
Laura and Gary Hill  
Debbie K. Hogate  
Kiera Horton\*  
Timothy and Nancy Hoying  
Tom and Colleen Huffman  
Maureen and Ben Ivory  
Amanda Jacobowski  
Jerry James and Kitty Bliss  
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  
Andrew Maratea\*

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  
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  
John and Mary Tilson\*  
Andrew Urteaga\*  
Liz Van Horn  
Jim and Jill Vint  
Cindy L. Warner  
Charlene Warren\*  
Susan Garner Wenzel  
Vonesa and Paul 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