Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2022
January 1 - December 31, 2022

It’s Where You’re Going
Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to review the FY22 Annual Report, featuring 2-1/2-year-old Autyme on the cover. We chose this cover photo because undeterred by the Minnesota snow, Autyme was ready to take her bike out for a spin! So out she went.

We love this 'no time like the present' energy because we know that childhood is brief. And for the children we serve, the time for them to get to where they’re going is now.

To all of you: friends, supporters, partners, and volunteers who played a role in making the gift of adoption possible for Autyme and the 614 other children we served in FY22, we thank you.

As I reflect on my time with Gift of Adoption it has been an incredible journey. Since my first involvement in 2012 when we helped 128 children, to this year in which we are on track to reach 650 children, I have been amazed by the commitment to our mission. From the first grant Gift of Adoption awarded in 1996, that prevented 4-year-old Cristy from entering foster care, to the 5,000th child we’re reaching with a grant this year, our sole purpose continues to be awarding grants on a nondiscriminatory basis to complete the adoptions of children in vulnerable circumstances. It is our heritage, and the guidepost for the future.

Your generous support to Gift of Adoption is building a sustainable organization, recognized as “Exceptional” with the highest Four-Star rating by Charity Navigator, and with increased efficiencies and capacity to grow the number and value of grants awarded annually. With your support, $2,158,616 was awarded in grants last year, an increase of more than $300,000 compared to 2021.

So, with you, we celebrate the impact made since inception, with $15,000,000 awarded to unite 5,000 children with their families. Yet we remain focused on growing impact in the future, to address an increasing demand for GOA grants, marked by an increase of 77% in applications received each year since 2018, and a record number already received in this first quarter of 2023.

To scale impact, several initiatives are underway, thanks in large part to the directed donations that fund core operations from our 130 Investor Board and National Board members. We are seeing promising returns from the investment of volunteer and staff time and resources dedicated to developing mutually meaningful corporate partnerships and helping more community and family foundations fulfill their goals through the joining of children with families in their areas. The expansion and development of our chapter networks, now 27 chapters strong, is of tremendous value and importance, with 45% of annual revenues generated through volunteer leaders who are the face and heart of GOA. I am personally so grateful to serve this mission alongside these leaders.

In closing, we thank you for your belief in and support for the children we are privileged to serve. Your engagement made learning to ride a bike -- in the snow, on a quiet cul-de-sac, along with her twin brothers -- possible for Autyme. Reminding us that there is no telling what the gift of family will make possible for Autyme this year, or the next year or the next. But what we can know for sure is that, with their love and support, she is already well on her way.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

Andy Sandquist,
Gift of Adoption National Board President

Below: Autyme, adopted from U.S.A. in 2022 with her brothers (also adopted).

Cover: Autyme, 2 years old is following her twin brothers around their street. “Cycling, skiing, and other sports year-round are a big part of our family in Minnesota and she learned fast! The bike is a hand-me-down from brother Lee.”
Gift of Adoption provides grants to complete the adoptions of children in vulnerable circumstances—giving them permanent families and a chance to thrive.

Ivana, adopted from Bulgaria in 2022.

“Never did Ivana even dream she would swim with a dolphin. She said this felt like part of a fairy tale!”
Average Grant Amount
$4,352

Total amount of grant awards
$2,158,616

Number of children adopted
615

Above: Charlotte, adopted from India in 2022. “Loving life with her Mommy and new world.”
Below: Isabella, adopted from U.S.A. in 2022 smiling for her 9 month picture.

Above: Korlu, adopted from Liberia in 2022, at her first doctor appointment.
Below: Tristen, adopted from Jamaica in 2022 pictured during his first Christmas in America.

Types of adoptions facilitated
Domestic 70%
International 30%

Number of countries served by grants
36

U.S.A. 
Brazil 
Bulgaria 
Burundi 
Cameroon 
Colombia 
Costa Rica 
Dominican Republic 
Ecuador 
Ghana 
Grenada 
Haiti 
Honduras 
Hungary 
India 
Jamaica 
Kyrgyzstan 
Latvia 
Liberia 
Malawi 
Mexico 
Morocco 
Nigeria 
Pakistan 
Philippines 
Poland 
Samoa 
Sierra Leone 
South Africa 
South Korea 
Taiwan 
Thailand 
Togo 
Uganda 
Ukraine 
Vietnam
Grants that helped children with serious medical conditions

Grants that kept children from entering or aging out of foster care

Grants that prevented a child from aging out of an international orphanage

Grants uniting or preserving biological siblings in the same family

Below: Mariya, adopted from Bulgaria in 2022.

Above: Khloe, adopted from U.S.A in 2022, strawberry picking.
Below: Felipe, adopted from U.S.A in 2022 shown on the first day of school with his biological siblings, Alex and Isabelle (who were previously adopted).
THE GIFT OF ADOPTION NETWORK GREW TO 27 CHAPTERS WITH THE ADDITION OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN FISCAL YEAR 2022.

Admise, adopted from U.S.A. in 2022, pictured with family on a recent cruise.

Dawson, adopted from U.S.A. in 2022, pictured on a Biloxi vacation.
Through December 31, 2022, Gift of Adoption has awarded $14.5 million in grants to give 4,800 children permanent families.
In 2022, GOA created an advisory group of seasoned, front-line adoption practitioners across the country to help further the mission and convey insight into adoption trends. This group advised on using appropriate and child-centered language, responsibly sourcing and respectfully conveying family stories, and continues to give guidance on spreading awareness for the financial resources available. The advisory group has provided important insight to keep the organization appraised on the ever-changing needs in the adoption industry.

**ADOPTION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Charity Navigator is a foremost charity assessment organization that evaluates hundreds of thousands of US based charities and helps millions of people take action and support the causes they care about by connecting them to the best charities that align with their passions and values. Charity Navigator analyzes charity performance across four domains: Impact/Results, Financials/Accountability, Leadership/Adaptability and Culture/Community. Gift of Adoption received the highest rating in 2022, a four-star score for organizations that score 90/100 or above on the rating scale. While GOA had always enjoyed a three-star rating, hovering just slightly under the 90/100 threshold, this year’s four-stars reflects continued and consistent program growth and shows that GOA exceeds or meets best practices and industry standards.

**GIFT OF ADOPTION RECOGNIZED AS A FOUR-STAR CHARITY NAVIGATOR ORGANIZATION**

Charity Navigator is a foremost charity assessment organization that evaluates hundreds of thousands of US based charities and helps millions of people take action and support the causes they care about by connecting them to the best charities that align with their passions and values. Charity Navigator analyzes charity performance across four domains: Impact/Results, Financials/Accountability, Leadership/Adaptability and Culture/Community. Gift of Adoption received the highest rating in 2022, a four-star score for organizations that score 90/100 or above on the rating scale. While GOA had always enjoyed a three-star rating, hovering just slightly under the 90/100 threshold, this year’s four-stars reflects continued and consistent program growth and shows that GOA exceeds or meets best practices and industry standards.
CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INSTITUTE
ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARDS

CCAI’s Angels in Adoption® Leadership Program honors a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations making extraordinary contributions to adoption, permanency and the welfare of children. Last year, Adam Pfeil, President of the Texas Chapter was recognized as an honoree, and Ngozi Okarafor, past Illinois Chapter board member, as congressional nominee.

ADAM PFEIL

Adam is the volunteer president of Gift of Adoption’s Texas Chapter and has exponentially increased the number of children helped in Texas each year. Adam brings genuine passion to his work with Gift of Adoption, going out of his way to make meaningful connections with the children and families they serve. Gift of Adoption’s Texas Chapter was established in 2014, raising just $12,500 that inaugural year. Adam became the chapter’s president in 2016 and under his leadership the Gift of Adoption Texas Chapter has become one of the most active and successful nationwide. In 2022, the Chapter raised more than $100,000 with 100 percent of these funds going directly toward local adoption assistance grants.

NGOZI OKARAFOR

Ngozi was passionate about adoption and human rights and worked diligently in the service of others before her untimely death in 2021 at age 48. Ngozi served as a member of Gift of Adoption’s Illinois Chapter Board of Directors for 3 years where she worked to raise awareness and funds to complete the adoptions of vulnerable children into permanent, loving families in Illinois. Through her gifts of time, talent, and treasure, Ngozi proved herself a fierce advocate for children in need of families. She served as Chief Legal Counsel for the Illinois Department of Human Rights and was as the Director of Employment Actions for the Cook County Sheriff’s Office.

PAST ANGELS IN ADOPTION AWARD RECIPIENTS
NOMINATED BY GIFT OF ADOPTION

Jason Cipriani (NC)
Roberta Curtin (IL)
Gift of Adoption Florida Chapter (FL)
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Mindy Budzynski
David Conn
Tom Hand
David Jones
Eric Kudzinski
Mike Loparco

Laurie Powell
Loreen Spencer
Jeanne Tate
Gift of Adoption Fund (IL)
Steve Hayes (WI)
Deb Holtorf (WI)
Horizon Therapeutics (IL)
Sharon and Gerry Komlofske (IL)

Jeff Krygiel (WI)
Glen Mangold (IL)
Meg and Mike Revord (IL)
Rod Simons (MN)
Gary and Lana Stachlowski (OR)
Swett Foundation (TX)
Lucy and Gene Wyka (WI)
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Brad Cain
Alison Fly
Nadia Hudson
Jake Wallace
Melinda Wallace

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Vicki Hanson
Tiffany Hill
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Cynthia Ledbetter
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Alicia Ruttinger
Venkatanarayanan

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Bethany Neenan
Kori Novak
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Paige Molder
Matt Reinbold
Brian Rogers

METRO DC
Missy Britan
Christine Davis
Damon Davis
Damien Pinkett
Cynthia Quarterman
Shirelle Ripetta
Bill Williams

OHIO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS CELEBRATE A SUCCESSFUL TRIVIA EVENT.

COLORADO

CONNECTICUT

MATTHEW BROWN, CONNECTICUT CHAPTER BOARD MEMBER & GARY DITTRICH, FRIEND OF THE FUND, DURING THE 2022 DAWN TO DUSK GOLF MARATHON.

FLORIDA
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Mindy Budzynski
David Conn
Sharla Cook
Sean Dougherty
Travis Godwin
David Jones
Eric Kudzinski
Michael Loparco
Michael Malatin
Loreen Spencer
Damon Sununtnasuk
Jeanne Tate

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James Aycock
Katie English
Steven Fenes
Gayle Jones
David Koch
Robert Lime
Derek Miller
Mitchell Ray
Ireka Smith
Alex Ward

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Mary Kate Paris
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Michael Nowlin
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Jaqueline Porter
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Tom Murphy
Pam Simons
Lisa Vargas

For more information about volunteering or to see upcoming events, visit giftofadoption.org
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Craig Hurst
Marian Reineke
Michael Serpico
Cristy Skofield

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Paul Whitacre

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Natalie Hedman
Amanda Howard
Joseph Jakubek
Gary Stachlowski
Lana Stachlowski

MISSOURI Chapter Pickleball Tournament in 2022.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
David Barrette
Linda Boucher
Beth Gildea
Jim Goodrich
Lori Key
Jon Nicholas
Jennifer Smith

NEW HAMPSHIRE Chapter Board 2022 Golf Outing.

PENNSYLVANIA
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Ashlee Erny
Anjuli Gairola
Chris Myer
Elizabeth Smith
Rachel Wilkin

PENNSYLVANIA

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Adam Pfeil
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Chintan Shah
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TEXAS

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Miriam Brady
Sadiq Karmali
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Sierra Slade
Karl Wirsing

WASHINGTON

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Crystal Cox
Deb Holterf
Ben Banasik
Mike Bardsian
Steve Hayes
Cathy James
Jeff Krygier
Christine Lang
Lola Lawal
Elizabeth Prestine
Dawn Ripkey
Scott Ripkey
John Teevan
Amie Vetscher
Tim Vetscher
Alyce Whittow

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN Chapter Board 2022 Golf Outing.
INVESTOR BOARD

Gift of Adoption recognizes the donors who have funded our growth and core operations. Investor Board members donate $2,500 annually for three years to fund core operations.

Anonymous
Ann G. Airey
Andy and Janis Arno
Sol and Angela Bahng
Barrette Family Fund
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Loving Memory of
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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
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In Memoriam: Peter S. Gutrich

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Kimberly W. Bernard
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Mr. Sadiq Karmali and
Mrs. Salimah Karmali
Doug and Carol Kelly
Andrew P. Kerai, Sr.

Sarayu, adopted in 2022 from India, celebrates her first Halloween.

Jack, adopted in 2022 from Taiwan, on his first day of kindergarten!
**CORPORATE SPONSOR AND FOUNDATION GIFTS ($2,500+)**

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**Meet Autyme,** pictured on the front and inside cover. Autyme was born in 2020 to a birth mother who was unable to care for her. Autyme came to the home of David and Mary of Minnesota as a foster care placement. David and Mary had previously adopted Autyme's older biological twin brothers and, although Autyme's birth was a surprise, they were happy to welcome her into their home as well. When it became clear that reunification with her birth mother would not be possible, David and Mary began the process of adopting Autyme. As retirees, David and Mary do not have the income they once did and a third adoption was a serious financial strain. A grant from Gift of Adoption helped them complete Autyme's adoption in 2022, ensuring she will grow up in the same safe, loving, and permanent home with her older brothers. David and Mary say, "Autyme is very active, happy, and loves spending time with her brothers!"

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS ($2,500+)**

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100 Men Who Care Denver
LIFETIME GIVING
Gift of Adoption recognizes those whose support over the lifetime of the organization has helped 5 or more children come home. Thank You!

100+ CHILDREN
James and Judith Callan
The Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation
Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust
Lucy Wyka

50+ CHILDREN
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Mangone Foundation
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Meg and Mike Revord
Tim Swett and Suzanne Burke

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Renato and Gina Zanichelli
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Ms. Lauren Agostini
Mr. Michael Baughman
James Bauman and Candace Moore
Mr. Jason and Mr. Opie Blackwell
Ms. Linda Buczynski
Ms. Cheryl Chip
Charles and Diana Colman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Davidson
Mr. Robert L. Dougherty
Susan and Craig Fennema
Mr. Matthew N. Flesch
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Gardner
Andy, Mitch and Grace Gavlak
Scott and Deb Holtorf
Paul Inella
James Skinner Baking Company
The Janus Foundation
Chelsea and Chad Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Joines

Nicholas, adopted from U.S.A. in 2022.

Joe and Megan Jordan
Ms. Lynn C. Kochanek and
Mr. William Dorfman
Ms. Caroline Krider and
Mr. Paul Smith
Krygier/Daley Family
Cynthia Ledbetter
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lucchetti
Ms. Kristin Mariani
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Marsh
Oba McMillan
Marissa Myer
Nathan and Sidney Myer
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ockerlund
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Parkhill
Kurt and Brenda Ripkey
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Ripkey
Viki and Tom Rivkin
Ms. Michelle Notestine

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew B. Smith
Mr. Todd Valentine
Mr. Manish Wardekar
Alicia Gabriela Warren
Mr. Thomas Wheeland and
Mrs. Christine Wheeland
Mr. Austin Wiley
Ms. Heidi Winne
Ms. Janet Zieger

NATIONAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

National Board of Governors roster as of 12/31/2022. Officers listed below reflect Fiscal Year 2023 roles.

Andrea Armstrong
Michael Conway
Ekata Doshi
Greg Ewald
John Ferrie
Peter Grabell
Alison Gutterman
Todd Lovell
Glen Mangold
Corinne McClintic

Angela Montez, Secretary
Siddarth Nayar
Jeffrey Ramson
Meg Gibson Revord
Gregg Rusk
Andrew Sandquist, President
Kamesh Somanchi
Tom Southall, Vice President

Girish Srinivasan
Greg Stemler
Sanjay Thirumalai
John Tilson
Lloyd Van Dyke
Jim Vint
Susan Wenzel
Melissa Wichman
Carolyn Woznicki, Treasurer

EMERITUS
Joseph DiMario
Gary Stachlowski
Tim Swett

FOUNDERS
Gene Wyka
Lucy Wyka

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Pam Devereux

Alejandra and Johan, adopted from Colombia in 2022. “In Colombia reaching for the stars!”
Siblings, Meisha and Athena, adopted from U.S.A. in 2022.
“First time the girls ever got to cut their own Christmas tree.”