

DONOR STORY

Maximizing Impact with a Small Gift — **Gerald Komlofske, CEO of Networked Insights**

My wife and I have always focused our philanthropy on helping underserved children. We have supported many large organizations over the years which are tackling the problem of the 153 million orphans around the world. It was never satisfying though—with ongoing wars, disease, famine, drug addiction and more, no progress seems to be made.

Then we discovered adoption assistance as a philanthropic cause.

Adoption assistance nonprofits, like Gift of Adoption, provide the final funds needed to complete the adoption of a child. From that point on, the child's family, a private entity, is responsible for the education, medical needs, nutrition, etc. to effectively launch the child as a productive and contributing member of society. Adoption assistance grants are generally small, up to \$10,000, but have the power to completely transform a child's life for the better along with actually making a dent in the number of orphans in the world. Research estimates that it costs society \$300,000 per child exiting the foster care system in the U.S. without a family. That means a \$10,000 gift which makes sure that a child, perhaps born with drugs in their system, is adopted rather than entering foster care has a return of 30x.

For us, that large impact and the ability to permanently help one child at a time has transformed the way we think about philanthropy. When searching for nonprofits tackling other issues we care about, we always look for that level of impact even it means serving a small population.

