

I am an adopted person, an adoptive parent, and I am an adoptive licensed provider. I am also president of the Capital Region Chapter of the Gift of Adoption Fund (GOF). With that context of who I am, let me share a bit about what adoption has meant to me throughout my life.

I was born and raised in Maryland in a Black family, so racial interests were in my bones and I felt perfectly comfortable with the knowledge that I was adopted. My mother, Veronica, and my father, Willie, observed me with love, raised me in good schools, and instilled strong values in me. They instilled their love, and as a family we taught one another invaluable life lessons.

My life has been filled with exciting experiences and adventures to grow and thrive. These included the California in California, and Tampa, field training jobs in the Obama Administration and more. My first two children, Sam and Corina, were adopted. Several years later when our son, Seth, was born, it struck me that he was the first biological relative I had ever known. Soon after I contacted her and found my birth mother, Ann, who earned the first master's degree from Rutgers University, my alma mater. I had never met her, and worked only two hours a week my office in Washington, D.C. Unbelievably I later found my birth father, Bill, completely by accident via AncestryDNA. Both birth parents welcomed me into their lives, even though 30 years later I existed.

I have been incredibly fortunate in this life, in adoption and creation, so today I make space to give back to the adoption community in two meaningful ways.

First the "Who Am I Really?" podcast ([www.whoamireallypodcast.com](http://www.whoamireallypodcast.com)) - a platform for adopted people to share their stories of adoption and their attempts to locate their biological family members. After nearly 300 episodes I've learned so much about adoption that I didn't learn before this adventure started. It is clear that adoption is incredibly complex and at the same time I recognized I wouldn't be the man I am today without it.



Damon

I also lead the efforts of the Capital Region Chapter of GOF which is working to raise funds to support families seeking financial assistance to adopt. I appreciate the mission of GOF to give foster children in need the loving and nurturing to stay together, medically fragile children who require extra attention and care, and those about to age out of foster care with nowhere to go. It is my deepest hope that every child that we help to find a family finds its own full of love life story.

As volunteers, donors, and sponsors we give all that we can because we are driven to change someone else's life.



Damon, Seth & Michelle

The dedication to the children truly helps change the story of each child. I hope you will always remember, the children didn't ask to arrive in this world and they didn't request the circumstances of their lives. But by focusing on the children's needs we can all work together to launch every child into their best life possible.

Damon L. Davis is the author of "Who Am I Really?" - the Adoptive Moment", and award-winning host of the "Who Am I Really?" podcast. Damon lives in Silver Spring, MD with his wife Michelle, son Seth, and dog Fletcher.

Learn more about the fund by visiting the GOF web footer



Learn more about the podcast by visiting the GOF web footer



*Gift of Adoption provides adoption assistance grants to complete the adoption of vulnerable children - giving them a permanent family and the chance to thrive.*

A publication of the Gift of Adoption, Inc. (www.gofadoption.org) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Please give, donate, or sponsor who may be featured in this issue. Send comments and feedback to [press@goadoption.org](mailto:press@goadoption.org)