

Important Findings – new NCFE Study

In 2021 Gift of Adoption partnered with the National Council for Adoption (NCFE) to conduct a survey of 4,200 adoptive parents. This was the largest survey ever conducted of adoptive parents and aimed to gather updated data on adoption demographics, special needs adoptions, and motivations to adopt.

Participation in this survey was central to Gift of Adoption staying abreast of current trends in adoption and remaining a leader in the field. We share the results with you, our valued partners, because we share the goal of placing children into forever families. We believe staying informed will help us improve and strengthen our ability to serve as many children and families as possible.

Part One of the Profiles in Adoption survey was recently published and confirmed what many in the adoption community were feeling- that adoption has changed a lot in the last 20 years. Key takeaways included:

- The cost of adoption has increased, most dramatically in private domestic adoptions where the average cost of the adoption process has doubled. More than half of families adopting privately or internationally viewed the cost of the adoption process as a barrier, even after completing the process.

- In the vast majority of private domestic adoptions (75% in fact) completed in the last decade, the adoptive family and the birth family maintain contact.
- While the number of Inter-country adoptions continue to decline, the percent of children with special needs adopted internationally has risen significantly in the past 15 years. In 2000 7.3% of inter-country adoptions were of children with special needs. In 2018 this percentage had increased to 79%.



- A large percentage of adoptees receive therapeutic services following the adoptive placement and/or had either an individualized education plan (IEP) or accommodations in school.
- Parents described the adoption process as challenging but rewarding. From the perspective of their lived experience, adoptive parents reported they would still make the same decision to adopt their child. In fact, adoption satisfaction rates were quite high across all types of adoption.

Source: NCFE Profiles in Adoption: A Survey of Adoptive Parents and Secondary Data Analysis of Federal Adoption File. Ryan Hanlon, PhD and Matthew Quade, PhD

Results from parts Two and Three of the study are coming soon and will address opportunities and challenges to meet the needs of adopted individuals and their families post adoption as well as a closer look at the demographic of today's adoptive parents. We look forward to sharing those findings with you soon.

Gift of Adoption remains committed to helping families address the financial piece of adoption by providing grants that cover the final fees, ensuring adoptions are completed and children come home. We thank you for being an essential partner in this work.

To learn more and read the full report scan the QR code below or visit: adoptioncouncil.org/research/profiles-in-adoption/.



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 Anjaly, Priyanka, and Aruna



Emily, Aruna, Anjaly, Priyanka, and Martin

Gift of Adoption family Martin and Emily of Lakewood, OH shared, "We always knew we would adopt. The need is there, and we are very blessed to live in a great country with many resources available to us." They adopted their first daughter,

Anjaly, from India in 2017 with the help of a Gift of Adoption grant. "We started the process knowing we did not have \$35,000 of our own money to spend on adoption. But we knew we could work hard and that there were grants from organizations like Gift of Adoption that we could apply for.

Two years after bringing Anjaly home, Martin and Emily felt it was time to grow their family. A second grant from Gift of Adoption helped them complete the adoption of Priyanka- also from India. Priyanka had been diagnosed with Dilated Cardiomyopathy, a very serious heart condition and had been living in an orphanage since she was 2 months old. Her caregivers did their best for her, but she did not have access to the medical care she needed. "Priyanka barely smiled for the first week that we had her. She only wanted Martin, and she was going through trauma. However, to see how well she is doing now is truly a blessing. She has bonded to both parents and is a very happy and silly girl. With medication and surgery, her health has greatly improved and her heart condition is now fully under control."

Amazingly, Emily and Martin decided to adopt a third time! And once again, Gift of Adoption was thrilled to partner with them, this time to bring home Aruna. Aruna also has special health needs, but Emily and Martin knew these could be addressed in Ohio and that Aruna could thrive- just as their other daughters have done. In 2021 Aruna came home from India.

Emily and Martin say, "Adoption is not easy. It is born out of brokenness. However, despite this truth, we are truly the "lucky" ones in this process. Raising children (biological or adopted) is such a blessing, despite its challenges. The gift of adoption is a win-win...parents experience the joy of raising children and children get a loving home and family!"

Because of Emily and Martin and the generous donors of Gift of Adoption Anjaly, Priyanka, and Aruna are no longer orphans. They are receiving the medical care they need to be healthy and strong and the education to become whatever they can imagine. They are beloved daughters and sisters, and nothing is more important than that.

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.

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