

The Background of the Fund

In the early 1990s, *Gene and Lucy Wyka* discovered how taxing and costly adoption could be. During the course of their three adoptions, they met people whose hopes and dreams of adding a child to their family were on the verge of collapsing under the weight of adoption costs. These parents would secure loans, take out second mortgages, and tap into retirement accounts – only to fall short of the fees required.

Spending four months in Peru awaiting approval to adopt their first son gave this family plenty of time for thought. They realized how fortunate they were that they could afford the time and cost involved in adopting.

The future founders of the Fund felt as nearly all adoptive parents feel; *“We are so blessed. How can we give back and help others who aren’t as fortunate?”*

By 1996, the Wyka’s went on to incorporate the *Gift of Adoption Fund*. The Fund does not cover the complete costs of an adoption, but grants of up to \$5,000 are awarded, as the final amount needed for a child to become part of a loving family.

Fundraising chapters throughout the country have been formed to further the Wyka’s dream to provide even more grants to those looking to start – or add – to their loving family.

Application Guidelines

The cost of submitting a grant application is \$20. This is a one time grant processing fee that allows you to submit your application up to three times.

The quickest and easiest way to apply is online at www.giftofadoption.org. This allows you to use your *Visa* or *Mastercard* to pay the grant application fee.

If you don’t have access to the internet or you prefer to pay the fee by check you can receive your application by calling us at **262.268.1386** or by sending your request for an application to:

Gift of Adoption Fund

101 E. Pier Street, 1st Floor

Port Washington, WI 53074

• For additional information, e-mail us at:

info@giftofadoption.org

The best time to apply is after you have attempted to secure additional resources for the adoption. This demonstrates your own commitment and resourcefulness to complete the adoption.

When completing an application, make sure you are thorough. Do not leave any sections blank. Tell us as much as you can about yourself and/or your family life. Feel free to use all the space you need – we are truly interested and care about getting to know you!

Grant Selection Criteria

1. Home Study Approval

Applicants must have a completed and approved home study by a qualified Agency or Professional licensed in the state in which they reside.

2. Financial Need

Applicants are evaluated based on their income, assets, debts, earning potential and other financial resource opportunities. It’s important to state as clearly as possible the circumstances that created the financial need and how the balance of the costs for adoption will be covered.

3. Hardship

Preference will be given to those applicants who are experiencing extraordinary hardship. Examples could include medical/special needs on the part of the child and/or situational hardship on the part of the parents or the child.



Visit our website, www.giftofadoption.org