



NORTH SHORE EVENT RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT ADOPTION

Charity Gives Concerned People a Way to Help Orphans and Children in Foster Care

KENILWORTH, ILL – June 14, 2009 – On Saturday, June 13, over 200 guests from the North Shore of Chicago gathered at the home of Michael and Suzy Parks in Kenilworth, Ill to raise funds to put adoption in reach for 12 children in need of families. In the United States and across the world millions of children are growing up without the love and safety of a family. Gift of Adoption addresses this need by providing adoption grants to qualified families in the United States — giving children permanent homes and the chance to thrive.

WGN radio personality, Steve Cochran, himself an adoptee who believes strongly in the need for children to be in permanent families, was the evening's emcee. The Tweitmeyer family of Joliet, Ill told of the impact a GOA grant had on their ability to travel to Ethiopia in 2008 to bring their daughter Selah home and get her the life-saving care she desperately needed.

Guests danced under the tented driveway to the sounds of Rhythm City, playing the best of Motown, R&B, Soul, Funk and Disco dance music from the last millennium. Libations were donated by Diageo and Peapod, and centerpieces were donated by Edwards Florist in Winnetka. Other in-kind donations were provided by Paper Girl, Allegra Printing and Imaging, Think Design, Cushing and Color, Berglund Construction, and VOA Associates Inc.

Gift of Adoption is a national nonprofit that inspires adoption, both domestic and international, by providing financial grants of up to \$7,500 to qualified parents. Gift of Adoption was started in 1996 by a couple who wanted to help more children get adopted into loving families. Since then, the organization has grown through volunteer-led chapters that raise money to do just that. Gift of Adoption has helped more than 600 children find permanent homes, awarding over \$1.9 million in grants.

To date, the Illinois Chapter has awarded \$335,000 to facilitate the completion of more than 125 adoptions thanks to the generous support of so many in the North Shore and greater Chicagoland community.

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