



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release

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IOWA CHAPTER OF GIFT OF ADOPTION RECEIVES FIRST DONATION

AMES, Iowa (February 16, 2009) In celebration of their daughter Natalie's "Gotcha Day", Kay Marner presents a donation to Kris Peters, Emerging Chapter Leader of the newly formed Iowa Chapter of Gift of Adoption. Families celebrate the anniversary of their child's adoption, also known as a "Gotcha Day", in a variety of ways, but the Marners wanted to do something significant this year. Don and Kay Marner's gift, made in honor of the sixth anniversary of their daughter Natalie's adoption, kicks off the Iowa Chapter's fundraising work.

"We adopted Natalie from an orphanage in Russia when she was 2 1/2," Marner said. "She was malnourished and severely delayed in all areas of her development. The progress she's made since joining our family is amazing. We celebrate the anniversary of Natalie's adoption each year to honor her resilience and her one-of-a-kind, loving nature. Supporting Gift of Adoption--helping other families give children the chance to thrive--seemed like the perfect way to honor Natalie."

According to Peters, an adoptive mom herself, "There are 140 million children worldwide in need of a family. By starting a Gift of Adoption Chapter in Iowa, we hope to assist in bringing some of those children home to their forever families."

Did you know that Gift of Adoption:

- Puts adoption within reach of many families who could otherwise not afford adoptions by giving them financial assistance
- Has awarded more than 500 grants, representing more than \$1,700,000, since 1997
- Receives more than 50 applications for assistance with the adoption process each month from all over the United States
- Awards nearly eight grants of \$1,500 to \$7,500 each month

ABOUT GIFT OF ADOPTION

Gift of Adoption is a national charitable organization that inspires adoption by providing grants to qualified parents – giving children who need families a permanent home and a chance to thrive. They rely on the generous support of people who want their donations to help transform the life of a child. Founded in 1996, Gift of Adoption awards grants without regard to race, religion, age or marital status to provide the last funds needed to complete the adoption process.



Pictured: Kris Peters and Kay Marner