

A Celebration of those
Committed Individuals
Making a Difference
in the Lives of
Children and Families

September 30, 2003 Washington, DC

THE 2003 CONGRESSIONAL

*Angels in
Adoption*™

AWARDS CELEBRATION

JAT 2003

*Each year, the Congressional
Coalition on Adoption Institute,*

CCAI, invites Members of Congress to recognize those individuals who have made a difference in the lives of children and families through adoption by giving them the *Congressional Angels in Adoption™* Award.

CCAI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of foster children in this country and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes; and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic need of a family.

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<i>Welcome</i>	Tom Jarriel ABCNEWS Anchor, 20/20 Correspondent
<i>Message from the Director</i>	Kerry Marks Hasenbalg Executive Director, CCAI
<i>Message from Event Sponsor</i>	Maxine B. Baker President and CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation, Founding & Premier Sponsor
<i>Musical Performance God Bless America</i>	Nicole Yonkosky 2001 <i>Angel in Adoption</i> TM Award Recipient
<i>Invocation</i>	Barry Black Chaplain of the United States Senate
<i>Presentation of National Angels in AdoptionTM Award to Muhammad and Lonnie Ali</i>	Congressman Jim Oberstar and Congressman Dave Camp
<i>Presentation of National Angels in AdoptionTM Award to Bruce Willis</i>	Senator Larry Craig and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
<i>Special Musical Performance</i>	Steven Curtis Chapman Recording Artist
<i>2003 Angels in AdoptionTM Recognition</i>	House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Senate Minority Whip Harry Reid
<i>Recognition of Congressional Members</i>	Tom Jarriel
<i>Musical Performance Sweet Away</i>	Geoff Moore Recording Artist
<i>Video Presentation</i>	Paul Singer CIO & Senior Vice President Target Corporation, Premier Sponsor
<i>Guardian Angels Recognition</i>	Senator Mary Landrieu and Victoria Rowell, actress
<i>Musical Performance When Love Takes You In</i>	Steven Curtis Chapman
<i>Closing</i>	Tom Jarriel

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Our Board of Directors
For Their Ongoing Dedication, Support and Encouragement

The Chetta Family
Steven Curtis Chapman
Geoff Moore
Nicole Yonkosky

For Their Musical Performances

Tom Jarriel
For Serving as Master of Ceremonies

Doug Patt
For His Original Artwork

All of the Children Who Lovingly Created and Donated
Beautiful Artwork for the Art Exhibit

McLane Layton
Joe Vasaopoli

For Their Time and Support

And to:
AdoptUSKids
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And to:
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John Nickles
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THE 2003 CONGRESSIONAL
*Angels in Adoption*TM
 AWARDS CELEBRATION

Letter from the Director	
Kerry Marks Hasenbalg	1
History and Programs of CCAI	2
Leadership of CCAI	4
Distinguished Guests	
Steven Curtis Chapman	6
Tom Jarriel	6
Geoff Moore	6
Victoria Rowell	7
Nicole Yonkosky	7
National <i>Angel in Adoption</i> TM Awardees	
Muhammad and Lonnie Ali	8
Bruce Willis	9
2003 Congressional <i>Angel in Adoption</i> TM Awardees	
Alabama	
LaGretta Ratliff	10
Philip and Gina Richards	10
Arizona	
Joanne Karolzak	10
Peter and Pat Likens	11
David and Diana Lucas.....	11
Lance and Barb Trella.....	11
Arkansas	
Lisenne Rockefeller	12
Jan Scholl	12
California	
Jesse and Linda Barela	12
Cecil and Pamela Ellis	13
Audrey Foster	13
Reverend Paul and Linda Hoyt	13
Karen Lane	13
Susan Lobo.....	14
Dave and Debbe Magnusen.....	14
Dr. David Sanders	14

	Shasta County Adoptions Program	14
	Ed and Judy Shrader	14
	Sierra Adoptions Services	15
	Karen Ullman	15
Colorado	Kim Matsunaga	15
	Joshua and Lily Nie	15
Connecticut	Anthony and Jacquelyn Barrows	16
	Angel Torres	16
District of Columbia	Linda Clausen	16
Florida	Susana Huaman Dragosavac	17
	Family Services of Central Florida	17
	Foster Children’s Project Legal Aid Society of PBC, Inc.	17
	A.J. and Susan Fremer	18
	Marilys Llanos	18
	Bill and Patricia Manning	18
	James and Betsy Seifert	18
Georgia	Truett Cathy	19
	Amanda Davis	19
	James Outman	19
	Joe Woods	19
Hawaii	Steven and Renee Saito	20
Idaho	Meri Brennan	20
	Jay and Sally Hildebrandt	20
	John and Denise Martin	20
Illinois	Adoption Information Center of Illinois	21
	Dan and Lynn Dempsey	21
	Ben and Sherna Jennings	21
	Sherri Nestmann	21
	Cyndie Norton	21
	Gary and Marla Ringger	22
Indiana	Loving Shepherd International	22
	Owino Wodomony and Dalia Owino	22
	James and Verdell Releford	22
Iowa	Dr. Rebecca Brandt	23
	Ken and Char Kuhns	23
	Terri and Bruce Lippert	23
Kansas	Allan Hazlett	24
	Chuck and Ann Vanasse	24
Kentucky	James and Judith Green	24
	Saint Joseph Children’s Home	25
Louisiana	Pam Bolke	25
	Louise Bourne	25
	Karen Caldwell	26
	Beverly Lewis	26
Maine	Jennifer Sylvester	26
Maryland	Kim and Carol Cormany	26
	Barbara Ann Dorsey	27
	Susan Faro	27
	Mark McDermott	27
Massachusetts	Loretta Cahill in memoriam	27
	Nancy Hendrie	27

	Margaret O’Grady	28
	Craig and Jane Pixley	28
	Robert and Shirley Siff	45
	Carolyn Smith	45
	Kathleen Teahan	45
Michigan	Charlie and Jerry Brown	45
	Jaclyn Hope Champnella	46
	Linda Cromartie	46
	Sandra Jones	46
	Kevin and Mary Julien	46
	Steven and Constance Nitsch	47
	Paul and Sherry Petroelje	47
	Alan and Kristine Yeadon	47
Minnesota	Becky and Gladys Abbott	48
	Susan Freivalds	48
	Larry and Arlyce Morrell	48
	North American Council on Adoptable Children	48
	Brad and Sandy Powers	49
Mississippi	Nancy and Drew McDowell	49
Missouri	George and Cyrilla Bender	49
	Joan Bystrom	49
	Dean and Sheila Dutton	50
	Randy and Linda Koenig	50
	Laurie Murphy	50
Montana	Claire and Patty Walker	50
Nebraska	Dr. Edward and Sandy Kolb	51
	Patrick and Patrice Lappert	51
	Patrick and Cindi Seitz	51
	Eugene and Cindy Ulmer	51
Nevada	Letha Davies	52
	Steve and Kayleen Fotheringham	52
	Renee Phillips	52
New Jersey	Eileen Crummy	53
	Janet Farrand	53
	Pamela Hasegawa	53
	Monsignor James J. McGovern	53
	Debra Supnick	54
New Mexico	Frank and Donna Payne	54
	Ken and Fran Sullivan	54
New York	Rose Marie Battisti - Bruce	55
	Karen Eckert	55
	Family Focus Adoption Services	55
	New Directions Youth and Family Services	56
	Thomasena Newton	56
	Dr. Natasha Shaginian	56
	Sloane Jaclyn Tabisel	56
	Margaret Tomasicchio	57
North Carolina	Raymond and Debbie Abrams	57
	Harriet McCarthy	57
North Dakota	Loralei Klitzke	57
Ohio	Arden and Diana Brooks	58
	Kevin and Wendy Hoodlebrink	58
	Dorothy Klemm	58

	Rita Soronen.....	59
Oklahoma	Amy Eldridge.....	59
	David and Kathy Frost.....	59
	Tom and Jennifer Rudolph.....	60
Oregon	Susan Cox.....	60
	Franklin Hunsaker.....	60
	Portland Metro Korean Lions Club.....	61
	Deborah Radcliffe.....	61
Pennsylvania	Jeffrey and Lydia Buck.....	61
	Maxine Chalker.....	61
	Susann Hoke.....	62
	Marjorie McKeone.....	62
	Myron and Sally Stoltzfus.....	62
	Kelley Strieb.....	62
	Three Rivers Adoption Council.....	62
	Hanna D. Wallace.....	63
Rhode Island	Chris Cotatgis.....	63
South Carolina	Hal and Diana Stevenson.....	63
South Dakota	Harold and Sharon Holder.....	64
	Jeff and Dori Nelson.....	64
Tennessee	Dr. Paul Heil.....	64
	Davis and Sherry Lundy.....	64
	Claude and Bernadette Whatley.....	65
	Pamela Wolf.....	65
Texas	Jean Boyd.....	65
	Barry and D'Wanna Finkel.....	65
	Suzanne Faske and Karen Hall.....	66
	Anna James.....	66
	Dorothy Le Pere.....	66
	Lutheran Social Services of the South.....	66
	Rodney and Renee Nolen.....	67
	Judge Peter Sakai.....	67
	Snow Wu.....	67
Utah	Christena Christensen.....	68
Vermont	Diane Dexter.....	68
Virginia	Bethany Christian Services of Fredericksburg.....	68
	Bethany Christian Services of Hampton Roads.....	68
	Chris and Christy Craig.....	68
	Ronald Federici.....	69
	Mara Kamen.....	69
	Dr. Patrick Mason.....	69
West Virginia	Mildred Mairs.....	70
Wisconsin	Mark and Faith Richter KuFahl.....	70
Wyoming	Carol Burman Lindly.....	70
	Past <i>Angel in Adoption</i> ™ Award Recepients (1999-2002).....	71
	Song Lyrics from Tonight's Performances.....	78
	Song Lyrics from Tonight's Performances.....	80

Letter from the Director

Welcome everyone to the fifth annual *Angels in Adoption*™ awards celebration. CCAI is honored to be joining members of the United States Congress and other distinguished guests in celebrating this year's *Angel* award recipients, the "unsung heroes" for our world's most vulnerable children.

The *Angels in Adoption*™ banquet is the culmination of a year-long public awareness campaign organized to raise congressional and civic awareness about the needs of U.S. foster children and orphans worldwide. Each year, CCAI invites all members of the United States Congress to select individuals from their home states to receive this award. Since the program's inception in 1999, members of Congress have awarded nearly 600 congressional *Angels in Adoption*™ from all 50 states. Tonight, congressional representatives, corporate executives, adoptive and foster parents, adoptees, birth parents, government officials, and child welfare professionals, have all come together to celebrate those making permanent, loving, and safe homes possible for fragile children. I am amazed by the personal stories of dedication, perseverance, and compassion detailed in each of the 2003 *Angel* stories and am pleased to recognize and honor this year's 160 congressional *Angels in Adoption*™ and the national award recipients, Bruce Willis and Muhammad and Lonnie Ali.

CCAI's commitment to developing and maintaining successful partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental organizations has been effective and rewarding. Throughout the year, our office has worked closely with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration, the U.S. Department of State, and the White House to assist children and families in addressing various adoption challenges in Vietnam, China, Guatemala, Cambodia, Liberia, Romania, and here at home.

We are committed to focusing attention on the needs of the 550,000 foster children in this country, and specifically the 134,000 of them waiting for adoptive homes. CCAI has successfully partnered with a number of other national organizations to raise awareness about the needs of foster children, namely through programs such as *National Adoption Day*, which is a day in November organized to encourage the adoption of waiting foster children and to celebrate all adoptive families and the *Congressional Foster Youth Internship Program*, which provides former foster youths an opportunity to intern in congressional offices. We are honored to have the eight Congressional Foster Youth Interns here celebrating with us tonight. The interns' work performance in each of the offices was outstanding,

with two intern's work leading to permanent positions.

Working in collaboration with the more than 170 members of Congress who make up the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, CCAI serves as an educational resource to policymakers as they seek to draft positive foster care and adoption-related legislation and to meet their constituent's needs. To that end, we organize congressional briefings, meetings, and receptions on Capitol Hill to provide congressional representatives with relevant materials, resources, and statistics. CCAI is a bi-partisan organization; and as a result, does not endorse particular legislation.

Through our international program, CCAI facilitates ongoing communication, adoption education, and fact-finding trips between government entities on an international scale. We often host foreign dignitaries in Washington, DC and organize meetings on Capitol Hill. In 2002, CCAI organized a congressional delegation trip to the People's Republic of China; a trip which included a lengthy meeting with President Jiang Zemin. In April 2003, CCAI organized a second congressional trip to Romania and Russia, led by Senator Mary Landrieu and Senator Larry Craig. In Romania, the delegation was greeted by President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Adrian Nastase. In all three locations, the delegations met with legislative leaders and major ministries to discuss child welfare policies and practice; in addition, the delegates visited orphanages and other child welfare institutions. While in Romania, the delegation was particularly touched by the children they visited, many of them with special needs and infected with HIV/AIDS. I am pleased that we have been joined tonight by a number of foreign representatives from Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe who are responsible for the well-being of orphaned children. On behalf of CCAI, I would like to thank them for their care and work for these children.

In addition, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the CCAI staff for their work and dedication, and for helping make the *Angels in Adoption* awards celebration a success. To the CCAI board of directors, thank you for your support and devotion to the goals and mission of CCAI. Thanks to all our sponsors, particularly the Freddie Mac Foundation and Target Corporation, for supporting our programs and showing your commitment to eliminating the barriers that hinder children from finding the families they so desire and deserve.

Enjoy your evening!

Kerry Marks Hasenbalg
Executive Director, CCAI

History

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) was created in 1985 as a bicameral, bipartisan alliance of Members of Congress dedicated to improving adoption policy and practice, and to focusing public attention on the advantages of adoption. Since its inception, the CCA has grown to over 170 Members of Congress.

In order to support the good work of CCA, and to more effectively raise congressional and public awareness about the issue of adoption, CCA's acting co-chairs created the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) in 2001. Senator Larry Craig, Senator Mary Landrieu, Congressman James Oberstar, and Congressman Dave Camp currently serve as both the co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption and the congressional directors of CCAI.

To that end, CCAI serves as an informational and educational resource to policymakers as they seek to draft positive adoption, foster care and other adoption-related legislation and to meet their constituents' needs. By organizing congressional briefings, leadership training programs, and educational trips, CCAI educates Members of Congress and their staff about current domestic and international adoption-related matters.

In addition, CCAI hosts several public awareness events each year to give an opportunity to all Members of the United States Congress and other public leaders to use their powerful voices to improve the lives of our most vulnerable children, and to recognize outstanding individuals who have done the same.

Programs

The Congressional Resource Program incorporates many of the ongoing activities of CCAI and serves as an informational and educational source to policymakers. Through both direct service and referral, CCAI assists Members of Congress as they seek to draft positive foster care and adoption-related legislation and to meet their constituents' needs. To that end, CCAI regularly organizes congressional briefings, meetings, and roundtables on Capitol Hill to provide members of Congress and their staff with relevant materials, resources, and up-to-date statistics on domestic and international adoption and foster care-related issues.

The Congressional Foster Youth Internship Program (FYI) provides former foster youths, who are enrolled in college or graduate school, an opportunity to intern in congressional offices for the summer. The FYI PROGRAM raises awareness about the 550,000 children in foster care, and specifically the 131,000 currently available for adoption, by bringing Members of Congress in direct contact with those who have experiential knowledge of the system.

The Angels in Adoption™ Program, CCAI's signature public awareness program, raises congressional awareness about the thousands of foster children in this country, and the millions of children around the world in need of permanent homes by providing an opportunity to members of Congress to recognize and honor the good work of their constituents who have enriched the lives of children through adoption. The *Angels in Adoption Awards Gala* boasts the most congressional support of any child welfare event in the nation and is the only program that allows members of Congress to take an active role in selecting a constituent of their choice as an award recipient.

The CCAI International Program facilitates ongoing communication, adoption education, and fact-finding trips between government entities on an international scale. This program strives to increase positive dialogue with foreign officials and U.S. government officials involved in adoption policy and practice. CCAI assists governmental and nongovernmental organizations who are hosting foreign dignitaries in Washington, DC by organizing meetings on Capitol Hill on adoption-related matters. In 2002, CCAI organized a congressional delegation trip to the People's Republic of China. The visit included a lengthy meeting with President Jiang Zemin. In April of 2003, CCAI organized its 2003 congressional trip to Romania and Russia, led by Senator Larry Craig and Senator Mary Landrieu, which included meetings with President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Adrian Nastase. Both trips positively impacted international relations in regard to adoption and child welfare issues

National Adoption Day is organized by eight national organizations, and CCAI is proud to be a founding partner of this program. On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, in courtrooms across the country, lawyers, social workers, officials, parents, and children come together to finalize adoptions out of foster care, and celebrate all adoptive families. In addition, national celebrations and press conferences are organized to raise public awareness of the 131,000 children available for adoption out of the U.S. foster care system. CCAI played an important part in NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY by garnering the support of the White House and Congress. In a special Presidential Proclamation, President George W. Bush declared November as National Adoption Awareness Month, and recognized National Adoption Day.

Leadership of CCAI

Senator Larry E Craig

Idaho, Republican

Senator Larry Craig became an adoption advocate as well as a father when he adopted his wife Suzanne's children by a previous marriage. He has had a hand in nearly every adoption-related initiative that has moved in the U.S. Senate in more than a decade, including serving as the principal sponsor of the adoption tax credit and a leader in foster care reform. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, he helps to oversee child welfare funding and program issues.

Senator Mary L. Landrieu

Louisiana, Democrat

Senator Landrieu is an adoptive parent to two children Connor (11) and Mary Shannon (6). Her husband, Frank, was an adoptee himself. Senator Landrieu has been a leader in the passage of: the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Hope for Children Act (Adoption Tax Credit), the Strengthening the Abuse and Neglect Courts Act, The Intercountry Adoption Act, the D.C. Family Courts Act, and the Child Citizenship Act. She is a member of the Appropriations Committee where she serves on the Subcommittee for Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education and the Subcommittee of Foreign Operations.

Congressman Dave Camp

Michigan, Republican

As an attorney in private practice before his first election, Congressman Dave Camp worked extensively with parents and children in the foster care system. Since he has been in office, he has had a direct influence on persuading the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to revisit its decision to reverse a longstanding policy that affected adoption of children with special needs. The agency's policy shift prohibited certain children with special needs from qualifying for adoption assistance payments if their mothers had voluntarily relinquished them to private agencies. He worked on the Intercountry Adoption Act, introduced the Indian and Alaska Native Foster Care and Adoption Services Amendment last year and worked on the Hope for Children Act. Congressman Camp is also a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Congressman James L. Oberstar

Minnesota, Democrat

As an adoptive parent and advocate, Congressman Jim Oberstar has been a long-standing leader in adoption. As one of the founding Co-Chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, Congressman Oberstar has championed numerous adoption initiatives including the expansion of the adoption tax credit and leave equity for adoptive parents. Congressman Oberstar is the Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Maxine B. Baker

The Freddie Mac Foundation

Maxine B. Baker is the President and CEO of the Freddie Mac Foundation and a founding member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. The Freddie Mac Foundation invests in innovative programs that serve children in foster care. Under Maxine's leadership, the Foundation has increased public awareness of the issue of permanency for children. Maxine has helped bring national attention to adoption through the *Angels in Adoption*TM program, National Adoption Day, Wednesday's Child and other initiatives. Maxine is the adoptive mother of two children.

Paul Singer

Target Corporation

Paul Singer is the Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President of the Target Corporation. Under his leadership, the Target Adoption Network was created; the network is an internal organization which facilitates Targets' involvement in the issue of adoption. Their involvement includes supporting adoption related initiatives such as National Adoption Day, the Congressional *Angels in Adoption*TM event and Minnesota-based child welfare agencies. He has overseen the addition of adoption to the gift registry at all Target stores. In April, he traveled with CCAI as part of the delegation to Russia and Romania. He and his wife, Teri, have two biological daughters, Rachel and Lisa and an adopted daughter from Russia named Angela.

Rita Soronen

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

As Executive Director of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Rita Soronen is working to carry on the late Dave Thomas' extraordinary commitment to encouraging adoption and making the process easier. She also serves on the Adoption Advisory Committee of the Child Welfare League of America; the Board of Trustees at the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, where she serves on the Public Education Committee and the National Standards Implementation Committee; and the Board of Trustees of CASA of Franklin County. Prior to accepting her current position at the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Ms. Soronen served as the Executive Director of CASA for Franklin County.

Valdur Koha

Valdur Koha and his wife, Irene, are the proud parents of five sons: David, 21; Tobias, 19; and triplets Michael, Christian and Benjamin, 16. Last year, they adopted their daughter, Nicoleta, from Romania at the age of 13. Valdur is a philanthropist from Lexington, Massachusetts and supports many charities from around the world. Three years ago, he began supporting the work of Hope Worldwide, New England; an organization working in Romania that provides a group home for older orphans and a maternal home for pregnant women who need support in order to care for their children. It is from this group home in Romania that the Koha's adopted their daughter, Nicoleta. Valdur is the Senior Vice President of Openwave, the largest internet software company in the nation.

Barbara Walzer

Barbara Walzer is a compassionate philanthropist and long-time champion for children. Barbara's commitment to children in need began early in life as her beloved mother and aunt grew up in an orphanage due to personal and economic hardships. Barbara deeply shares the mission of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and in honor of her mother, she made the first donation to CCAI. In 2000, she founded Harmonious Endeavors, a non-profit organization committed to sharing the gift of music to underprivileged children. Barbara takes special interest in the Congressional Foster Youth Internship (FYI) program and graciously opened her beautiful nineteenth century home to host the 2003 participants of the internship program for their weekend retreat.

Kerry Marks Hasenbalg

CCAI

Kerry Hasenbalg is a co-founder and current Executive Director of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, CCAI. Kerry began her work with vulnerable children while in Russia working as an interpreter with several human rights and faith-based organizations. After returning to the States, Kerry began assisting families in adopting orphans from around the world. In November of 1999, she became the first "fellow" for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, an official caucus of the United States Congress, which is comprised of over 170 members of Congress dedicated to affecting positive change for foster children and orphans. While on Capitol Hill, Kerry volunteered as a court appointed special advocate (CASA) to represent U.S foster children in court. In May of 2001, with the help of CCAI co-founders and current board members, Senator Mary Landrieu, Congressman Jim Oberstar, Senator Larry Craig, Maxine B. Baker, and Barbara Walzer, Kerry began the work of CCAI. Under Kerry's leadership, CCAI has received awards from the Korean American Adoptee Family Network (KAAN), Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS), the Orphan Foundation of America (OFA), and the Adoptive Parents Committee, Inc.

Advisory Committee Members

Tami Catania
Steven Curtis Chapman
Chip Gardiner
Dave Malutinok
Renette Oklewicz
Deirdre Onizuk
Janice Payton
Brooke Roberts
Kathleen Strotzman

Distinguished Guests

Steven Curtis Chapman

Steven Curtis Chapman is the recipient of four Grammy awards, has sold more than seven million albums, has had thirty-seven number one singles, and has been awarded an unprecedented number of Dove awards (Christian music's Grammy awards).

Steven and his wife, Mary Beth, have three biological children: Caleb, Will Franklin, and Emily. In March of 2000, Steven Curtis and Mary Beth adopted Shaohannah, from China. Upon returning from China, the Chapmans were deeply touched by their experience and began talking to their friends and family about opening their homes and hearts to adoption. In 2001, they returned to China to assist Mary Beth's brother and sister-in-law as they, themselves, adopted a daughter from China. Then in 2003, the Chapmans adopted another little daughter, Stevey Joy Rou, from China.

In November of 2001, the Congressional Directors of CCAI had the distinct honor of awarding Steven Curtis and Mary Beth the National *Angel in Adoption*™ Award at the National Adoption Month press conference on Capitol Hill.

Steven and Mary Beth have become true advocates for adoption. They created a foundation called Shaohannah's Hope. According to Steven, "Shaohannah's Hope is a fund to help aid families who want to adopt and have a place at their table and place in their heart, but don't have a place in their bank account for it." In less than a year, financial grants have been awarded to families for children from China, Russia, Romania, Guatemala, India, Korea as well as thousands in the United States. Over 700 families have applied for adoption aid, while more than 20 families have already received financial aid and resources to complete their own adoptions and 130 families are currently in process to receive the aid.

In December of 2002, Steven performed his song "When Love Takes You In" on CBS' special "A Home For The Holidays," an annual broadcast celebrating the joys of adoption.

Tom Jarriel

Tom Jarriel joined ABCNEWS' 20/20 as a correspondent in 1979. He served as an anchor for ABCNEWS' *The Weekend Report* and *ABC News Brief* on Sunday evenings through 1990. Tom has provided investigative reporting in numerous countries where human rights violations were rampant, particularly those involving severely abused and traumatized children. Some of the locations he reported from include Eastern Europe, Africa, and South East Asia.

Throughout his illustrious career, the plight of lost and homeless children has always been of special interest to Mr. Jarriel. His passion for children languishing in Romanian orphanages began after his initial story, "Romania, Shame of a Nation." Tom was the first "outside" person ever permitted in Romanian orphanages. The experience touched him so deeply that he returned to Romania on two subsequent occasions for additional broadcast presentations. As a result of Mr. Jarriel's work, more than seventeen countries offered international aide and support to Romania; his work also helped shed light on the desperate need of orphans worldwide to find safe homes and loving families. One of his most profound stories was investigating the circumstances of the orphaned children in Mozambique who were traumatized from losing their families to the rebel movement.

Mr. Jarriel has received national distinction for his coverage of the civil rights movement in the South and is the recipient of 10 Emmy Awards. He and his wife, Joan, have three sons.

Geoff Moore

After 'retiring' his band, "The Distance," in 1998, Geoff Moore faced many unknowns in his professional and personal life. The experiences involved with pursuing a solo music career, adopting daughter Anna Grace, having his 40th birthday, and the events of September 11,th 2001, all provided major milestones and major changes for Geoff. These influences were key as the lyric-writing process began on his latest release, *A Beautiful Sound*.

One of the most beautiful sounds in Geoff's life are the sweet voices of his daughters, Anna Grace and

Ashley Rose, who were adopted from China. Although their daughters spent formative years in Chinese orphanages, Geoff, and his wife, Jan know that God surrounded them with love from the beginning. Several of Geoff's songs on *A Beautiful Sound* were written about his first adopted daughter, Anna Grace, and their adoption experience. "Swept Away," is about how much Geoff and his family love and care for Anna and the song "Surrounded," came out of his adoption experience.

While Geoff continues to tour, he is also found playing at youth conferences and leading worship at singles conferences. He also does fly-in dates—sometimes with just a guitar and other times with a full band. Geoff continues to write and sing outside his own projects. His songs appear on such compilation projects as ForeFront Records' "The Prayer of Jabez" and "Secrets of the Vine." And, Geoff's song "Overflow" was Youth for Christ's DC/LA 2000 theme song.

"One thing I have been learning is that beauty is found in those things that, at the end of the day, bring us closer or remind us of Jesus' love... It took a little girl all the way from China to remind us that we can all be adopted by a Father who will always be there."

Victoria Rowell

Victoria Rowell landed the role of Drucilla Winters on the "Young and the Restless" in 1990. During her eight-year run on the daytime drama, she was honored with a Soap Opera Digest Award for Outstanding Actress, a nomination for a Soap Opera Digest Award for Hottest Female Star as well as winning seven NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series. She has appeared in many films such as "The Distinguished Gentleman" with Eddie Murphy, "Dumb and Dumber" with Jim Carrey and "Eve's Bayou," starring Samuel L. Jackson and Diahann Carroll.

In her role as pathologist and county medical examiner Dr. Amanda Bentley on the Viacom/CBS series "Diagnosis Murder," Rowell co-starred with the legendary Dick Van Dyke for eight seasons. She was also invited to write for the series, and was recognized by the Los Angeles Times for her literary contribution to the show. Also, while on "Diagnosis Murder," Rowell opened the doors for Los Angeles foster youth to be employed by Viacom as production assistants.

Having spent eighteen years in foster care, Rowell became a passionate voice for children like herself. In 1990, she founded the Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan, which enriches foster children through artistic and athletic expression. In addition to facilitating job opportunities with Viacom television productions, she assisted youths in getting jobs with other companies, including BMG and Oxygen.

Rowell is an active contributor and or supporter of Americans for the Arts, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, American Ballet Theater, School of American Ballet, the Urban League, the NAACP, the Administration of Children's Services, NYC, New Yorkers for Children, the Alliance for Children's Rights, the Children's Defense Fund, Hope WorldWide and the Department of Children and Family Services in various states.

For the past three years, Rowell has been the national spokesperson for Casey Family Services — an arm of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In part, United Parcel Service visionary, Jim Casey, founded the foundation.

Nicole Yonkosky

Nicole's passion for adoption advocacy was borne out of personal experience. She and her sister, Miriah, lived in several foster homes before being adopted when they were five-years-old and two-years-old. With the care and encouragement they received in their new home, the girls blossomed. The Yonkoskys helped their daughters find their natural gifts, and encouraged Nicole to cultivate her gift of singing. As her confidence grew and her skills improved, she soon began singing the *Star Spangled Banner* at local hockey games and at other community functions. One of the most exciting highlights of her young career is performing for President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. Nicole was a finalist in the Loretta Lynn contest in Nashville, TN and has preformed at several fairs and festivals; she plans to release her first single this fall.

In addition to being a talented performer, Nicole is a strong advocate for adoption and participates in adoption programs throughout her home state of West Virginia. Some of the programs in which she has participated include the filming of *One Church, One Child*, which promotes adoption throughout West Virginia and will be released this month; attending the West Virginia Bureau of Health and Human Resources' annual conference regarding foster care and state adoption issues; and a solo performance portraying Rosa Parks at the National Human Rights Commission Conference in Charleston, WV.

2003 NATIONAL *Angel in Adoption*TM *Awardees*

Muhammad and Lonnie Ali

Muhammad Ali is a three-time world heavyweight boxing champion and an adoptive parent. He and his wife, Lonnie, adopted their infant son domestically. Today, championing the causes of the developing world has become a major focus of Muhammad's life. He has been instrumental in providing over 232 million meals to the world's hungry. Traveling across continents, he has hand-delivered food and medical supplies to such needy sites as the Harapan Kita Hospital for Children in Jakarta, Indonesia; the street children of Morocco; and Sister Beltran's orphanage for Liberian refugees in the Ivory Coast, to name just a few.

In addition to his international efforts, Muhammad is equally devoted to helping charities at home. He has visited countless numbers of soup kitchens and hospitals, and has helped such organizations as the Chicago-based adoption agency, The Cradle; the Make-A-Wish-Foundation; Best Buddies, a Special Olympics organization; Herbert E. Birch Services, an organization that runs a school for children and young adults with handicaps and a summer camp for children infected with AIDS. In 2000, Muhammad helped Dave Thomas roll out the United States postage stamp created to promote and celebrate adoption. Together, with his wife, Lonnie, they participated in the CBS *Home for the Holidays* television special produced to raise awareness about the United States foster children waiting to be adopted.

Lonnie is also actively involved in charitable endeavors including being an advocate for children's rights and Parkinson research. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for "The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research" and is a member of the Board of Directors for "Lake Michigan College" in southwest Michigan. In addition, she serves as Vice-Chair on the Operating Board of Directors at the "Muhammad Ali Center," where she is assisting her husband in building the "Muhammad Ali Museum and Education Center" in Louisville, Kentucky. The Center's mission is to bring tolerance and understanding among different people, communities, and nations.

Bruce Willis

Bruce Willis is the father of three beautiful daughters and a lifelong advocate for children. His commitment to children prompted, President George W. Bush to name Mr. Willis as the National spokesman on Foster Care and Adoption. He uses his celebrity status to reach out to the private and public sectors to seek support and solution for the over 500,000 children in the United States foster care system. Together, with First Lady Laura Bush, Bruce rolled-out the AdoptUsKids website which highlights children in the foster care system available for adoption. To further advocate for the adoption of children out of the foster care system, he created and distributed three public service announcements that feature Jamie Foxx and the stars *Charlie's Angels*, Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, and Lucy Liu. In addition to the financial resources he has given to the creation and distribution of the PSAs, he also donated a state-of-the-art recording studio to a group of youth who touched his heart with their program; The Hip Hop Project at Art-Start, an organization in New York that works to empower "at risk" urban youth by giving them a way to creatively express themselves.

Bruce insisted that the Los Angeles premiere of the movie *Rugrats Go Wild* be organized to benefit programs which directly improved the lives of children in foster care, namely, Hollygrove Family Services; Ettie Lee Group Homes; Vista Del Mar; and Caring for Children and Families with AIDS. Bruce traveled to Washington, D.C. in June for a meeting and press conference, with bipartisan leadership of the United States Senate, calling on members of Congress to come together to improve the lives of children in the foster care system. Following the press conference, he hosted a special screening of *Rugrats Go Wild* at Union Station for foster children from D.C, Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Last year, he helped raise adoption awareness on a national level by participating in National Adoption Day; on that day, the adoptions of more than 1,400 foster children were finalized.

2003 CONGRESSIONAL

Angel in AdoptionTM Awardees

Alabama

LaGretta Ratliff

Representative Robert Cramer

Single and in her thirties, LaGretta always dreamed of being a mom. Raising her eldest niece taught her she had more to give and her careful deliberations led her to become a foster mother in 1996. Even so, caring for numerous children did not stem her desire to adopt, especially after she saw a special program one December night. The story on WTBN told of the miracle of a child who came home through adoption. She turned to God to say that she wanted a Christmas miracle like that. Being strong in her faith, LaGretta went on about her daily activities until New Year's week of 1997 when she received a phone call from the Department of Human Resources (DHR), with whom she had worked as a foster mom. Immediately she knew her miracle was on its way. After completing the necessary paperwork, they made plans for a newborn named Chase to arrive in her home that same week. Again in October of 1999, she received another call for help from one of her sisters, who worked for DHR, indicating that there was a baby girl in custody in need of a home. After praying and having discussions with her family, LaGretta brought Taylor home. Now, when her children ask her where they came from, she smiles and says, "You came from the heart."

Philip and Gina Richards

Representative Spencer Bachus

For eight and a half years Philip and Gina Richards have provided a safe and loving home to the three children that joined their family through adoption. Their first child, Elizabeth Anne, was born with delayed myelination, a condition that does not allow her to develop motor or speech skills. Since then, their nurturing love has resulted in Elizabeth Anne being able to occasionally walk with the aide

of a walker. Five years ago, the Richards came across an article about a foster care program looking for permanent homes for children. They heard of a brother and sister who needed a home and decided to adopt them both. Sarah and Michael, who are ages eight and seven, were the perfect addition to the Richards Family. They are excelling in school and are a wonderful brother and sister to Elizabeth Anne. Recently, the Richards discovered that their neighbors had begun looking into foster programs and are on the list to become foster parents. Not only have Philip and Gina Richards been outstanding parents to their children, they have become an inspiration for others to do the same; an incredible testament to the joy that adoption has on others.

Arizona

Joanne Karolzak

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva

Joanne Karolzak was adopted as a child, and raised in a wonderful family. This experience gave her an understanding of what adoption can do for children and the importance of growing up in a loving family. This made her an ideal candidate for her job as dedicated staff member for Family and Children's Services at Casa de los Niños, which provides children and families in crisis with temporary shelter care. Many of the children from the program are placed directly with adoptive families through Joanne's assistance. But, for Joanne, the rewards continued when she became a single parent to Adam. Although his birth history raised health concerns, he is now a thriving two-year-old, growing in health and love through Joanne's dedication and encouragement. Joanne's positive experience as an adoptee motivated her to give back to children in need and create a healthy and loving home for Adam.

Peter and Pat Likins

Representative Jim Kolbe

Patricia and Peter Likins adopted six children at a time when children were considered “unadoptable” if they were non-white, too old, or medically handicapped. They knew, however, that the conventional wisdom about such children had to be wrong.

Beginning in 1962 and continuing for the next decade, the Likens family grew significantly. Teresa started the ball rolling when she joined the family in 1962 and her sister, Linda came home in 1965. In between came Lora, who had a hole between the chambers of her heart that has long since healed. Their son Paul was born and adopted in 1964. Four years later Krista joined the family. Finally, John was adopted in 1969 but, tragically, he passed away in 2002.

All this time, Pete and Pat were completing the preparations for, beginning and building their careers. Pete completed his graduate engineering degree at Stanford and began teaching at UCLA before rising to become the President of the University of Arizona. Meanwhile, Pat completed her teaching credentials at Cal State-Northridge. But it was their devotion to family that made their lives complete and rewarding. For that reason, it came as absolutely no surprise to their extended family, children and friends that Pat was named “Los Angeles County Adoptive Mother of the Year” in 1969. The family now includes children, grandchildren, siblings and friends as well as a few furry residents, who are all now part of their All American Family. It is my honor to name Pat and Peter Likens as *Angels in Adoption™* for 2003.

David and Diana Lucas

Representative Rick Renzi

Over the last six years, Dave and Diana Lucas, from Pinetop, Arizona have opened their home to 17 children from nine different Russian orphanages, adding them to their already loving family which included four biological children. In 1996, Kyle (14), Lance (16), Ashley (21) and J.D. (23) along with several grandchildren, welcomed the first of their Russian siblings, Maria (8) and Ariana (17). Four years later, Dave and Diana decided to explore adoption again and by the end of 2000 they had added three new members to their growing family. Siblings Nikolai (12) and Katerina (11) joined the family and later that same year, they adopted Olecy (13). It was during this time that Dave and Diana felt that they had been given their calling. They knew how difficult it was to find homes for

older children, especially teens, as well as siblings who are often placed in different orphanages.

Dave and Diana have made it their mission to open their home to older children in order to reunite them with their siblings. In 2001, Diana and Dave adopted five additional children. First came Zoya (16) and her little brother Dimitry (10). That same year they adopted Alonia (17) and her younger brother Sergei (12). Later that same year, the family discovered that there was another sibling, Andre (16) living in an orphanage. Soon Andre was reunited with Alonia and Sergei along with the rest of the Lucas clan. In 2002, the Lucases adopted Angelina (12). They later discovered that Angelina's sister was in a different orphanage in Russia and worked hard to reunite the two in America. Valentina (10) joined her sister along with another new member of the family Natalya (8). Diana and Dave have not only worked hard to provide a loving home for their children but also counsel other parents, those considering adoption and those in the midst of the adoption process. Diana estimates that they have worked with over 100 families to help unite orphan children with loving caring parents.

In December of 2002 Dave and Diana once again expanded their family by welcoming Zhenya (15) and Sasha (14) into their home. Finally, last month, they brought home Nastja (14) and just this month – on September 6th, Alla (17) joined the family that now numbers 21. Diana is quick to acknowledge the many blessings that their family has received. She considers each new addition a modern day miracle.

Lance and Barb Trella

Senator John McCain

Adoptive parents, Barb and Lance Trella, know their lives would be completely different if they had not made the commitment to helping children over 10 years ago. Their three biological children now have four siblings, three sisters and a brother, who came home through adoption. The Trellas' first adoption added two daughters into the family. DiDi and Ashley were two and three years of age when they lost their mother, and everything else, in an apartment fire. They began the long road to recovery, both physically and emotionally, without the luxury of a family to help them. When Barb and Lance met the girls several months after the fire, they knew that these children were meant to be their daughters. The girls are now 14 and 13 and act like typical teenage girls with a family that adores them. The Trellas adopted Cody next and then after fostering Jacque for many months, Barb and Lance then adopted her, a spunky and adorable

daughter who completed the family.

Somehow, while raising seven children and fostering several others, Barb and Lance were still able to devote time to helping others in the community. Lance is an honored firefighter in Chandler, Arizona and Barb has worked for the last eight years as an adoption trainer, adoption and foster care recruiter and now Family Support Services Director for Aid to Adoption of Special Kids. She finds great pleasure in knowing that she is helping to build and strengthen families for children like hers. "Being an adoptive parent has changed my life dramatically and only in positive ways," said Barb. "The joy we have received from adopting... has just been indescribable. Our lives are just so much richer, so much fuller – yes, so much busier but we just love our family".

Arkansas

Lisenne Rockefeller

Senator Mark Pryor

Lisenne Rockefeller has been a friend of adoption for quite a while. She gives generously of her financial resources to Holt International and to individual families planning to adopt internationally by paying for their airfare home from the country where they are adopting. After Lisenne had her biological son, John, who was diagnosed with Down syndrome, she decided to adopt a sibling for him. She knew that it would be good for her child to have some one to play with and therefore, she adopted his sister, Grace, who also has Down syndrome, from China. Lisenne has been able to provide both of her children with the best learning atmosphere by opening a school for children with special needs. Lisenne family has grown since she adopted grace. She is now the mother of five children and the stepmother of three children. She is definitely deserving of the special *Angel in Adoption™* award distinction.

Jan Scholl

Senator Blanche Lincoln

Jan Scholl is the mother of two children and a dedicated community activist who works tirelessly on behalf of children and youth. A retired Spanish teacher, Scholl adopted her daughter, Katya Lyzhina (14) when she was 11 from Yekaterinburg, Russia, and her son, Robert Young when he was 16 from

Arkansas. Jan left the North Little Rock Public Schools after 29 years of teaching after receiving many awards for her work.

But her dedication to children was far from over. Ms. Scholl then worked for two years at the Boys and Girls Club as Director of its youth program. For the past four years she has been the Director of the North Little Rock Mayor's Youth Council, a group made up of 85 teens ages 14 to 18. Last year this group served over 6,000 hours of community service to non-profit organizations in the Little Rock metropolitan area. She currently serves on the board of the Families Are Special Adoption Agency, and Our House, a local homeless shelter. Ms. Scholl has successfully written grants for educational programs, scholarships and grass-roots community organizations. She has given many scholarships to young people who plan a career in teaching. In 1999, she directed an international educational conference in Fayetteville, Arkansas, called "One Child at a Time," which inspired her to think about the possibilities of adopting another child. Jan Scholl is someone who loves children and is a truly wonderful example of an *Angel in Adoption™*.

California

Jesse and Linda Barela

Representative Gary Miller

Jesse and Linda Barela's lives changed in a wonderful way when God blessed them with their two sons; Jacob Anthony, four years old, and Luke Aaron, one and a half years old. A quiet home with everything in its proper place and a good night's sleep without any interruption are only dreams now, gladly traded for the exquisite pleasure of hearing the words "Mommy", "Daddy", and "I Love You" from their children.

Children have always been an important part of their lives. Jesse was a recreation leader and coach at a city park. The couple took joy in pouring themselves into the lives of their nine nephews and four nieces. They loved each of the children that God brought into their lives and trusted Him to provide a special family for them. In the 15 years of their marriage before adoption, they went through a time of waiting and searching as to what God's will was for them. They had discussed adoption before they married and continued to discuss it in great detail as it became apparent that they would not conceive children themselves. "We feel that our

sons, Jacob and Luke, are the sons God always intended us to have," they said. "We cannot imagine children more perfectly suited for us. Yes, there was disappointment at first when we couldn't give birth to children, but we have seen God's plan is so much better. They truly are a gift. We are amazed and in awe of how God has taken four individuals and created a family."

Cecil and Pamela Ellis

Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald

Cecil and Pamela are a bi-racial couple who have adopted a sibling set of three African-American children with special needs. Coincidentally, Cecil and Pam were both raised by parents who chose to open their homes to children seeking loving, permanent homes. They are grateful for these experiences in their youth and credit this with their high level of sensitivity to their own children's needs and the success they have in dealing with the challenges of adopting older children. The Ellis family enjoys outdoor family activities and can be found most weekends on the dirt bike track. Cecil and Pamela are extremely proud of their children. They are now anticipating the adoption of a new child.

Audrey Foster

Representative Dennis Cardoza

Audrey Foster has been a positive force in the adoption field for almost 30 years. The mother of 16 children, twelve of whom were adopted, Audrey founded Family Connections Adoptions (FCA) 20 years ago. This not-for-profit adoption agency specializes in placing the "waiting children" of the world including the children in the California foster care system and in orphanages overseas. Over 2,500 children have been placed in adoptive homes since Audrey started FCA in the back room of a church. She continues to serve as the Director of Program Development for FCA. Audrey also started "Shared Blessings," a program to support the Dorcas Orphanage in Mbale, Uganda, and has coordinated donation and service programs that have successfully met the vital needs of hundreds of orphans served by the orphanage. Audrey is currently coordinating a state-wide recruitment program to educate potential families about the many children waiting for a "forever family."

Reverend Paul and Linda Hoyt

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Rev. Paul and Linda Hoyt have provided care for children since 1993 and have helped 40 children in

their 10 years with Aspira, a non-profit, private foster care and adoption agency in California. The Hoyts have six biological children and three children who became a part of their family through adoption. They are also foster parents to children from a variety of cultures, racial and ethnic backgrounds including Caucasian, African American, bi-racial and Asian. The Hoyt family embraces children from every culture, religion, and background. Linda Hoyt described adoption best when she said, "Adoption is the most wonderful gift we can give to children and ourselves." Understanding adoption as a gift to the families who bring these children home, is one of the least discussed aspects of adoption, yet one of the most important points to be made. This award is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the Hoyt family. They are exceptional people and have added tremendously to Aspira, the children they serve, and the community at large.

Karen Lane

Representative Henry Waxman

Karen Lane has been involved both personally and professionally in the field of adoption for almost a quarter century. Her work as an adoption attorney has been instrumental in creating some of the top organizations in the country as well as in coordinating adoption services for children in need of permanent homes.

Karen began her adoption practice in 1980, representing birth parents, adopting parents, step-parents, foster parents and adoptees in a wide range of adoption matters. Then, in 1981, she and her husband adopted their daughter, Jordana.

Karen continued her career and became well-regarded, not only as an expert in the field, but as a compassionate and caring individual, committed to facilitating permanent homes for children. Karen chaired the California State Bar Committee on Adoptions and was a founding member of the Academy of California Adoption Lawyers. She has effectively lobbied the California legislature in support of positive and equitable adoption law. In 1989, she invited adoption practitioners from around the country to a conference to discuss how to work together on a national level, founding the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. Five years later a Uniform Adoption Act was adopted by individual states owing to Karen's dedicated work. In addition to her busy schedule as a lawyer and adoption advocate, Karen also collects and donates holiday gifts for Los Angeles County foster children, volunteers her time to speak on adoption issues, and often provides her legal assistance pro bono.

Susan Lobo

Representative Tom Lantos

Susan Lobo initially became involved with Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA) as a volunteer when she and her husband were in the middle of completing their adoption from Russia. Since then, Susan has made a significant impact as the chair for the Northern California chapter of FRUA. She has assisted over 150 Bay Area families with their adoptions. In order to assist the non-profit organization both financially and personally, Mrs. Lobo has created fund-raising and social events for FRUA. She has also created an invaluable Resource Directory for adoptive parents to use throughout their own adoption process. Susan Lobo is truly an *Angel in Adoption*™.

Dave and Debbe Magnusen

Representative Dana Rohrabacher

Dave and Debbe Magnusen are committed to finding safe homes for children in need of permanency. As foster parents they have provided a safe and loving environment for over 40 children. They also have seven children, five of whom were adopted. They went beyond their valuable role as parents to found Project Cuddle, a program providing expectant mothers with pre-natal care and counseling throughout their pregnancy to address the needs for vulnerable women in such circumstances. Therefore, Project Cuddle established a 24-hour toll-free, crisis hotline to answer many of the questions and concerns pregnant women have. In many cases, Dave and Debbe have hosted expectant mothers and their families in their home until the child was born. After giving birth, if the women chose to place her child for adoption, Project Cuddle assists in finding loving families. Together, Dave and Debbe deserve to receive the *Angel in Adoption*™ award because of their guiding support for women in crisis pregnancies and in placing over 450 babies in loving families.

Dr. David Sanders

Representative Diane Watson

On March 24, 2003 David Sanders, Ph. D., became the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). In his new position, Dr. Sanders directs all operations of DCFS, a Department that has an annual budget of more than 1.3 billion and approximately 6,967 staff. Dr. Sanders oversees all the personnel, programs, facilities and services necessary for the administration of protective services, foster care,

adoption and treatment for children in accordance with federal, state and county statutory and regulatory requirements. Previously, Dr. Sanders served as Senior Human Services Director of the Hennepin County Children, Family and Adult Services Department in Minneapolis, Minn. For two years he was responsible for the administration and management of the department where he oversaw child and adult protection, child and adult foster care, child care licensing and funding, mental health, developmental disabilities, chemical health, services to seniors, family preservation, adoption and early childhood services. Dr. Sanders also spent eight years working for the Hennepin County Children and Family Services Department as Senior Human Services Director. Dr. Sanders has held the position of Chief Clinical Psychologist of the Hennepin County Family and Children's Mental Health Program and Senior Clinical Psychologist of the Hennepin County Mental Health Center.

Shasta County Adoptions Program

Representative Wally Herger

The Shasta County Adoptions Program works to place the tens of thousands of children in California who have lost their families through the tragedy of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Under the leadership of Children's Services and Adoptions Supervisor Linda Vaught, LCSW, Shasta County has exceeded adoption goals set by the State of California. In 2002, her office finalized 83 adoptions. In addition, it offers post-adoption services including support groups, training, social activities, adoption camps, counseling, and respite services. They believe that by becoming an adoptive parent you not only bring a new life to a child, you ignite a love that replenishes the spirit of their freedom to be children. It is my pleasure to select the Shasta County Adoptions Program for the *Angels in Adoption*™ Award.

Ed and Judy Shrader

Representative Adam Schiff

The license plate of Ed & Judy Shrader's big blue 15-passenger van proudly declares, "Here Come the Shraders," which perfectly describes the joy in being the family they are. In 1974, when Ed and Judy were married, they never imagined their family would include five kids of various ethnic and racial backgrounds who came home first through foster care and finally through adoption. Although they had always talked about adopting, it was not until Ed became a marriage and family therapist and worked for a group home agency, that he saw

quality foster care and residential care was not a substitute for a nurturing loving family. Being blessed with two biological children, Tiffany and Teddy, they wanted to provide a home for children who needed one. Ed and Judy felt they could be the most helpful in fostering pre-natal drug-exposed infants. Much of the professional thinking at the time was that the drug exposed baby generation would be a "lost generation" with too many developmental deficits. Ed and Judy had faith in the potential of these children, however. They promised to love and nurture each foster child in their family and if they could not be reunited with their biological family, they would then adopt them. Their faith in the potential of all children earns them the *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Sierra Adoptions Services

Representative Robert Matsui

Since its inception in 1983, Sierra Adoptions Services has moved nearly 1,000 children out of foster care and into permanent loving homes. With a great deal of support from the community, Sierra Adoption Services has become a positive force for the children who wait, not only by finding forever families, but by raising public awareness of the children and the joys of adoption. Through the innovative "Champions for Adoption" program, teams are created to support these ideals. Sierra Adoption Services is a nonprofit adoption agency whose mission is to break the cycle of abuse by providing permanent adoptive families to California's children; especially for children with special needs.

Karen Ullman

Representative Howard Berman

By building and managing the Public Counsel's Adoption Project, Karen Ullman has helped complete more than 4,000 adoptions of needy children since 1997. She works tirelessly to coordinate the efforts of approximately 500 *pro bono* attorneys and law students. Her extensive knowledge and expertise are illustrated in the manuals she has authored. *Dependency Adoptions: A Manual for Pro Bono Attorneys* has become one of the most respected and frequently used resources by volunteers and the Los Angeles Juvenile Court. *The Quick Reference Guide to Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program Rates for Children with Special Needs* has become a primary resource used by attorneys, social workers, and agency personnel to devise the level of assistance required by each child. She has also worked hard to

expedite the adoption process in many other ways and was specifically instrumental in many of the Los Angeles policy reforms which make the process more efficient and time-sensitive. The questionnaire she created, credited with reducing the time needed to finalize adoptions, is now provided to all parents referred to the Public Counsel who are adopting children from foster care. Her tremendous contributions to the adoption process are evidence of her sincere compassion for children, making her a valued member of our community.

Colorado

Kim Matsunaga

Representative Marilyn Musgrave

Kim Matsunaga, executive director of Adoption for All the Children (AAC), came to Denver from Seoul, Korea in 1966. When she was 13 her mother brought home 44 Korean war orphans and proclaimed that they would be staying with them. Her mother proceeded to build a building and began an orphanage, which was run by her mother's older sister. Learning from her mother's example, Kim developed a heart for children in need of permanency. Over her 40-year career in the field of child welfare and adoption, Kim has placed well over 2,000 children in loving homes. Kim considers all of the children she places to be her "children" and thoroughly enjoys dedicating her time to see their lives improved. I am honored to select Kim Matsunaga as a 2003 *Angel in Adoption™*.

Joshua Zhong and Lily Nie

Senator Wayne Allard

Lily Nie and Joshua Zhong founded Chinese Children Charities (CCC) in 1992 with the vision that every child deserves a loving family. Through CCC, Lily and Joshua have been cooperating with the Chinese government to place abandoned and handicapped children with special needs who live in Chinese orphanages with qualified and loving American parents. As of May 2003, more than 4,000 children from over 200 orphanages have found loving homes with caring parents from all 50 states as well as a number of other countries.

Acting on their belief that it is important to care for all orphans, not just those finding homes, Lily and Joshua established the Chinese Children Charity

Fund to provide food, childcare, medical, educational, and humanitarian assistance to children in orphanages. Since 1995, more than \$2 million has been donated to directly benefit thousands of children living in more than 100 hundred orphanages.

In 2000, Lily and Joshua stepped up their charitable effort by building the child-centered Lily Orphan Care Centers across China. To date, three centers have been built in Hangzhou, Qidong, and Fuling, and almost 1,000 children have received first class loving care. Finally, Lily and Joshua believe that the finalization of adoption is just the beginning of CCC's responsibility. As a result, CCC involves itself in the long term service to the family, especially in the area of cultural education. Through this vision, Lily and Joshua have established the first of its kind, Joyous Chinese Cultural Center, which provides Chinese cultural education, such as dance, music, art, crafts, Chinese language, and cooking, to children and their adoptive parents.

Connecticut

Anthony and Jacquelyn Barrows

Senator Chris Dodd

After raising their biological children and grandson, Anthony and Jacquelyn Barrows wanted to give back to their community by helping children in need. Five years ago, they began fostering a seven-year-old boy named Coady, and adopted him in December of 2001. Jacquelyn, has been a strong advocate for Coady, working as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher for special education in the city of Hartford. Applying her experience in the field of special education, Jacquelyn and Anthony worked diligently, searching for an educational program to met Coady's needs. After her research, they decided to enroll him in a private school in West Hartford, where they are very involved in their son's education. In addition to working together as a team to provide love and support to Coady, Anthony and Jacquelyn are also heavily involved in community-based work, opening their home for respite foster care and mentoring other adoptive parents. Jacquelyn leads the foster parent support group at Casey Family Services in Shelton, Connecticut, where the Barrows are regarded as role models for foster parents. Currently, the Barrows are fostering an adolescent boy. They are truly deserving of the 2003 *Angels in Adoption™* Award.

Angel Torres

Senator Joseph Lieberman

Angel Torres is committed to Connecticut's children and is an asset to the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) in his role as an Adoption Resource Specialist. He is an important resource to the state's Adoption Resource Exchange where his expertise is focused on the use of technology to recruit adoptive families. Mr. Torres' efforts have been instrumental to bringing recruitment efforts to a new level.

In addition to his work, he has designed presentations for the permanency staff and managers, as well as prospective adoptive families to enhance such recruitment efforts. Mr. Torres is enthusiastic, committed, and energized about helping Connecticut's children. His unique gift for developing strong and positive connections with people, extends to the waiting children and families interested in adoption. Mr. Torres works in collaboration with his colleagues to ensure that all children are provided optimum opportunities to find homes of their own. I feel that through Mr. Torres' accomplishments, he exemplifies the commitment and dedication of an *Angel in Adoption™* and I am pleased to select him, for the 2003 *Angels in Adoption™* Award.

District of Columbia

Linda Clausen

Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton

Linda Clausen has been actively engaged in all aspects of adoption in the District and the surrounding areas for the past 10 years. As a volunteer, she represents the District of Columbia for the American Adoption Congress by monitoring local, national and international legislation, and the procedures and practices to safeguard the rights and well-being of adoptees, birthparents and adopting families. Owing to her expertise in this area, she has been called upon to testify on important adoption reforms, both in the District and Maryland. Additionally, she has served as the leader of the local Concerned United Birthmothers (CUB) local chapter for many years where she provides kind and thoughtful assistance to those facing important family decisions. On many occasions she

has helped women find workable options and support for their decisions regarding child rearing and placement.

After a long and productive career in helping others as an adoption volunteer, Linda returned to the University of Maryland to obtain a masters degree in social work. This enabled her to provide support and assistance to an even broader range of families affected by adoption and foster care issues. During the past two years, she has been on the staff of Family and Child Services of Washington, DC Inc., where she is dedicated to improving conditions for children in foster care. Ms. Clausen's past selfless efforts and her promise of even greater future accomplishments to help those in need, reflect the true spirit of the Adoption Angel. As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I am pleased to select Linda Clausen as my 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™.

Florida

Susana Huaman Dragosavac

Representative John L. Mica

For many years, Susana Huaman Dragosavac has shown a true dedication to the adoptive process. She was originally drawn into children's services while working in Thailand in 1996. Susana and her husband, Irving, had volunteered on several occasions to help those in need, and on one particular trip went to a Thai orphanage. Susana's heart was touched by the children's pleas for help, and this event had a deep and profound impact on her life. Since, Susana has dedicated her life to children in need. She has given hundreds of adoptive parents the opportunities they so desire, and hundreds of children a safe and secure home in which to flourish. She currently works with Florida Home Studies and Adoption, Inc. as the International Programs Coordinator, specializing in Guatemala and Thailand. As an adoptive mom herself, Susana finds no greater pleasure than helping adoptive families create forever families. She has a true heart for children worldwide, as shown in a devotion to her work. You will always find Susana pursuing and promoting the ideals of adoption, whether by initiating a clothes drive or gathering donations to send to orphanages.

Family Services of Central Florida

Representative Cliff Stearns

Family Services of Central Florida is a private, faith based, non profit, social service agency, that provides in-home, transportation and adoption services and the Parents Anonymous® program to families in District 13. Last year, they finalized the adoptions of 92 children between July and December of 2002, a 206% increase over the same time period in 2001, the largest increase of any adoption unit in the state. Ten of those adoptions were finalized in the only National Adoption day celebration Florida.

Family Services of Central Florida works on the front lines, focusing attention on the needs of the 134,000 children waiting for adoptive homes in this country. This organization exudes the qualities of the Congressional *Angels in Adoption*™ award, and I am pleased to select them for this award.

Foster Children's Project Legal Aid Society of PBC, Inc.

Representative Robert Wexler

The Foster Children's Project Legal Aid Society of PBC, Inc. began in 2001 and now represents all children under five years and any siblings they have in the Palm Beach County area who have been removed from their families because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment. These six lawyers and their staff have represented 556 children in the foster care system since its inception in 2001. Their goal is to get children out of foster care and into permanent homes within the federally mandated 12 months. Legal Aid's Foster Children's project has also been nominated for the National Association Legal Advocacy Award. Their work has been so successful that The Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County (CSC) has requested that Legal Aid consider expanding its Foster Children's Project to serve children through age 12 and have allocated \$800,000 for expansion. In commenting on the lengthy adoption process, Melissa Felman, a Project lawyer, stated: "A child's life is ticking away... I think, to a lot of adults, it just seems like time. What's a few months? But a few months to a three month old, that's their whole life." This is a poignant reminder of why the work of this organization is so important and a perfect explanation of why they are my 2003 *Angels in Adoption*™.

A.J. and Susan Fremer

Representative Ginny Brown-Waite

After almost five years of marriage, the Fremers began exploring adoption and almost a year later, their first child was born and placed for adoption by an incredible woman who loved her child enough to give her a new life. Their daughter, Hannah, was born with several severe medical problems and spent the first few weeks of her life in intensive care on a respirator. The Fremers were told that if she survived, she might never talk. They never dreamed they would begin parenting under these circumstances. God had other plans for Hannah, however, and the Fremers are thankful that she has completely recovered from her illnesses, becoming the most talkative child.

When Hannah was about five, she began thanking God during her evening prayers for the little sister He would send her. After much prayer and a great deal of paperwork, the Fremers were able to travel to China in August of 2001 to bring Hannah's baby sister home. Olivia was 11 months old when she was adopted in Guizhou Province. The Fremers still keep in touch with Olivia's Chinese foster parents and consider them an important part of their family. In 2003, the Fremers intended to adopt again but SARS made travel plans difficult. Finally, on June 1, they were able to adopt Julianna Mei from a Chinese orphanage.

They arrived back in the United States on June 11, SARS free, and thankful to be reunited with their family. The girls have adjusted very well to each other and the Fremers feel so blessed to have each of them. The children each have their own stories and know that each one was divinely guided into their family. "Every night as we tuck them into bed, we stand in awe of God who orchestrated each adoption and built our family in a most unique way," says Susan Fremer.

Marilys Llanos

Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart

Many parents will tell you that something supernatural was involved in finding the children who would join their families. But one can't help but think Marilyns Llanos might be right in this belief. An Emmy-Award-winning journalist with WSCV Channel 51 in Miami, Florida, Marilyns has always felt strongly about the importance of service to the community, and she always hoped to have children of her own one day. Once, while working on a series on adoption, she called an orphanage in Guatemala. She was informed that a little girl had just arrived, naked and cold, whose name was

Maria Alejandra, a startling coincidence since Marilyns's name at birth was also Maria Alejandra. Furthermore, little Maria Alejandra was born on the same day as Marilyns's mother. Marilyns knew she had somehow been drawn to call this orphanage on that particular day and the information she received were signs that her dream was about to come true. She had no question that this was her child and they were destined to be together. She immediately began the adoption process. When she arrived in Guatemala to bring Maria Alejandra home, she met Rony, who was three, and fell in love with him as well. As soon as she and her new daughter arrived home, a new adoption process was begun for Rony, who came home a year later. The children have flourished and mean everything to her.

Bill and Patricia Manning

Representative E. Clay Shaw

Bill and Patricia Manning's love of children is evident by their commitment to those who still wait for homes of their own. For several years, Bill and Tricia have been team members at Place of Hope, a family-style community that fosters children in group homes. They caught the vision early and began helping the organization prior to the arrival of foster children into Place of Hope's unique campus and family cottages. Tricia is employed at Place of Hope as a Relief Cottage Parent, providing consistent weekly relief care for six foster girls at the Brett Harris Weinstein Family Cottage. She owns her own business, and is a certified MAPP trainer for foster and adoptive families. Although her husband Bill works full-time, he recently completed a master's degree and volunteers, with his children, at Place of Hope to support Tricia. When the Mannings started working with Place of Hope, they had already adopted a son from Romania and were foster parents in the state of Florida as well. They later adopted another boy through the state system. Bill and Tricia are always there for children in need as they continue to provide foster care; currently for two more beautiful children. They make a great team and provide a wonderful balance for each other. The Mannings are greatly appreciated for all that they do each day for children in our community and that makes them my *Angels in Adoption*™ for 2003.

James and Betsy Seifert

Senator Bob Graham

James and Betsy Seifert have two adopted children. In August 1999, they adopted Sarah, who is now four years old. Three years later, the family adopted their son Seth, who celebrated his first birthday this

month. They are uncertain what health challenges Seth will confront, but remain optimistic that through prayer they can handle any situation. Betsy's involvement in adoption also reaches out to birthmothers in the hospital considering placing their child for adoption. Recently, the couple has experienced their own personal losses and health concerns, but they remain humbled and blessed to have these two special children as part of their family. For their commitment to their children, I am pleased to select James and Betsy Seifert for the 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™ Award.

Georgia

Truett Cathy

Representative Mac Collins

While Truett Cathy may be best known as the founder and CEO of Chick-fil-A, Mr. Cathy's most lasting achievement may be that so many children have come to know him as their adopted "Grandpa." In 1987, Mr. Cathy started WinShape Homes to provide a loving, nurturing home for children who have been victims of circumstances and are in need of a stable, secure family environment in which to grow and mature. The children who live in Winshape homes come to know Mr. Cathy as their own adopted "Grandpa." Since 1987, WinShape Homes have served over 250 children, and, currently, there are over 130 children in WinShape's 14 homes. These homes strive to meet all the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the children, and stress character building, manners, proper dress, and hygiene. While the children do grow up and eventually leave Winshape, a child never graduates from WinShape, even after marriage. Simply put, a WinShape family member is a family member for life. As an adopted "Grandpa" to so many children, Mr. Cathy is a worthy recipient of the 2003 *Angel in Adoption*.™

Amanda Davis

Representative Denise Majette

Amanda Davis, the WAGA Fox5 news anchor, child advocate and host of Wednesday's Child, exposure to children with special needs in Georgia's foster care system who need permanent adoptive families. The warmth and fun that Amanda and the children exude during the features touches everyone watching the news broadcast

Since the inception of Wednesday's Child, 80 of the featured children have been placed in

permanent homes and another 35 are in the midst of pre-placement activities. A total of 59% of the *Wednesday's Children* are making tangible progress toward permanence and finding permanent families. The enjoyment that Ms. Davis derives from these kids is contagious. Her smile is soon returned by the children she features, and her interest in them is appreciated and shared.

In the last several months, Wednesday's Child has begun to include many children with special needs still in need of permanency. Ms. Davis highlights the abilities of the children rather than dwelling on their disabilities. In July 2002, in recognition of the excellent quality of the Atlanta *Wednesday's Child* features, Ms. Davis, WAGA Fox5, and the DHR Office of Adoptions were awarded the National Adoption Exchange Association's "Wednesday's Child" Award for a segment featuring two older siblings in need of a home together. The energy and interest she brings and sustains for the needs of Georgia's children is immeasurable. For that, she is an *Angel in Adoption*™, a devoted friend to Georgia's adoption community, and an immeasurable help to those in need.

James Outman

Senator Zell Miller

Attorney James Outman has been a strong and outstanding advocate for children and families for almost three decades. He authored Georgia's Adoption Act of 1977, and has also been directly involved with the drafting of all but one of Georgia's adoption statutes since 1975. Over the years, Mr. Outman has represented more than 100 adoptive families in the finalization of their private and agency adoptions, including interstate adoptive placements. He is highly respected by judges, legislators, and all members of the adoption community. Mr. Outman knows this issue not only from a legal standpoint, but also from a personal one, as he and his wife, Mary Jane, are the adoptive parents of their 30-year-old son. Mr. Outman knows the joys of adoption and has spent his career helping other families find that same joy. His dedication to adoption and the profound impact that he has had on the lives of so many families show that Jim Outman is a very worthy of the *Angel in Adoption*™ award.

Joe Woods

Senator Saxby Chambliss

Joe Woods has been one of the strongest proponents for children in Georgia. As an adoptive parent, Joe helped begin HOPE for Children in 1991, serving as president of the Board of Directors

for four years and then becoming Executive Director in 1999. HOPE for Children has helped place over 625 children from nine different countries in loving families. The organization places a strong emphasis on preparing parents for adoption and post-adoption services, including support groups, adoptive family reunions, and referral of appropriate resources. Joe lobbied extensively and successfully to increase the adoption tax credit. His dedication to children makes him my 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™.

Hawaii

Steven and Renee Saito

Senator Daniel Akaka

The story of Steven and Renee Saito eloquently illustrates that is really does take a village to raise a child. Steven and Renee had been married for many years but were unable to bear children. After various unsuccessful fertility treatments, they decided to adopt. They explored local adoption but were told expectant mothers who planned to place their children for adoption preferred younger parents.

The couple then contacted an international adoption agency in March 1996 and began the adoption process. They heard that there were many Chinese babies who needed homes. The entire process took a little over a year, and in April 1997, they flew to Wuhan, China to meet Sage, just a year old when she arrived home to Wailuku on the island of Maui.

Renee says, "It has been over six years since we became a family. We love our daughter more than words can describe. Sage grew in our hearts and she is our child. Sage also has special needs and works very hard at overcoming her challenges. With God's grace and the love and assistance of many good people, Sage is blossoming. We are very proud of her!"

Idaho

Meri Brennan

Senator Mike Crapo

Determined to find permanent families for more special-needs children in foster care throughout her state, Adoption Specialist Meri Brennan brought the television feature *Wednesday's Child* to Idaho. Through her hard-work and perseverance, Brennan

has garnered the support of over 80 local business and government leaders and secured community and in-kind contributions of goods and services as well as annual contributions of \$200,000. Brennan works with two television stations, two radio stations, and four newspapers to reach potential parents throughout the state. Since its introduction to Idaho in November 1998, Brennan and *Wednesday's Child* have helped over 145 waiting youth to be placed with loving families.

Jay and Sally Hildebrandt

Senator Larry E. Craig

Jay and Sally Hildebrandt are making an enormous difference in the lives of Idaho's most vulnerable children. Their family, five children and three grandchildren, has opened home and hearts to 50 foster children awaiting adoption or reunification. As news anchor for KIFI-TV in Idaho Falls, Jay is one of the most familiar faces of adoption advocacy in the state through his work on *Wednesday's Child*. For nearly 20 years, he has been the force keeping this extremely successful program going, each week featuring a child in need of a Big Brother or Sister, a foster home, or an adoptive family. He has even managed to break through geographic barriers and has helped waiting children in the neighboring states of Washington, Utah, and Nevada, as well. For their ongoing commitment to the abused and neglected children of the region, Jay and Sally Hildebrandt deserve to be recognized as true *Angels in Adoption*™.

John and Denise Martin

Representative C.L. "Butch" Otter

Denise and John Martin have dedicated themselves to the care and support of all members of the adoption community. They have contributed in every way from supporting foster parents and organizing events for foster children, to involving members of the outside community to help. Denise publishes a newsletter for foster parents, and assists them with such needs as respite care – often providing this service herself. She is well known for organizing such service projects as making blankets and snack packs to give to foster children. In addition, she works with the Boys and Girls Club to organize a monthly overnight activity for older foster children. Denise and John also have adopted a daughter themselves. They are leaders in their community, providing guidance and support to those who need it most.

Adoption Information Center of Illinois

Representative John Shimkus

Adoption Information Center of Illinois, AICI, has served for many years as a crucial link for the many children and families in need of adoption services. As a result of their efforts to help children become part of adoptive families, AICI is regarded as a leader in the adoption community. They serve as a prime example of how the public and private sectors can work together for the benefit of children in need. Their extraordinary efforts in that regard are complimented by the dedicated and caring employees at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Together, they are making a difference that will last for generations to come. I am grateful for the opportunity to select and recognize the Adoption Information Center of Illinois as an *Angel in Adoption™*.

Dan and Lynn Dempsey

Representative Judy Biggert

Since 1997, Dan and Lynn Dempsey have created a loving family through foster care and adoption. Their journey began as licensed foster parents with Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois. The Dempseys have adopted three children, including two siblings, and currently are caring for two foster children. Their story was featured in the Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois' 2002 Annual Report. Earlier this year, Dan and Lynn Dempsey showed their extraordinary resolve when one of their foster children, a 20-month-old boy, was abducted by his birth mother and found by police in Colorado two weeks later. During this difficult time, the Dempseys were instrumental in the search for the child. They worked closely with law enforcement authorities and the press to see that he was returned to his routine environment as quickly as possible. I am pleased to select Dan and Lynn Dempsey as 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* award recipients.

Ben and Sherna Jennings

Representative Jerry Costello

After raising their four biological children, three daughters and a son, Ben and Sherna Jennings, both in their 60s, decided to become foster parents.

The Jennings understand the hardships children in foster care encounter and are committed to providing for every child entering their home. They have since adopted six boys who range in age from nine to sixteen. Before finding permanency with the Jennings, these boys had experienced eight foster homes and a group home. It was easy to see why Mrs. Jennings vowed they would not be moved again. The Jennings are stable, caring, and responsible parents who have demonstrated a sincere desire and commitment to provide permanency and love for all of their children. They treat each child as an individual and make every effort to help them reach their potential.

Sherri Nestmann

Representative Dennis Hastert

Sherri Nestmann has touched the lives of children on a daily basis. As supervisor of the Catholic Charities adoption program, she is directly involved with every aspect of adoption-from birth to legal finalization; from the selection process to post-adoption services. Her expertise is grounded in 17 years of experience in the adoption field. She played a vital role in transforming the Adoption Program from a closed program to a more open process and environment for the children. As supervisor of the Adoption Program, she has been responsible for placing over 224 children in adoptive homes. Another 60 adoptions were completed through their internal, international and private program. Mrs. Nestmann is a dedicated professional with integrity and the ability to deal with the many complex issues that surround child welfare and adoption. Her dedication and hard work has made a difference that many of us can only dream about. Mrs. Nestmann is truly an example of how one person can touch the lives of so many.

Cyndie Norton

Representative Donald Manzullo

Cyndie has been dedicated to the service of children throughout the world for more than 11 years. As Regional Supervisor for Lifelink International Adoption Service based in Bensenville, Illinois, she passionately believes that every child deserves a loving, stable home. Lifelink is a nonprofit, faith based, organization, with offices in Illinois, Florida, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Lifelink has facilitated international and domestic adoptions and placed children from China, Ukraine, South Korea, Russia, Thailand, India, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Guatemala and the Philippines. Cyndie, a licensed clinical social worker, oversees the offices in Rockford, Madison, Milwaukee, and Appleton, Wisconsin. Her effort in

matching children to families is extraordinary and it is little wonder that it brings her so much joy to find loving adoptive homes for children.

Gary and Marla Ringger

Representative Timothy Johnson

Gary and Marla Ringger are dedicated to seeing that the orphans of our world are adopted into Christ-honoring families where they are loved and cared for unconditionally, and where they can learn what it means to be adopted into God's family through Jesus Christ. They have turned their vision into reality by pouring their financial resources into the creation of a not-for-profit organization, The Manna Group Foundation (TMG). TMG exists to encourage, educate and support families and has provided more than \$80,000 in financial assistance to 11 families for the adoptions of 16 orphans from the United States and around the world. Of the 16 children adopted, 14 have been older with special needs. "I have been blessed so much," said Gary Ringger, chairman of TMG Foundation. "My prayer is that God will use Manna to bless others." Neither the Ringgers nor TMG receives any financial benefit for assisting these children. They are truly deserving of the 2003 *Angels in Adoption*[™] award.

Indiana

Loving Shepherd International

Representative Mike Pence

Loving Shepherd International is a private, non-profit organization which began in January 2002 as the vision of Ed and Jeni Schwartz, to provide adoption services for families hoping to adopt domestically or internationally. LSI receives no compensation from either the families or agencies to which they refer their clients, enabling it to remain unbiased in the counsel they offer.

The inspiration for LSI came from the Schwartz's eight years experience as foster parents. Ed, a pastor, learned from assisting families in the adoption process that many families struggle in the initial stages of the process and need more guidance during these early stages when there are so many options and choices to make. While LSI does not place children, its mission is to bring honor to God by providing objective, cost-free advocacy resources and direction to the entire spectrum of the adoption process. This is accomplished by

following the example of Jesus Christ as the loving shepherd in Isaiah 40:11, "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather lambs with His arms, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." The steadfast commitment and faith of LSI and the Schwartz family is commendable and I am proud to recognize their work by naming them my *Angel in Adoption*[™].

Owino Wodomony and Dalia Owino

Senator Evan Bayh

Over the last four years, I have worked with Dalia and Owino Wodomony, assisting them in their efforts to adopt nine children from Uganda. I am very impressed by their strong dedication, as they overcame tremendous hurdles to finally bring seven of the children to the United States. Dalia is a U.S. Citizen who arrived in the United States in 1981 as a refugee from Kampala, Uganda. Having escaped, with her three children, the oppressive regime of General Idi Amin, she joined her husband here. Beginning in February 1999, Dalia mounted an impressive campaign to bring her nine nieces and nephews, ages four through 18, to the United States after the death of her brother, Stanlaus Angura, who died of cholera the previous year. His death followed that of their mother, who died in 1996 from complications in childbirth. The fate of these children was to live on the streets in Uganda but Dalia and Owino would not rest until they brought them home. They tirelessly sought support from their representatives, the media and their community. Because of Dalia and Owino's relentless humanitarian spirit and their dedication to these children, they finally succeeded in bringing seven of the children to the United States. I commend Dalia and Owino's decision to build their family through international adoption and appreciated the opportunity to be of assistance. They are a testament to the power of family whether through birth or adoption. It is my honor to select Dalia Owino and her husband, Owino Wodomony, from Bloomington, Indiana as my 2003 *Angels in Adoption*[™].

James and Verdell Releford

Senator Richard Lugar

Children are very important to James and Verdell Releford; whether it is their children or any child in need. For that reason, they have been foster parents for the Tippecanoe County Office of Family and Children since April 1990. During this time, they have found homes for 45 children while fostering children with various backgrounds, cultures, and special needs, including many sibling

groups. The Relefords have four biological children and six children who joined the family through adoption, ranging in age from five to 27. They have a full understanding of the long-term commitment, flexibility and cooperation needed to parent many children. This understanding has made them ideal ambassadors for promoting foster parenting and adoption. They assist the Office of Family and Children by training new and veteran foster and adoptive parents. Verdell is the editor of the Tippecanoe County OFC Foster Parent Buddy Directory. The Relefords attend foster care and adoption trainings and seminars to further their education on parenting children with special needs. Verdell has appeared on local television with regards to adopting children with special needs. The Relefords received the Family of the Year award presented by Family Services in November.

Iowa

Dr. Rebecca Brandt

Representative Tom Latham

A passionate advocate for children with special needs, Dr. Rebecca Brandt has worked tirelessly on behalf of homeless children overseas. Her inspiration comes from her family, including her husband, Kim, and their eight children, six of whom came home through adoption. As a volunteer, Becca has given months of her time and medical services overseas to help orphanages and child welfare programs improve the care of vulnerable children. Dr. Brandt has assessed the conditions and provided valuable recommendations for improving care of children in orphanages in Russia, Romania and Mongolia. Never satisfied to be "just a consultant," her involvement has always been highly personal, ministering directly to the needs of homeless children. During her time volunteering in countries such as the Ukraine, Philippines, Ecuador and Guatemala, she helped care and advocate for individual children. With her special interest in children with disabilities and those with medical conditions, she has often provided accurate information about children that was instrumental in their adoption. Her influence has had a profound impact upon the care these children receive. Thousands of children have received better care and hope for the future because of her commitment and dedication which has earned her the 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Ken and Char Kuhns

Representative Steve King

Ken and Char Kuhns have served as dedicated foster parents for over 15 years, and they make certain each child feels like a part of the family regardless if their stay is temporary or not. The Kuhns have a heart for children with special needs, and adopted four with special needs, giving selflessly of themselves by providing 24 hour care. Char is well-known for becoming almost as knowledgeable as the doctors when one of their children has a medical condition. The Kuhns have opened their hearts to children thought to have a short life expectancy and are willing to take on the joys and heartaches of caring for these children. As foster parents, they provide a treatment-level home, and take children into their family when agencies can find no one else to help. They have shown their commitment to adoption and foster care by never giving up on a child, no matter what behavioral or medical challenges they may face. The Kuhns serve as a beacon of encouragement for adoptive and foster families in western Iowa. Their neighbors remark, "The Kuhns consistently go above and beyond what is expected of them." Social workers who know them call them "the best of the best." Couples like the Kuhns are quiet, hardworking heroes that would reject that title because they know that although they have enriched every life they have touched, they have become deeply enriched as well.

Terri and Bruce Lippert

Senator Chuck Grassley

Over the last 25 years, Terri and Bruce Lippert have proven themselves to be "super humans" having raised two biological children and adopted 16 others. While many would take advantage of an empty nest by traveling or focusing on themselves, the Lipperts have instead used it as an opportunity to expand their family. Within six months their nest will become even larger as they await the finalization of the adoptions of three teenage girls.

Many of their children have a variety of special needs. Several years ago, the Lipperts lost a daughter to cystic fibrosis, yet none of these challenges has stopped Terri and Bruce from helping these children realize their full potential. One caseworker commented that the Lippert home, although very busy, never seems to be chaotic, a remarkable feat for any family. Each child has their own space and the home is large enough to provide some degree of privacy. Everyone has

chores and the house really runs quite smoothly. Donna Watts, an adoption case worker who has worked closely with the Lipperts, describes them as the “epitome of adoption.” Their strength is not simply in numbers, but rather the individual attention the Lipperts devote to each child. The Lipperts give these children a chance to be part of a loving and caring family, something they never had before. The family looks at each child for who he or she is, identifies his or her needs and does their best to meet those needs.

Kansas

Allan Hazlett

Senator Sam Brownback

Allan A. Hazlett is a charter member of the National Board of Governor’s Gift of Adoption Fund, where he has served since May 2001. This organization provides financial help to families seeking to adopt through its local chapters. Mr. Hazlett has also served as President (2000-2001), Vice President (1998-1999), and a member of the Board of Trustees (1997-2002) of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys. He is a regular contributor of articles for the Academy newsletter and often presents seminars at annual Academy conferences. In addition he represented the Academy at the 2002 Adoption Symposium for Permanency for Children in Washington, DC, as well as at the annual meetings of the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

He has also served as the Academy liaison to Adoptive Families of America of Minneapolis, Minnesota as well as on the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children Committee. A practicing attorney, Mr. Hazlett only accepts adoption cases in his practice in Topeka, Kansas.

Mr. Hazlett’s expertise is often sought by the media. He has been quoted in newspapers worldwide, including *The London Times* and *The Los Angeles Times*. Allan has been interviewed on radio and television, and, most recently, he was invited to *The Today Show* and *Dateline* regarding adoption hoaxes. Moreover, Mr. Hazlett has been sought by several organizations as a seminar presenter and has consulted in various other states concerning adoptions. He worked as a technical advisor on adoption for the CBS television program *Guiding Light*, and served as a consultant to CNBC’s

Steals and Deals and *Inside Edition* with respect to proposed segments on adoption fraud. Mr. Hazlett has also published a number of articles pertaining to adoption in the *Topeka Woman* magazine.

Ann and Chuck Vanasse

Representative Dennis Moore

Chuck and Ann Vanasse adopted their son, Sal, through a Christian Human Rights organization, Feed My Lambs. Sal is originally from Sierra Leone and prior to being adopted by the Vanasse family, he and his father were innocent victims of Sierra Leone’s brutal civil war. Sal’s biological father was fatally wounded and young Sal was tragically injured by rebel troops. Feed My Lambs brought Sal to the United States so that he could receive medical attention and the Vanasse family graciously opened their home to him. Chuck and Ann fell in love with Sal and adopted him. They are wonderful, loving parents and I am pleased to select them as my *Angels in Adoption*™.

Kentucky

James and Judith Green

Representative Anne Northup

A member of the executive board of *Wednesday’s Child*, a special needs adoption program in Louisville, Dr. Judith Green and her husband, James, have 13 children, many of whom have special needs. Their children have thrived in their home, including Jennifer who recently graduated in May as valedictorian from Louisville’s Central High School. She is headed to Harvard this fall, after choosing it over Yale and Princeton. She received \$150,000 in scholarships, including \$40,000 as a recipient of the prestigious Ron Brown Scholar Program. Judith and James have adopted their children out of a sense of responsibility. But they also have a deep belief in the potential of all children and wanted to help their children become contributing members of society by providing them a nurturing environment. They are active in adoption support groups and an inspiration to others as they provide their large family with such a loving home.

St. Joseph Children's Home

Senator Jim Bunning

St. Joseph Children's Home was founded in 1849, and its mission of "Giving Children a Home" is demonstrated in every program. St. Joseph serves children in a residential program, a Child Development Center, and with a Foster Care and Adoption program. St. Joseph Children's Home Foster Care program serves children who require intensive treatment, yet are capable of functioning in a family setting. The program is appropriate for children who have emotional, behavioral, intellectual, medical and/or physical limitations and for children who are more difficult to place because of age, race or being a part of a sibling group.

It is the practice of St. Joseph's to establish placements based on finding a good family that matches the child. St. Joseph's staff works with the family to ensure the first placement for the child is the last placement. They prepare families for adoption by offering the child and family an array of intensive services designed to help each child to achieve a safe and secure home environment. They also provide supervision to foster/adoptive families prior to adoption and guidance throughout the adoption process.

Many of Kentucky's most needy children have found the love and support they need through St. Joseph Children's Home, and it is an honor to recognize the hard work and dedication of St. Joseph's staff. I am proud to choose St. Joseph Children's Home in Louisville for the *Angels in Adoption™* Award.

Louisiana

Pam Bolke

Senator John Breaux

Six years ago, when Tom Bolke married Pam, he not only had a new bride but gained three children and six grandchildren. Tom and Pam each read an article in *The Advocate* encouraging families to consider becoming foster parents; and they decided to open their home to young children. After several placements, a sibling group of two little girls, one suffering from early childhood trauma resulting in behavioral issues, was placed with the Bolkes. Pam refused to allow the child placement to be disrupted, which meant often replacing furniture, losing sleep, and making many appointments to

secure the needed help for this child.

When the girls became available for adoption, the Bolkes decided to adopt them. Pam began to work part time for the Family Resource Center (FRC) for Volunteers of America where she serves as a liaison for foster and adoptive parents in the seven-parish Greater Baton Rouge Region. Through her work, she has served as a telephone buddy for foster and adoptive parents, introduced new parents to the services of the FRC, accompanied parents to court, arranged respite for parents and served on the local, state and national foster and adoptive parent associations. Pam also works to raise funds for the six programs that make up the Children's Crisis Center. About two years ago, the three siblings of Pam's adopted girls came into care: a three-year-old girl and four-month-old twins, one of whom has spina bifida. Pam and Tom became their foster parents and today are in the process of adopting them so all the siblings can be together. Now, with a family of five young children, Pam works fulltime for the Children's Crisis Center. Pam faces every day with a smile on her face and lots of energy. She is a great role model for foster and adoptive parents everywhere, as well as a tireless angel for children.

Louise Bourne

Representative Chris John

Louise Bourne has dedicated her life to helping others just a comma placing special emphasis on children in need. In her 30 years as a social work consultant with the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare, she helped hundreds of children find permanent homes through adoption. In fact, it was her guiding hand that located a home for Louisiana's 2002 *Angels in Adoption™*, Molly Womack. Now retired from her work with the State of Louisiana, Ms. Bourne continues her efforts as a founding member of the Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board (LAAB). Ms. Bourne, a tireless advocate of adoption having authored an instructional booklet for educators to use as a guide to emphasize adoption sensitivity in schools. School systems throughout the state now use this valuable resource. Her commitment to the children of Louisiana is boundless and her dedication is unflinching. She has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of children in Louisiana, and she has made a lasting impact on the adoption community in that state. I commend Ms. Bourne for her exceptional level of commitment, enthusiasm and hard work and I proudly choose Ms. Bourne for this prestigious award.

Karen Caldwell

Representative David Vitter

Karen Caldwell serves as Director of the adoption program at Catholic Charities of New Orleans. During her 27 years of service, Karen has secured over 500 domestic and international adoption placements. She serves as president of the Louisiana Adoption Coordination Board and will chair the Louisiana adoption workshop conference this year. Years ago, Karen helped to begin the register for birth parents and adoptees in Louisiana and she has completed over a hundred searches for adults wishing to contact their birth parents. Karen is a woman of tremendous humility who has embraced her calling to minister in adoption as her life's endeavor. Going far beyond the call of duty, her contributions to adoptive children and families are immeasurable and we are extremely grateful to have such a wonderful individual devoted to adoption.

Beverly Lewis

Senator Mary Landrieu

Beverly Lewis first learned about the Kidsave Summer Miracles program in the spring of 2000 when she offered to help her good friend Peggy bring a group of special needs children from Tula, Russia to Alexandria, LA. Single and with a successful career in automotive sales, she simply wanted to help advance the program and had no plans of her own to adopt. Little did she know that God had something else in mind. By the end of their six week stay, Beverly was making plans to adopt a sibling group of three, ages 11, 8, and 7. Three years later, Beverly is the proud mother of Anna (14), Howard (11) and Ty (10). In addition, she has become a foster mother to an eight-year-old girl. Gone are the days when Beverly had only to worry about herself or the number of sales she made each week. She now finds great joy in providing for and parenting her precious children.

worked tirelessly for more than 20 years to unite children with permanent, loving families. To complete her own family, she adopted her daughter, Susannah, a child with special needs from the foster care system. From volunteering her time performing general office duties at MAPS to becoming the Director of the MAPS Houlton, Maine, office, Jennifer has worked endlessly to recruit and educate adoptive families. Her first-hand knowledge, experience, and support guided hundreds of families through the adoption process. Although her focus and passion has always been to find families for children in Maine's foster care system and in the United States, Jennifer has also helped find permanent homes for waiting children in other countries. Most recently, she traveled to West Africa to develop a much-needed program to find loving families for children orphaned by the civil war in Sierra Leone. Under her direction, the Houlton MAPS office has grown to include the development and supervision of adoption programs in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Ecuador. Jennifer plans to retire soon and is long overdue for recognition for her years of helping the children in Maine, the U.S. and across the globe find their forever families. Her work humbles me. It gives me great pleasure to provide such well-deserved recognition as becoming my 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™.

Maryland

Kim and Carol Cormany

Representative Roscoe Bartlett

Kim and Carol Cormany have always dreamed of being parents and sharing their love with a child. They did not, however, know that they would be sharing that love with five – soon to be six – children who arrived through adoption. The Cormany's decided to adopt in February of 1999. Carol had always wanted a baby, but God had other plans, she said. Natasha (15) and Katya (14) wanted a mom and dad to do something as simple as taking them for a walk. When the Cormany's heard that, their hearts were captured. They decided to adopt a baby as well as the two girls. The minute they saw their new parents, the girls started saying "Momma, Papa" and that was it. The tiny love that had captured their hearts, instantly blossomed into a strong and fierce devotion. The new family then went to meet little Dan who was 19 months at the time of adoption. Their first

Maine

Jennifer Sylvester

Representative Susan Collins

Jennifer Sylvester is a generous, compassionate, and caring person who, as an employee of Maine Adoption Placement Service (MAPS) since 1979, has

adoption was so successful that they decided to go back in 2001 and adopt Mikhail and Stacey, who they met while in Russia on their first adoption. Carol says that as a small child she always knew that God had a very special purpose for her in life and now she knows that providing children with a loving, happy home, is that purpose. The Cormany's are a beautiful, happy family. Their love has overcome numerous barriers which have made them very deserving of this *Angel in Adoption*™ award.

Barbara Ann Dorsey

Representative Benjamin Cardin

Barbara Ann Dorsey has devoted 33 years to foster and adoptive children and is still going strong. Since February 1970, she has worked for the Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services in various capacities – foster and adoptive children caseworker, foster and adoptive home study and continuing worker, and adoption recruiter/trainer for foster and adoptive families. While other co-workers moved on to pursue administrative positions, Ann's feet remained devoted to working directly with children and families.

In 1999, Ann began hosting tea parties as a means to educate people and promote adoption. Today, "Dorsey Teas" is a popular recruitment tool. Additionally, in 2001, she spearheaded the *Bridging Waters, Building Families: Networking for Adoption Conference* – collaboration between four counties and Court Appointed Special Advocates to match families with children and to provide training opportunities for caseworkers.

Her unflinching commitment to children has received great acclaim. She received the 1998 Award for 25 years of Service to Families Adopting Children Everywhere (FACE); the 2000 Maryland Department of Human Resources NACAC Adoption Advocate Award, and the 2001 Maryland 5th Annual Statewide Adoption Celebration: Outstanding Service to Adoption Award. Perhaps the greatest testimonial of her work is the stability and permanence her presence brings into the lives of children. She remains in contact with the families long after initial placement, and has even seen some of them grow up to start their own families. For the families Ann works with, she is not just a social worker but a lifelong friend.

Susan Faro

Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Since March of 2003, Ms. Faro has had legal custody of Kory, a little boy with a rare genetic disorder, Williams Syndrome. Ms. Faro has been

working long and hard for the last five months to help this seven year old, who is only at a learning level of a three year old. Williams Syndrome has a variety of medical and psychological issues that require frequent visits to specialists. Ms. Faro has been doing all of this without any financial help from child services. Because of delays in processing Kory's child support, Ms. Faro is at times without the financial assistance she needs to help her child. As a single mother struggling to take care of this special little boy, she will continue to fight for Kory's well-being until he receives all of the medical care and financial support he deserves. Her dedication and support for her son is why I recognize Ms. Faro as a true Angel.

Mark McDermott

Representative Chris Van Hollen

Mark McDermott is not only an adoptive parent but an attorney who works tirelessly on adoption and child welfare related issues. He was one of the founding members of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, an organization of adoption attorneys, law professors, and judges who seek to maintain the highest possible standards for those who work in the field of adoption law. He is a past president of the Academy and, for the past six years, has served as the group's legislative chairman. The Academy is recognized as the preeminent organization of adoption attorneys thanks to Mr. McDermott's dedicated work. In his capacity as the Academy's legislative chairman, Mr. McDermott has spearheaded adoption reforms such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Intercountry Adoption Act, tax credits for adoption expenses, and automatic citizenship for children adopted from other countries. As a result of these efforts, Mr. McDermott was awarded the 2002 President's Award by the president of the Academy. His credentials and experience clearly place him among the elite in the profession and it is my pleasure to name Mark T. McDermott as an *Angel in Adoption*.™

Massachusetts

Loretta Cahill in memoriam

Representative John E. Tierney

In 1989, Loretta English Cahill began her career working with abused, neglected, and abandoned children in foster care. She worked diligently,

staffing the hotline for Help for Abused Women and Children. As an intake counselor at The Anchorage in Beverly, Massachusetts, she worked with children who were in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. Through her work at the Anchorage, she succeeded at creating a sense of family for children in need; built homes for children who were homeless; and provided a human touch to a system that often dehumanizes its clients. Loretta Cahill recognized the importance of a mother's love and the impact that a personal touch has in keeping hope alive in a young person who has been disconnected in every way from family life. For foster children in the Sixth District of Massachusetts, Loretta Cahill kept the hope of having a family alive. The children of Massachusetts have lost a fierce advocate with the passing of Loretta Cahill and it is a beacon to others to continue her work that I dedicate this important award to her.

Nancy Hendrie

Representative William Delahunt

Nancy W. Hendrie, M.D., of Concord, Massachusetts, is a board-certified pediatrician who has worked for many years to improve the lives of homeless and abandoned children in Cambodia and, where appropriate, to find loving homes for such children in the United States. She is President of The Sharing Foundation (TSF), a nonprofit organization she founded in 1998, which operates a number of facilities in Cambodia that provide children with access to clean and safe surroundings, nutritious meals, medical treatment and childhood immunizations. TSF also operates a rural school, provides English instruction, and sponsors vocational training courses for older children.

Many of the children cared for by TSF have HIV, cerebral palsy, congenital anomalies or other disabling conditions. The TSF orphanage at Roteang was one of the first places in Cambodia to provide antiretroviral medicines and care for pediatric HIV/AIDS patients. Where a childhood condition can be surgically treated in the United States, Dr. Hendrie has made it possible for children to come to the U.S. to receive such treatment. In May, Mount Holyoke College conferred an honorary doctorate on Dr. Hendrie in recognition of her humanitarian work. She has truly been an angel for countless children, and it is an honor to recognize her with this award.

Margaret O'Grady

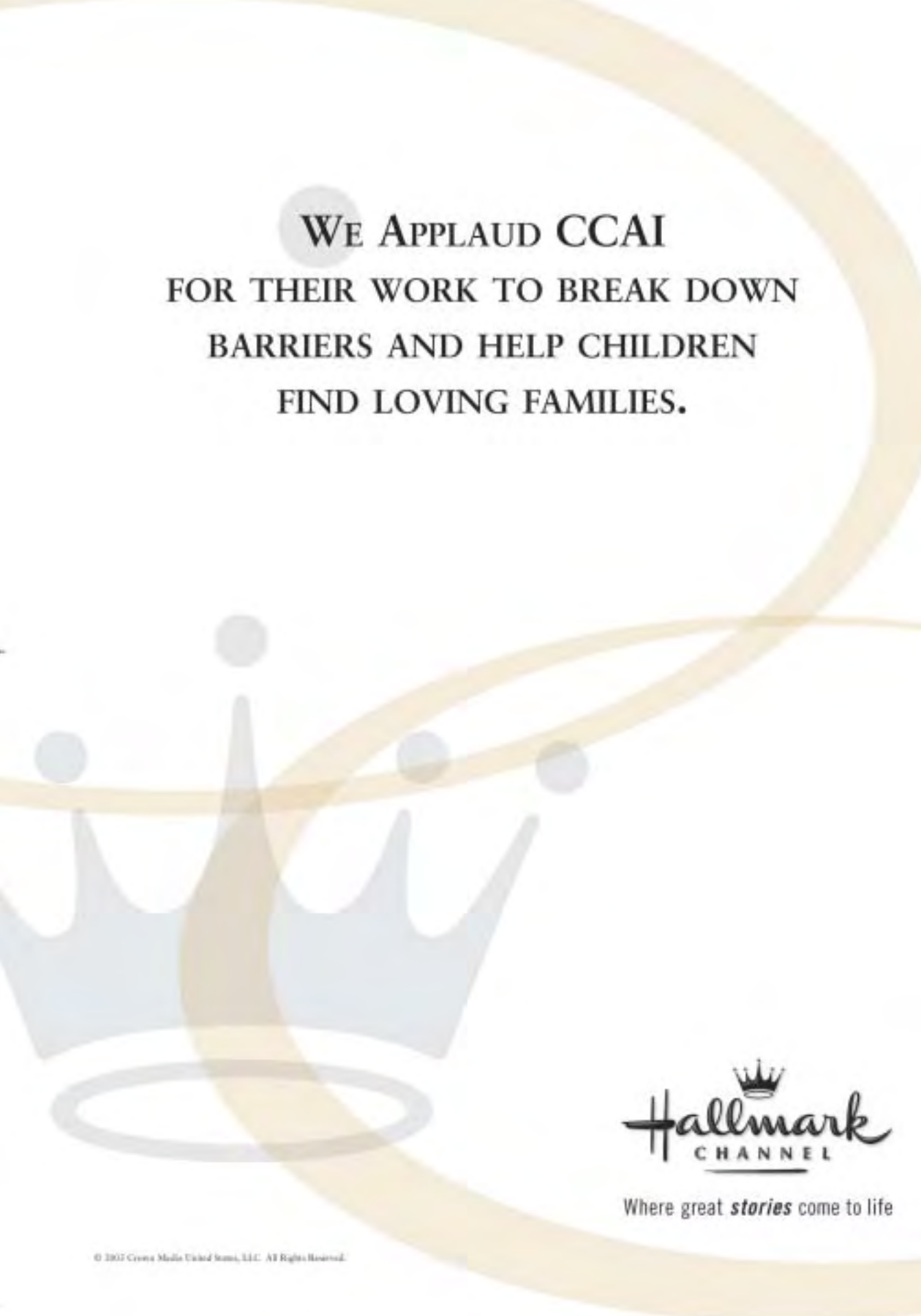
Senator Edward Kennedy

Margaret O'Grady is the Adoption Supervisor and Congressional Liaison at the Boston Citizenship and Immigration Services office. The letters that numerous adoption agencies have sent to me recommending Ms. O'Grady for the Angels Award have been quite remarkable and aptly illustrate the impact she has had on the lives of children. Ms. O'Grady is clearly a hard-working, knowledgeable, highly respected individual, who demonstrates compassion to those she helps. I was most impressed by the characterization that Ms. O'Grady is "an exceptional public servant," as stated by many organizations including China Adoption with Love, Inc. This is an increasingly important quality for those in human services to process, and it is critical to show those who do possess this quality, how much they are appreciated. Knowing that Ms. O'Grady finds the time to be so valuable to more than 1,400 families each year, I hold her in the highest regard. Nothing short of the *Angels in Adoption™* Award would be an acceptable way to exhibit the respect and gratitude she has from many individuals. In a letter I received from The Jewish Family Service of Metrowest, I was moved to read that they consider Ms. O'Grady to have an "unfailing commitment to the children of the world that need loving, permanent families." What a deserving compliment for a woman with such integrity. We live in an age when we hear more criticism than praise for the able men and women who devote themselves to public service. Today, however, we have one such public servant who has received so many accolades from those with whom she works, that it is a great honor to name Ms. O'Grady as my 2003 *Angel in Adoption™*.

Craig and Jane Pixley

Representative John Olver

In the summer of 2001, the Pixleys signed on as host parents for Kidsave International's Summer Miracles chapter in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. While siblings Kristina (10) and Dimitri (8) originally joined the Pixleys for a summer of camps, picnics and amusement parks, they have since been adopted, staying on for a lifetime of family love and commitment. As soon as the family relationship was formalized, the Pixleys returned to Russia to bring home Kristina and Dimitri's younger brother, Nikolai (6). The family of five now resides in the bucolic Berkshire Hills of western Massachusetts where they run a successful sign making business. The Pixleys epitomize the sacrifices made by



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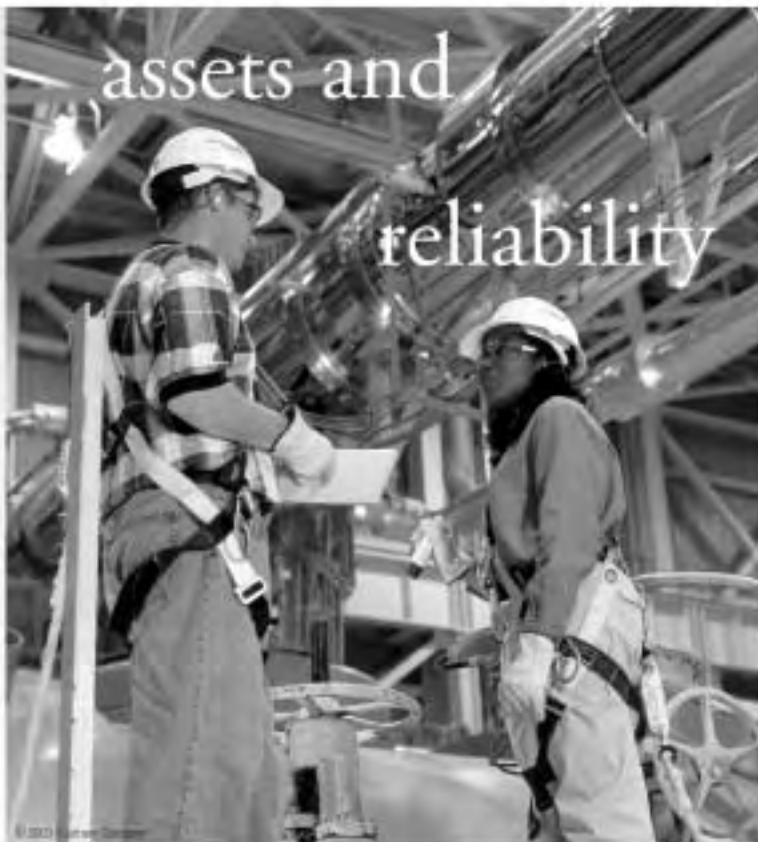
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adoptive parents, but they also know that any sacrifice is well balanced by the joys their children have brought to their lives. Jane and Craig are *Angels in Adoption™* for making tremendous strides in assuring that these brothers and sister grow up together in a healthy and loving family. I salute them and all parents who reach out and bring children into their family.

Robert and Shirley Siff

Senator John Kerry

Robert and Shirley Siffs' interest in adoption stems from Robert's experience as an adoptee, which inspired them to promote adoption research by endowing the Robert M. and Shirley S. Siff Chair in Family Health Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The faculty member named to the post will pursue multi-disciplinary research to investigate the causes and potential treatments for neurological and developmental disorders of adopted children. Dedicated to helping children, the Siffs have focused on giving their time and financial support to groups and universities that research and promote adoption. I applaud the Siffs' efforts and the contributions that they have made to the adoption community.

Carolyn Smith

Representative Michael Capuano

For over 30 years, Carolyn Smith has been involved in adoption in Massachusetts and now serves as executive director of the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (the Exchange). She began her career in adoption as an employee of the state government, and has worked with the Exchange for over 20 years. The Exchange, founded in 1957, was among the first adoption exchanges in the nation to coordinate the works of private agencies and public officials and improve the likelihood that children will be adopted by loving families. As the executive director, she works effectively in creating partnerships among various agencies and organizations to increase their cooperation and efficiency on adoption issues. Mrs. Smith is also the driving force in the Exchange's Jordan Initiative, which is collaboration between the Exchange, Jordan's Furniture stores, the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, and other state and local agencies. The program sponsors innovative recruitment events that have resulted in greater opportunities for adoption for the thousands of children in the state who still await homes and families of their own. The partnership has inspired impressive media coverage, which has led to the

creation of the *Sunday's Child* and *Wednesday's Child* programs focusing on new children every week with the goal of finding a family for each child. Carolyn Smith is an inspiring leader for the Exchange and its very important mission. It is my honor to name Carolyn Smith as my 2003 *Angel in Adoption™*.

Kathleen Teahan

Representative Stephen Lynch

As a schoolteacher who spent 13 years in the classroom, State Representative Kathleen Teahan knows first hand the importance of protecting children in our society.

It has been her leadership as a legislator representing the Seventh Plymouth District in the Commonwealth that has translated her passion for and commitment to children into extraordinary advocacy. From her assignment on the Health Committee where she has worked to ensure adequate health care for children in foster care, to her tireless advocacy for families adopting children from abroad, Representative Teahan has demonstrated a true dedication to the well-being of children everywhere. She has served as an invaluable legislative advocate in the fiscal crisis faced by our state child welfare agency and ensured that legislation seeking to address such complex problems as infant abandonment and access to adoption records is thoughtful and meaningful. From her days in the classroom to her work on Beacon Hill, Kathy Teahan's life has demonstrated that she is truly and an *Angel in Adoption™*.

Michigan

Charlie and Jerry Brown

Representative Jack Quinn

Charlie and Jerry Brown's ever-growing family truly represents the endless love they hold in their hearts for children in need of a good and loving home. The Brown family began with six biological children and began to expand further when they opened their home to a young girl in foster care in 1990. After deciding that foster care did not work for them because they could not bear to have the child leave, they decided to adopt her girl, who became the first of 14 children to come home through adoption. Today, they are in the process of adopting two more boys, making them proud parents of 22

children and 13 grandchildren. The Brown's oldest child is 42 years old and their youngest is 12. They are actively involved in the lives of each of their children, helping them pursue their goals in school, sports and their careers. Their large family and the love they devote to all of their children truly make them a remarkable couple and worthy of the *Angels in Adoption*[™] award.

Jaclyn Hope Champnella

Senator Debbie Stabenow

An angel is one of purity and strength who provides comfort and protection for others. One of the youngest, but clearly most dedicated and loving angels is Jaclyn Hope Champnella. After being placed in an orphanage in China, she was eventually adopted by Rick and Cindy Champnella of Farmington Hills, Michigan. Safe at home with her new family, Jaclyn could not forget "her baby," Xiao Mei Mei, who she cared for when they were in the orphanage together. She fed, bathed, and watched over him. Jaclyn's heart ached for "her baby" and she persistently asked her parents to bring him to the United States. As a result of Jaclyn's commitment and compassion, Xiao Mei Mei was adopted by Cindy Champnella's sister and brother-in-law, living only 20 miles from Jaclyn.

The Waiting Child: How the Faith and Love of One Orphan Saved the Life of Another, by Cindy Champnella, details Jaclyn's extraordinary story about the power of love and the human spirit is detailed in the book. Her story has spread worldwide and has been featured in several magazines, such as, *Ladies Home Journal* and *Child Magazine*; NBC's *The John Walsh Show* also featured Jaclyn's story. All proceeds from the book are designated for the Half the Sky Foundation, which was founded by the adoptive parents of children from China to benefit children who still live in Chinese orphanages. Jaclyn Hope Champnella is an inspirational *Angel in Adoption*[™].

Linda Cromartie

Representative Mike Rogers

Ten years ago, Linda Cromartie decided that she wanted a larger family. As a single mom who had a son by birth, she decided to open her home and prepared to adopt a one-year-old boy. Her new son faced medical challenges but Linda, a Registered Nurse, was not deterred. Today he is a healthy, happy pre-teen. Five years ago, she expanded her family yet again and the boys gained a baby sister, who was also medically fragile. Through the love and support of her family, she is now almost seven

years old and charms everyone around her; especially at the annual Christmas party. The care and love Ms. Cromartie has given her children is a testament to her dedication and a credit to our community. I am proud to name her as my angel.

Sandra Jones

Representative Carolyn Kilpatrick

Child welfare has been one of Sandra Jones' passions for many years. Her commitment and devotion to children in need compelled her to become a foster parent, and as a foster-mom, she has cared for and provided a sense of stability for many children. Being a foster mom fulfilled a desire, but Sandra's strong faith and caring heart motivated her to do more so she decided to adopt. Ms. Jones adopted four beautiful children and she is committed to ensuring that her children have a secure and loving environment in which to grow and learn. The Jones children are excelling in school because of the guidance they receive at home.

Kevin and Mary Julien

Senator Carl Levin

Mary and Kevin Julien have made an extraordinary difference in the lives of their three children, who joined their family through adoption as well as the many foster children with special needs who have been welcomed into their home. The Juliens first brought baby Krystal, now six, into their lives as a foster child and then adopted her. In 2001, they adopted their oldest child, Kyle, who is now 13. Most recently, Mary and Kevin adopted their two-year-old son, Sean, who has multiple complications of shaken baby syndrome, including blindness and seizures. It is likely that he will never walk and his life expectancy is severely limited. The Juliens have taken on the role of developmental therapists, massaging Sean's limbs when his muscles seize, and working with him for range of motion as well as stimulating him verbally and physically.

Mary and Kevin are dedicated to making their family function as a close-knit unit and over the past four years, they have included 13 foster children with special needs in that family. They also focus on making families stronger by working toward reuniting foster children with their parents. A humble couple, they gladly give of their time, love, and resources in exchange for a child's smile. Their dedication to all their children makes them ideal candidates for the 2003 *Angel in Adoption*[™] Award.

Steven and Constance Nitsch

Representative Fred Upton

Through their work with Heal the Children, Constance and Steven Nitsch have spent countless hours helping those who would otherwise never get the help they need. Heal the Children brings children to the United States for corrective surgery and the generosity of Constance, a nurse, and Steven, a plastic surgeon, has been instrumental to its success.

Their inspiration came from a young Guatemalan boy named Alan who had sustained severe burns and the loss of his left arm during childhood. The patient/doctor relationship between Steven and Alan soon blossomed into that of father and son motivating Steven and Constance to begin the adoption process for Alan. Several months after Alan's surgeries and his return to Guatemala, his adoption was completed and he was able to return to the United States to live with the Nitsches. Despite the early trauma and obstacles in his life, Alan has become one of the most exceptional soccer players in the state of Michigan. Steve and Constance Nitsch are indeed exemplary adoptive parents.

Paul and Sherry Petroelje

Representative Vernon Ehlers

For Paul and Sherry Petroelje, foster care and adoption began 17 years ago as a way to expand their family beyond parenting their biological son. Their modest desire to have a family, however, has blossomed into a lifelong process of loving children and learning how to meet their varied special needs. Over the years, the Petroeljes have adopted seven children and have fostered 28 others. Regardless of the Petroeljes' years of experience, each child who comes into their home provides Paul and Sherry with new opportunities to learn, to stretch their limits, and to love and serve children in the simplest way – by providing a loving family.

Although the couple participated in special needs training before accepting the first child into their home, Sherry says they had no idea all they would need to learn to meet the needs of Vern, a five-year-old boy with special needs. Much of what they learned in raising him prepared them to parent the many children who would later come into their home. Through their experiences, the Petroeljes learned about the importance of advocacy and perseverance. "Parents need to be confident in their belief that they know their child and his/her needs better than anyone else, and to continuously push to get those needs met," Paul explained, "Families

should not be reluctant to use the special resources and help available for families, including residential treatment, if necessary."

After Vern, they adopted six children with many different challenges. The Petroeljes also have a network of friends who are involved in foster care and adoption. They use their network for sharing problems, finding resources, and friendship. Sherry has also been active as a foster parent mentor as well as being a member of the foster parent advisory committee for Bethany Christian Services. "Even when our children's needs have seemed overwhelming, God has always provided resources and help," Sherry said, "Despite difficult times, we wouldn't trade any of them. In His perfect way, God has balanced our children's special needs with the special joy they bring to us."

Alan and Kristine Yeadon

Representative Nick Smith

When Alan and Kristine Yeadon first applied to be foster parents, they asked for children younger than their own, the oldest of whom was 12. Their desire to become foster parents was sparked by Kristine's experience as a foster sister. In addition, Alan participated in the Kinship program. Seeing the great need for parents, the Yeadons realized they had the time, concern, and love to share with children and their families.

Their first placement turned out to be three teenagers and an infant. The Yeadons quickly found that older children were a good fit for their family. Their five biological children have willingly shared their home with 13 foster brothers and sisters in the last three years, an experience the Yeadons believe has benefited their whole family. Currently, their family includes children from ages one to 15.

Today, the Yeadons are in the process of adopting a daughter. They have seen many successes with their temporary charges, some of whom were placed with relatives and others readied for adoption. According to the Yeadons, "All of our children have made many adjustments along the way. It has not always been easy for them but the lessons they have learned and the great amount of compassion, understanding, acceptance, and flexibility they now possess will stay with them always. "

Minnesota

Becky and Gladys Abbott

Representative James L. Oberstar

I have seen many families in my congressional district in Minnesota that have been touched by adoption, and I am delighted to recognize one of my constituents. Gladys Abbott from Pine City, Minnesota brought to my attention the difficulties that her daughter, Becky was having with her adoption in Guatemala. Because of her concern regarding the treatment of U.S. families seeking to adopt from Guatemala, Gladys wrote to me to voice her support for her daughter and for these families. Through her advocacy, Gladys has demonstrated that motivated citizens can make a difference to promote adoption. It is for this reason that I am pleased to recognize Gladys and Becky Abbott for their dedication to adoption.

Susan Freivalds

Representative Martin Sabo

Minneapolis resident Susan Freivalds has been a long-time advocate for adoptive families and is well known in the international adoption community; first for her role in founding *Adoptive Families* magazine, formerly known as *Ours*, and next as executive director of the national non-profit organization, Adoptive Families of America. She currently serves as an advisor to the magazine.

The work of this organization during her tenure was instrumental in both the policy arena and in helping thousands of families build their families through adoption and raise healthy, productive citizens. Her advocacy work has been important in passing the income tax credit for adoption expenses, health benefits for adoptive families, and adoption benefits for families in the work place.

She has been instrumental in supporting numerous legislative initiatives that focused on bettering adoption policy and practice as well as the evolution during the last decade toward abbreviating the time children spend in foster care. In the international arena, she served as a U.S. delegate to meetings and negotiations concerning The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption where she represented adoptive families. Her role as a delegate led her to testify at numerous congressional hearings on this convention adding to her already considerable reputation as an important resource for policy makers and media on child

welfare and adoption issues. For her unceasing efforts on behalf of adoptive families during the past few decades, she is well deserving of being my 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™.

Larry and Arlyce Morrell

Representative Mark Kennedy

Larry and Arlyce Morrell are shining lights to dozens of children who would have otherwise faced tough challenges early in life. Between November 1981 and November 1999, the Morrells opened their home and their hearts to 54 foster children by providing a loving, caring, and stable home. In addition, the Morrells have six biological children and continue to keep in contact with many of the foster children who may have passed through their home but remain a part of their lives.

The Morrells were instrumental in expanding a fundraising network of individual donors to enable NLFS to continue serving as a crisis pregnancy center, and provide adoption and foster care services. For more than 15 years, they have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of foster children by volunteering at the NLFS taco stand, state fair booth, the annual banquet, and other events. As a result of their efforts, countless children have been blessed with a second chance and the opportunity to live a better life filled with love and compassion.

North American Council on Adoptable Children

Representative Betty McCollum

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC), located in St. Paul, Minnesota, is one of the most important resources this nation has in the adoption and child welfare community. This non-profit organization supports adoptive parents; promotes adoption awareness; and works to find children their forever families. In addition, NACAC serves parents and professionals throughout the United States and Canada, by publishing materials, conducting training, advocating for system change through legislation and practice, promoting better policy and practice and providing adoption support. In Minnesota, NACAC recruits foster and adoptive parents and provides peer support to adoptive families through parent groups and their network of 11 adoptive parent liaisons. NACAC's work is instrumental in creating and supporting successful adoptive and foster families throughout the nation. Its body of work makes it ideal for naming it A 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™.

Brad and Sandy Powers

Senator Mark Dayton

In 1997, Sandy and Brad Powers expanded their family of five by adopting 13-month-old Ratana Var Powers from a Cambodian Orphanage. Based on their positive experience with their first adoption, they decided to adopt another child from Cambodia. In 1999, they welcomed two-year-old Seyma Pharey Powers into their home.

Sandy and Brad Powers were happy to provide a loving and caring family for their two adoptive children but still grieved for the thousands of orphans in Cambodia who were still in need of permanency.

Over the past four years, Sandy assumed a local leadership role in two national fundraising campaigns to help improve the conditions in Cambodian orphanages. Through The Sharing Foundation, Sandy raised over \$13,000 from local church groups and individuals to build a new kitchen in the state-run Orphanage in Kompong Speu, Cambodia. She is currently working with the "Adopt for the Love of a Child" (Adopt TLC) program, sponsored by the Kai's Kids organization, to raise money to build a new orphanage in Kompong Speu. She has raised over \$8,000 for this effort in addition to receiving \$2,500 in pledges from local Rotary Clubs that will possibly match donations made from the International Rotary Matching Grant Foundation.

Sandy also organizes an annual picnic for families from Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin who have adopted children from Cambodia, allowing the children to meet one another and share their common culture.

has come together to build a 15-bedroom home to house the family as well as children they wish to adopt in the future. Their dedication and commitment to children make them every deserving of the *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Missouri

George and Cyrilla Bender

Representative Karen McCarthy

George and Cyrilla Bender have been foster parents to 75 children, two of whom they have been able to adopt. In 1996 they founded the organization, Mothers Outraged at Molesters (M.O.M.s) and after recognizing the need for public awareness, created a website to help prevent sexual abuse in children. This is an all volunteer organization which includes a hot line in their home, an illustration of the dedication they have to their cause. They were recognized in a Resolution from the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives in 1996 and 2001 for their efforts. In 1999 they were guests on the National Syndicated Leeza Gibbons show. In 2001 they were presented the Governor's Award for the *Restorative Justice Program* for speaking to prisoners about the after effect of abuse on children. That same year they were the only organization in Missouri to be asked for their input on a Federal Law called Amie's law, which gives no second chance to sex offenders. They started a chat room for parents of abused children, and counseled victims. They were awarded for having a safe site for kids: weredkids.org and continue to speak in schools to parents about safety for themselves as well as their children. In 2002 the Benders successfully added a sex offenders list on their website. With the help of Missouri State Senator Matt Bartle, SB0184 - Sex Offenders Information and Pictures on the Internet passed both the Missouri House and Senate this year. The Bender's compassionate advocacy is an inspiration to all in caring and helping keep our children safe.

Joan Bystrom

Senator James M. Talent

Joan Bystrom is the executive director of the Christian Family Life Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Her dedication to both prospective adoptive parents and to Romanian children radiates from her enthusiastic and positive personality. It is largely

Mississippi

Drew and Nancy McDowell

Senator Thad Cochran

Nancy and Drew McDowell have adopted 40 children – some of whom were labeled "unadoptable," something the McDowells have so aptly demonstrated is an inaccurate description of any child. e, happiness, and warmth in their home are contagious and the positive attitudes of the children provide eloquent testimony to their dedication and success as parents. The McDowells adopt for no other reason than a true love for children and a heart for adoption. Their community

owing to her persistence and patience that some children have been adopted and able to finally come to America, despite the current moratorium on Romanian adoptions. The Christian Family Life Center is unique because it ensures, in most cases, that the babies waiting to be adopted are placed shortly after birth in loving foster homes until they can be united with their parents. I am honored to select Joan Bystrom as an *Angel in Adoption*™ recipient for 2003. Her dedication to children in both Romania and the United States is exhibited throughout her career, her family, and her faith.

Dean and Sheila Dutton

Senator Christopher S. Bond

A chance encounter led Dean and Sheila Dutton to adopt six children from Kazakhstan and Russia. Already parents to seven children, Sheila Dutton learned about the children's plight when a vacationer attending the Dutton's theater in Branson, approached her following a performance in April 2001. The woman had just adopted a girl from a Kazakhstan orphanage and shared photos with Sheila of four children still living in the orphanage – the brothers and sisters of the child she had adopted.

It only took Dean and Sheila two days to decide that they wanted to adopt the children. Dean has said that he just knew there was no chance of getting them adopted if he and Sheila did not do it. Through Kidsave International, a nonprofit organization that works to find homes for orphaned children from Russia and Europe, the Duttons were able to meet and get to know, not four, but six wonderful children. That December, the couple flew to Europe and finalized all six adoptions. Dean and Sheila remain committed to lovingly passing down the values of hard work and a good education to the next generation of Duttons.

Randy and Linda Koenig

Representative Todd Akin

Randy and Linda Koenig have been married for 24 years and would probably be the first to say that they never expected to have 10 children under the age of 13 at this point in their lives. Randy is a Technical Solution Architect with IBM and Linda is a homemaker in Lake St. Louis, Missouri. When Randy and Linda began thinking about beginning their family, they did not know much about adoption, but they knew that children in Central and South America had a special place in their hearts. Linda describes how they began their adoption journey, by saying, "People just kept

making us aware of children who needed a family, and when we felt a peace from God, we knew that the children were to be part of our family."

The Koenigs adopted their first two children from Peru in 1990 and since then, have adopted eight more, seven from Guatemala, and one from Missouri. Their family is made up of three 12-year-olds, an 11-year-old, a nine-year-old, a seven-year-old and four six-year-olds. Remarkably, they remain open to the possibility of continuing to expand their family through adoption. The Koenig's have had tremendous support from their church, family, and friends with the arrival of each new family member. They continue to reach out to their community to educate others about the joys and blessings that come from adoption. Randy and Linda both agree, "There is nothing better we could be spending our time on than raising these precious children."

Laurie Murphy

Representative Richard Gephardt

Laurie Murphy and her partner are the proud parents of two adopted children ages six and four. Laurie has served as a partner mentor for the past three years, providing support to preadoptive parents as they prepare to adopt children with special needs. She has been a consistent volunteer and advocate in this program. Laurie has devoted much of her time at adoption events, supervising activities and supporting the connection between children and families. She serves as one of forty volunteers who follow up with families throughout the state as part of the Missouri Adoption Continuum project. In this role, she follows up and speaks with people who have inquired about becoming foster and adoptive parents by sharing experiences and resources. Laurie also serves on The Adoption Exchange's Missouri Advisory committee and offers her expertise on program and funding issues.

Montana

Claire and Patty Walker

Senator Conrad Burns

Clair and Patty Walker are, indeed, a remarkable couple who decided long ago to have a large family. They are open, friendly and welcoming to everyone whether visitor or family. While the count may now stand at nine children who have arrived

through adoption, their love of children is unending and means they are anxious to adopt even more. They are interested in any child, any age, any race and any disability. Some of their adopted children suffer from disabilities including Downs Syndrome, severe cerebral palsy, mitochondria disorder, hearing impairment and fetal alcohol syndrome. Clair is a Master Mechanic for the Latter Day Saints Temple in Billings. He works full-time but is also a full-time dad. He loves being home, playing with his children and working on the house, building an addition with three new bedrooms. He is always calm and friendly. Patty is a stay-at-home mom, who never stops working. She home schools all of the children and coordinates all of the children's medical and therapy appointments. She also has served as den mother for C.J. and Samuel's Boy Scout troop. Since they moved to Montana in 1993, they have added three children to their family from different states. They are truly a remarkable couple who live for the joy of their family.

Nebraska

Dr. Edward and Sandy Kolb

Representative Lee Terry

Dr. Edward and Sandy Kolb are dedicated parents to three biological daughters and two sons from Romania – Andrew, adopted in 1998 and Stefan in 1999. Their dedication, however, extends far beyond their family. Dr. Kolb helped found the Internationally Adopted Children's Clinic at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, where he served as medical director from 1999 to 2002. In 2002, Dr. Kolb started International Adoption Medical Consultants, LLC, where he provides valuable guidance for parents both considering adoption and those in need of medical advice for their international adoptees. He reviews pre-adoption medical records, gives adoption travel advice, and provides post-placement consultation regarding medical management, laboratory work, immunizations, and sub-specialist referrals. The Kolbs are now in the process of adopting a two year-old girl from Satu Mare, Romania.

Patrick and Patrice Lappert

Senator Chuck Hagel

"It's not blood that binds you," says Patrice Lappert, who should know, having created her own

international family. She and her husband, Patrick, have one biological daughter, Bridget, and have adopted five children. Daniel and Joe were adopted domestically; Rita from China; Theresa from India; and John Paul from the Philippines. They are currently in the process of adopting another from Africa. Patrice and Patrick both have military backgrounds in health care and embrace the mission of the international adoption agency they work with, which is to advocate for the welfare of the child and for the reunification of the child and their family, when possible. In Rita's case it was not. She came to them as one of 500,000 girls in China orphaned by the "one-child" policy. Their new family member from Africa will be a child who lost his family to AIDS. The Lapperts know what most adoptive parents know – that their children have brought them more blessings than they ever could have imagined. As Patrice puts it, "Family bonding is real - the need is real."

Patrick and Cyndi Seitz

Representative Tom Osborne

Since adopting their children, Patrick and Cyndi Seitz have felt the joys of adoptive parenting. They could not imagine their lives without their four children who range in age from one to six. Throughout their many hardships and challenges, Patrick and Cyndi have demonstrated their unconditional love and commitment to their children by providing encouragement, respect, and a nurturing environment, sprinkled with loads of laughter. They have also built a wonderful support system of friends, family, and extended family. Their story is made more poignant by the fact they are a second-generation adoptive family. More than 13 years ago, Patrick's parents, Tony and Kathy Seitz, adopted four children and continue to open their home to foster children.

Eugene and Cindy Ulmer

Senator Ben Nelson

Eugene and Cindy Ulmer are exemplary parents as they teach their three children who joined the family through adoption the values of hard work, love and the importance of their farm roots that recall a simpler time. They show their children love and respect as they provide discipline, guidance, and direction. The children love to help their Dad on the farm with the baby calves and other chores. Fishing at the family fishing hole is something that they look forward to in the summer time. Cindy is teaching the children how to speak Dutch, as they plan to take a trip to Holland in the future. They

have helped the children develop into healthy productive citizens. For that and their devotion to their family, I have chosen Eugene and Cindy Ulmer for the 2003 Adoption Angel award.

Nevada

Letha Davies

Senator Harry Reid

Letha Davies is 29 years old, single, and the mother of nine children. That would be remarkable in itself, but Letha's children came home through adoption, making her a devoted servant to children in her community. Letha has been lucky enough to know her children all their lives they are her brothers and sisters. For her first 10 years, Letha grew up as an only child, and then her siblings came along. As she entered her teens, she began to run the streets but realized her younger brothers were beginning to replicate her bad behavior. She then made a commitment to turn her life around. She stopped hanging out with gangs, began playing basketball, and got a part-time job. She graduated from high school and is now a cook at one of the large hotels on the famed Las Vegas "strip."

In late 1999, her 11 younger siblings were taken from their mother's home due to neglect, were made wards of the Court, and eventually available for adoption. The two youngest children were being raised by an aunt, but Letha feared that if the others remained in the foster care system, they may be permanently separated as siblings often are. She became determined to keep the family together and made known her desire to adopt her brothers and sisters. In Letha's own words, "I love my brothers and sisters. I'd rather they be with family than someone else." At the age of 26, Letha was thought to be too young to care for so many young children. Her resolve was so strong, however, that she eventually won over the children's social worker and everyone else with whom she came in contact. She completed adoption classes and had her home licensed as a group home to accommodate all the children. Additionally, a van was donated to her to meet the family's transportation needs. This mature, down-to-earth young woman had her dream and the dreams of her siblings realized when she adopted six of them and obtained legal guardianship of three. Letha Davies personifies an *Angel in Adoption*™.

Steve and Kayleen Fotheringham

Senator John Ensign

Steve and Kayleen Fotheringham are the proud parents of six wonderful children, who came home through adoption, four with special needs. Unable to have biological children, the Fotheringhams quickly decided that adoption would build their dream family. First they adopted Lisa, now 18 and a sophomore at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The second addition to their family was Brian, who, at age 15, is beginning his sophomore year at one of largest high schools in Las Vegas. Next, came Aaron, who born with spina bifida and is wheelchair bound. He is an excellent student and navigated the halls of his Junior high school like a pro. Steve and Kayleen looked abroad to adopt their next two children, Michael and Christina, who are both seven years old and from Moldova, a new republic bordering Romania. Finally, the Fotheringham family adopted Joseph who was, according to Kayleen, just what they needed to make their family complete. Like Aaron, Joseph was born with spina bifida and also has hydrocephalus. It is no surprise that Steve and Kayleen see each of their children as a blessing and are thankful for every day that they spend with them. For their dedication to family, the children of the world and as an inspiration to others, I name them my 2003 *Angels in Adoption*™.

Renee Phillips

Representative Jim Gibbons

Renee Phillips is the lead anchorwoman for KTVN Channel 4 News and for the last several years has participated in the recruitment of foster and adoptive homes for children in need of permanency. In addition to her newscast responsibilities, Renee hosts a monthly segment called *Wednesday's Child* which airs the first Wednesday of every month. These programs are of paramount importance in adoption since they take children out from behind their labels and show them for what they are, loving children in need of permanent homes.

Her program raises awareness about the need for adoptive homes and has been directly responsible for the adoption of many children. "Renee has a wonderful way of connecting with the children during her interviews for *Wednesday's Child*," said Maire Burgess, Adoption Supervisor for Washoe County Department of Social Services. "In the course of conducting these interviews, Renee has bicycled, swum, hiked, sledged, walked, crawled through playground equipment, and done many other activities in order to relate to the

children on their level." Over the past three years, 12 children have been placed in adoptive homes through the exposure gained from being with Renee on *Wednesday's Child*. Once the child is adopted, Renee continues to follow up with the children who have been on the program. Renee's commitment to the children in the Truckee Meadows is an example of dedication, compassion, and positive community activism. "She is a creative and enthusiastic "Angel" for the children in our community who are looking for a permanent home through adoption.

New Jersey

Eileen Crummy

Representative Mike Ferguson

Ms. Crummy was a Department of Youth and Family Services caseworker in 1975 and today is responsible for all adoption services in New Jersey's public child welfare system. She has overseen and implemented the mandates of the Adoption and Safe Families Act and has successfully advocated for an additional Adoption Resource Center office to concentrate on the placement of children who need newly recruited adoptive families. She was the driving force behind Adoption House and proposed an Adoption Resource Clearing House which will provide adoption advocacy, education, information and referral services. She is most deserving of the *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Janet Farrand

Senator Jon Corzine

Janet Farrand has been a foster parent for 15 years and adopted two of her foster children, both of whom have special needs. Knowing the challenges that foster and adoptive families confront, Janet has used her personal experience as a parent to help other families face those challenges, not only as a mentor, but also as a state-level advocate. Having served as the President of the Morris County Foster Parents' Association, Ms. Farrand developed a program that provided innovative support strategies to foster parents including respite care and mentoring. She also is a member of the New Jersey Adoptive Families' Association, where she used her knowledge to help structure and implement several state laws affecting such families. One of her most important efforts was the tuition-waiver bill for youth aging out of foster care. Signed into law on

July 17, the tuition-waiver bill will give foster children free tuition at New Jersey county and state colleges and vocational schools. Furthermore, Jane has been influential in the creation of foster parent certification and is a member of the Staffing and Outcomes Review Panel that makes recommendations to the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services regarding issues affecting New Jersey's foster and adoptive families. Through her work as a parent, mentor, and advocate, Janet Farrand has not only successfully changed the lives of her own children, but also the lives of thousands of New Jersey families. I am proud to name her my 2003 *Angel in Adoption™*.

Pamela Hasegawa

Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen

Pamela Hasegawa is an untiring, effective advocate for adoptee rights; one who enjoys the respect of the entire adoption community for her work in the field. As an adult adoptee, Pam has made it her life work to serve adoptees and their families, creating bridges and unifying all parties involved in the adoption process. As a member of the New Jersey Adoption Services Adoptive Advisory Committee, Pam advocates for increased recruitment activities on behalf of New Jersey's children who are awaiting adoption. Her empathy and compassion constitute an invaluable service to those who need and benefit from her involvement. Her work has been recognized by the Inter-Agency Council on Adoption, an advocacy group for the children of New Jersey.

Additionally, Pam has remained, for over 30 years, a tenacious and enduring presence in Trenton, where she speaks out for legislative reform to the adoption process in New Jersey. She founded the Adoption News Service and created an informal network of supporters for adoptee rights and adoption reform throughout the country. Her work is instrumental in keeping this network informed on legislative initiatives and coverage of adoptee rights, adoption reform, safe haven laws, oversight of state adoption practices and family meetings between birth parents and their children. Pam is truly one of the great unsung heroes of adoption. For these reasons, it is my honor to select Pam Hasegawa for the 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Monsignor James J. McGovern

Representative Christopher Smith

I would like to take this opportunity to select Monsignor James J. McGovern, Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Moorestown, New

Jersey for the 2003 *Angels in Adoption*™ Award. Throughout his life, Monsignor McGovern has been an *Angel in Adoption*™, working hard to bring countless children and loving families together. He has been a persuasive, compassionate, creative, hands-on advocate for adoption. He is deeply committed to promoting the loving, life-saving option of adoption whenever possible.

In recognition of National Adoption Month in 2002, Monsignor McGovern commissioned the design and production of a street banner to be displayed for the entire month of November across the main thoroughfare in Moorestown. Monsignor McGovern literally had to “fight city hall” and eventually won over the governing body and received the needed permit. In conjunction with the banner, posters promoting adoption were designed and displayed in store windows, church halls, and throughout the Moorestown community.

Monsignor McGovern also said a special mass to honor and bless all the adoptive families in the Our Lady of Good Counsel parish. Similarly, on Respect Life Sundays, Monsignor McGovern has members of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Advocates for Life group speak about adoption at all of the masses. In 1999, Monsignor McGovern used the occasion of his acceptance of the Trenton Diocesan Catholic Charities’ Humanitarian Award not only to promote adoption, but also to plead for a higher level of funding and support for adoption services by Catholic Charities. Given his strong background in community and adoption services, Monsignor McGovern is a perfect recipient for the 2003 *Angels in Adoption*™ Award.

Debra Supnick

Representative Robert Andrews

Debra is a role model for adoption in our area. She experienced the adoption process first hand, when as a child she was placed by Department of Youth & Family Services with 14 different families until she was finally placed with her forever family. Having gone through the adoption process, Debra decided to be an advocate for adoption. Her life story was featured on the CBS special “A Home for the Holiday.” Invited by Senator Mary Landrieu and Secretary Tommy Thompson, she has been a guest speaker at several Congressional hearings. Additionally, Debra has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *Gerald Rivera*, *Family Talk* on CN8, *CNN*, and *NBC* as a special ambassador of the joys and rewards of adopting from foster care. Through all of her work, Debra has become an inspiration to many children and adults who have or are currently experiencing the many aspects of adoption.

New Mexico

Frank and Donna Payne

Senator Jeff Bingaman

Frank and Donna Payne are well known in our community for their generosity in service to children who are in foster care and for opening their hearts and their home to become a forever family to three children. The Payne’s have been licensed as foster parents for 17 years and have provided a safe and nurturing environment to over 100 children. Frank and Donna have three children of their own.

They became licensed by the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) in December of 1986 and consistently cared for children in their home through May 31, 1994 when they became Treatment Foster Parents with another agency. The Paynes had fostered two African-American children for three years and one of the siblings for nine months. They were supportive and cooperated fully with the agency’s plan to place these children in an adoptive home with a fourth sibling. When the adoption disrupted, they looked very seriously at the issues of raising three more children and the added responsibility of reaching out to the African-American community in order to help the children grow with a healthy ethnic identity. After careful consideration, Donna and Frank requested in 1994 that the Department allow them to adopt the three children who had lived in their home. These are the three children with big smiles who, along with their mother, were featured last year on CYFD television spots for foster and adoptive care. The children are now 13, 15, and 16. The children and Donna volunteer to speak to prospective foster and adoptive families and readily share their personal experiences in becoming a family.

Ken and Fran Sullivan

Representative Heather Wilson

Ken and Fran Sullivan began their work in foster care in 1970 and since have adopted a three year old who was their first foster care placement. In 1975, they began taking in newborn babies who were waiting to be adopted. In 1979, they became more involved in the foster care program by working with state agencies and now primarily serve as foster parents for drug-affected babies. Since they have become active in adoptions and foster care, over 400 children have been in their home. They learned about therapy programs by

caring for these babies and over a period of years adopted five children who have been exposed to drugs. They are committed to meeting the special needs of these children. They work hard to help others understand the needs of these children, specifically the negative impact of drugs on these children. Ken Sullivan has recently retired and is “fostering” full time. In the past, they have worked with committees supporting other foster and adoptive families. For the Sullivans, their children will always come first.

New York

Rose Marie Battisti-Bruce

Representative Sherwood Boehlert

Rose Marie Battisti-Bruce began her career in adoption in 1997 when she adopted her son Jimmy from Korea. It wasn't long before three new daughters were added to the family which now numbers eight children, Rose Marie and her husband, Bruce. Early in her career, Rose Marie focused on helping refugees from all over the world settle into American life. She served as executive director of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees in Utica, New York and as a regional consultant for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Eventually, she narrowed her focus to Vietnam, and after spending time in that country, she realized her experience working with non-profit social programs and her love of children could be combined into a single, powerful avocation – international adoption. Rose Marie has been traveling between her offices in Hanoi, Vietnam and Little Falls since 1993. Her enthusiasm and dedication to this cause has been inherited by her eight children, and the entire family is now involved in the mission of Asian Children Services, which is critical to its success.

Karen Eckert

Representative Jack Quinn

Karen M. Eckert has been passionately involved with international adoption issues on the national and local level for many years. She currently serves as Deputy Assistant Director in the Buffalo office of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS). For nearly 30 years, she has assisted every family in Western New York through the international adoption process. Her interest,

concern for the welfare of the children and the families she assists, and genuine love for her work is evident in everything she accomplishes. Karen is also well recognized on the national and international level in the field of international adoption. Her advice and counsel is sought by many in their attempts to assist families. She has been the focal point in streamlining the federal regulations, making it easier for families around the country to navigate the international adoption process. The effect she has had on the lives of so many is overwhelming. Under her guidance, the adoptions unit of the Buffalo office of the BCIS is looked upon as the gold standard in service to customers. All those involved in international adoption in the Western New York area, join me in saluting Karen Eckert, who is the epitome of a caring, dedicated public servant.

Family Focus Adoption Services

Representative Gary Ackerman

Family Focus Adoption Services is a not-for-profit, multi-service adoption agency headquartered in Eastern Queens. Founded and led by adoptive parents, social workers, and other adoption advocates, the agency works to find permanent, loving families for the hundreds of New York State children in temporary foster care. Family Focus places them in their forever families throughout metropolitan New York City and the Hudson Valley, as well as parts of New Jersey and Connecticut. In its 16 years of strong adoption activity, Family Focus has successfully placed more than 700 children, including older teens from institutions, school age sibling groups, children with AIDS, and multiply-handicapped babies. Through their current work, the agency has developed nationally recognized, specialized techniques for helping older children and youth move into successful adoption placements with a remarkably low disruption rate. In addition, Family Focus counsels pregnant women; assists families adopting internationally; responds to community and media requests for adoption information or assistance; and does ongoing training for other agencies, foster and adoptive parent support groups, and local, regional and national conferences. The staff at Family Focus is dedicated and passionate about their work. The many different backgrounds and personalities of agency staff come together in a working unit focused on providing the highest quality adoption work, and ensuring a safe and loving family life and future for every foster child.

New Directions Youth and Family Services

Senator Charles Schumer

New Directions Youth and Family Services, founded in 1999, is a non-profit organization that serves Western New York children with emotional, behavioral, and learning problems. It has enabled the adoptions of 24 “hard-to-place” children, and currently has 14 more adoptions pending. New Directions addresses the needs of vulnerable children by providing important services, keeping families and children together, and working to match children with loving adoptive parents. Created from the needs of orphaned children, molded by the needs of troubled children in modern society, and inspired by a vision of children who thrive in the love and support of caring homes, New Directions enriches the lives of Western New York children and their work make them my 2003 *Angel in Adoption*.™

Thomasena Newton

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

Thomasena Newton of Rochester, New York, is an adoptive parent of six African-American young men; all of whom were adopted as older children from the New York State foster care system. She founded and is president of New Life for Black Children, Inc., an adoptive parent group in Rochester that provides information and support to prospective adoptive parents and to families after adoption. While Ms. Newton is an advocate for children of all races and receives inquiries from a diversity of families from all across New York State, New Life highlights a concern for black children recognizing that 46% of NYS foster children are African American. Ms. Newton is also a foster parent. She has opened her home and her heart to many children, including refugee teenagers from Haiti and other countries, local infants and older children in Monroe County. She started a very successful program at Children Awaiting Parents, reaching out to the community and collecting and distributing suitcases and duffel bags so that every child in foster care in the county can move to a new home with dignity and self-respect. For nearly 10 years, Ms. Newton has been Western Vice President of the NYS Citizens’ Coalition for Children, Inc. (NYSCCC), an advocacy organization of over 150 adoptive and foster parent groups throughout the state, again demonstrating her commitment to the welfare of all waiting children. “Everybody can and should touch a child’s life and help them be a better person,” she said. “We can all do that.” Thomasena Newton has

demonstrated that she can indeed do that, and she has inspired countless others as well. Through her dedication and love, Thomasena Newton personifies an *Angel in Adoption*™.

Dr. Natasha Shaginian

Representative Sue Kelly

In 1992, after her residency in psychiatry, Dr. Natasha Shaginian began working voluntarily in the field of adoption in Russian orphanages – her own birth country. She helped to interpret medical terms used in Russia for the American families who were adopting children with special needs. In 1993, adoption in Russia was closed as terrible soviet-era rumors circulated throughout the country that children who were adopted by American families were being used for medical experiments and organ donations. To help dispel those rumors, Dr. Shaginian personally raised money and hired a professional Russian film crew, becoming the producer of the first Russian documentary about adoption entitled *Children on the Other Shore*. The documentary was aired on Channel 1, the largest television station in Russia and helped people in Russia see the true lives of children who joined their families through adoption. She is currently working on the funding for a second documentary which is expected to be completed in the spring of 2004. While adoptions were closed in Russia, she continued her dedication to helping children with special needs to receive medical attention. In 1994, her dream of creating an organization of helping children came to fruition when she created the not-for-profit organization, Happy Families International Center, Inc. Happy Families became an authorized adoption agency in Cold Spring, New York and has placed 60 children per year from Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Now Dr. Shaginian has new programs in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Guatemala to help more children. Her hard work and dedication has made a profound difference in the field of adoption and will be felt for generations to come.

Sloane Jacyn Tabisel

Representative Steve Israel

Sloane Jacyn Tabisel is a 16-year-old Korean adoptee, who has become a powerful adoption educator in her role as speaker at many adoption conferences. At the Spence-Chapin Adoption agency in New York City, she talked to soon-to-be adoptive parents about the joys and issues they may face when raising an adopted child. During her speeches, she addresses what it was like to be adopted from Korea and how she was able to find

her biological parents. She has also spoken at the Korean American Adoptee/Adoptive Family Network (KAAN) Conference in Washington, DC. KAAN works closely with its members, the Korean American community, and the Korean government to promote awareness of Korean adoption issues and develop programs that will benefit both adoption and Korean communities. Sloan is a well-rounded individual. She has done many things that would simply be a dream for an average 16-year-old but she has done one thing more, made them a reality while contributing to the understanding of adoption.

Margaret Tomasicchio

Representative Timothy Bishop

Peggy Tomasicchio has been a devoted and caring foster and adoptive parent in Suffolk County since 1975. Over the past 30 years she has been a foster parent to 57 children, adoptive parent to nine, and is now a grandparent to 11. At age 61 she is retiring from the role as surrogate parent to focus on the four children she has recently adopted. In addition, Mrs. Tomasicchio has worked at the Three Village School District, where she establishes programs for preschoolers with disabilities, and has helped the Suffolk County Foster Parent Advisory Council to develop their training program for new foster parents. There is no questioning Mrs. Tomasicchio's love and affection for the children that she has helped raise. She is a true *Angel in Adoption™*, and an example of selfless giving.

maternal great grandfather is dying. He has had severe emotional difficulties owing to his early experience with the loss of so many family members. For Raymond's and Debbie's steadfast commitment to their nephew, I'm pleased to honor them as 2003 *Angels in Adoption™* award recipients.

Harriet McCarthy

Representative Richard Burr

Harriet McCarthy and her husband, Eugene, have adopted three boys from Russia. After adopting their first son, Harriet became involved with a number of wonderful parents on several Internet sites and started a local support group called Piedmont Families for International Adoption. Two years later she began an online communication and support group, called Eastern European Adoption Coalition (EEAC). Over the years, EEAC has grown to thousands of families as well as a small group of intelligent, caring, and dedicated volunteers who work entirely behind the scenes providing factual and helpful information to those traveling down the international adoption road. She spends several hours a day working for EEAC on a volunteer basis.

In early 1998, she responded to the need for support groups for adoptive parents of older children and created a group called Parent Education and Preparedness. This year, she accepted a job teaching at the Triad Academy, a school for children with learning disabilities, attended by her son Sergie.

North Carolina

Raymond and Debbie Abrams

Representative Robin Hayes

Raymond and Debbie Abrams serve as guardians for Raymond's nephew, Cameron, who was made a ward of the state when his father died and his mother lost parental rights owing to drug and alcohol addiction. His Grandmother was given custody, but, she passed away soon thereafter, leaving Cameron with his Great Aunt, who also had failing health. Because of the child's own medical situation, she accepted offers of assistance for him from Raymond and Debbie. They now have secondary custody of the child, and take care to meet all his needs. They have sacrificed the past three to four years for this now 10-year-old boy. He recently lost his paternal grandfather and his

North Dakota

Loralei Klitzke

Senators Kent Conrad & Byron Dorgan

In addition to having three biological children with her late husband, Rodney, Lorelei has adopted nine children since 1976. Her experience has taught her how to work with children to achieve their greatest potential, despite physical and emotional impairments, being new immigrants or as members of a sibling groups. Lorelei has made a commitment to adopting children who need a home and a family. After the death of her husband in 1996, Lorelei continued to adopt, welcoming two children in 2000 whose earlier adoptions had disrupted. The children in her care have become adults who retain a close relationship with their mother. Moreover, Lorelei works full time while still remaining active

with her children and community. In 1999, Lorelei and her late husband received the North Dakota Special Recognition Award for their commitment to adoption. Her dedication to her children has made her our perfect candidate for the 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* award.

Ohio

Arden and Diana Brooks

Representative Ted Strickland

Arden and Diana Brooks have been certified as foster parents since November 2000 and have had nine children placed in their home. Five of the children currently in their home are siblings who have spent time in their home off and on over the past three years. Arden and Diana however, are now in the process of adopting them, ensuring that this is their last placement. The Brooks' want every child to feel like a part of their family and take all children – foster and day care – on vacation with them. They never count the cost when caring for children in need and have gone on vacation with as many as nineteen children! Arden and Diana place great emphasis on education and their efforts have paid off with all of the children becoming honor students. In fact, the eldest is a straight A student, who won the Presidential Scholastic Award last year in junior high.

A challenging part of foster care is working with the biological family to reach the goal of reunification. They take the children's wishes into consideration, and willingly work with families to reunite the family unit. They have even provided support to empower the children placed in their homes to find positive ways to overcome behaviors connected with abuse and neglect.

Kevin and Wendy Hoodlebrink

Senator Mike DeWine

Kevin and Wendy adopted a sibling group of seven brothers and sisters to whom they had been foster parents. Making their family complete were Anthony, Joshua, Lucas, Whitney, Timothy, Jacob, and Brianna, who joined the Hoodlebrinks three biological children Tiffany, Justin, and Tyler. In addition, the Hoodlebrinks remain foster parents to other children. Adopting such a large sibling group is evidence of the true dedication the Hoodlebrinks have towards adoption and to the special bond

these children have to one another. The Hoodlebrinks have had a long and dedicated history to adoption and foster care since first taking in two children from children protective services many years ago. While fostering those two children, they learned that they had 10 other siblings in foster care. Eventually, all of those children passed through the Hoodlebrinks home as Wendy and Kevin worked to keep the siblings together. The Hoodlebrink household has certainly been a haven for large sibling groups over the years, and I commend them for opening their hearts and home.

Dorothy Klemm

Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Dorothy "Dottie" Klemm recently retired as the Administrator of the Adoption Department at Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services. She has worked her entire professional career at the agency, most of it in the service of creating permanent adoptive families for abused and neglected children. As a caseworker, supervisor and administrator, Dottie has been steadfast in her devotion to delivering high quality services to vulnerable children and their families. After becoming the administrator of the adoption department, Dottie has been an inspirational leader in increasing adoption opportunities for children waiting for families to call their own. Since 1994, adoptions in Cuyahoga County have increased by more than 250%, for a total of 741 in 2002. A few examples of her efforts include: establishing inter-departmental procedures to speed the adoption process within the agency, working with agency administration and the county government to create additional adoption staff positions to speed the adoption process, and facilitating monthly meetings with private agencies so that adoptive families could be more quickly matched with county children. She was also instrumental in establishing regular meetings for area adoption agency managers to provide program updates and improve interagency collaboration.

Dottie values the parents who provide permanent homes as precious resources and has devoted much of her professional focus to developing long-term support services for adoptive families. She has worked to expand awareness and eligibility of financial subsidy programs available to adoptive parents, while remaining a responsible steward of public funds. She is recognized around the state as an expert on adoption issues. Over the years of her career, Dottie has developed a strong professional interest in the entire field of adoption, not just in the public child welfare arena. She is a

long-time volunteer and former board member of Adoption Network Cleveland, a support and education organization for everyone affected by adoption. Dottie is well respected by her colleagues within and outside of her agency. Her opinion is frequently sought on matters of service and delivery. Although, she recently retired, Dottie still goes to work on a nearly full-time basis. With some support from the United Way, and many of her own volunteer hours, she continues to work with passion and energy to make real the dream of a family for every waiting child in Cuyahoga County.

Rita Soronen

Representative Deborah Pryce

As Executive Director of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Rita Soronen is working to carry on the late Dave Thomas' extraordinary vision to encourage adoption and to make the process easier. Through her leadership at the Foundation, she helps to raise awareness about children in foster care, while providing resources through the Foundation to organizations who effectively and efficiently move children from foster care to permanent families. Ms. Soronen works with the more than 6,000 Wendy's franchises and company stores as well as with national adoption partners. She also serves on the Adoption Advisory Committee of the Child Welfare League of America and the Board of Trustees of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). In addition, she serves on the Board of Trustees at the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, where she is on the Public Education Committee and the National Standards Implementation Committee as well as the Board of Trustees of CASA of Franklin County. Prior to accepting her current position at the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Ms. Soronen served as the Executive Director of CASA of Franklin County. During her time at CASA, she was instrumental in the passage of specialty ("Celebrate Kids") license plate legislation benefiting CASA programs throughout Ohio. She was also responsible for the design and implementation of model program standards assuring consistent application of effective advocacy for children involved in court proceedings at the local, state, and national levels.

Oklahoma

Amy Eldridge

Senator James M. Inhofe

What started three years ago as an adoption, has led Amy Eldridge to help found an important fund to help children from China gain medical treatment they would otherwise not get. Three years ago, Amy and Timothy Eldridge of Edmond, Oklahoma, adopted a little girl from China. Out of curiosity, Amy decided to visit the orphanage where her little girl had lived and that visit changed Amy forever. While in China, she met four children in desperate need of heart surgery, and immediately returned to the United States and raised money for the children to have the medical surgery. After this experience, Amy helped found the Orphan Relief Fund (ORF), to facilitate and fund humanitarian efforts on behalf of Chinese orphans with disabilities. The Chinese government multiplies money made to the Fund by turning every dollar donated into \$2, \$5 or even \$10. Amy frequently travels to China to help more children in need of surgery. She also speaks to groups to raise awareness about adoption and orphans in China. Her work on behalf of children in need of medical and other help has made her my 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™.

David and Kathy Frost

Representative John Sullivan

David and Kathy Frost of Oklahoma are the proud parents of Jonathan and Lauren. Their son, Jonathan, was adopted through an agency in Ft. Worth. Several years later, Jonathan's birth mother was pregnant again, and wanted the Frosts to adopt her second child, Lauren. The Frosts happily accepted and began the adoption process. Before the paperwork and background checks could be completed, however, Lauren was born six weeks prematurely and placed in foster care. The Frost family spent the next 30 days, including the Christmas holiday, in a camper in Ft. Worth waiting for the paperwork to be processed and working with Lauren's foster parents in her daily care. Kathy is now dedicating her life to her children, after giving up her career as a CPA. David and Kathy developed a special tradition for their family; they enjoy celebrating everyone's birthday as well as each child's adoption day.

Tom and Jennifer Rudolph

Senator Don Nickles

Jennifer and Tom Rudolph exemplify the true spirit of adoption with their unfailing love, commitment, and dedication. Last year their hope to adopt a child in need of a loving family was delayed by the suspension of adoption in Cambodia. Instead of giving up, they persevered to adopt Avery Michelle even though they had no guarantee that the adoption would ever happen. Their tenacity ended happily in January 2003, when they traveled to Cambodia to complete the adoption of Avery and bring her home. The Rudolphs took their love for this child even further by helping to start Tabitha USA, a non-profit foundation aimed at enhancing the lives of the people of Cambodia by addressing their needs in a holistic and sustainable manner. Jennifer and Tom were instrumental in founding this organization and now serve as board members. They envision a day in which the help given to the people of Cambodia to reach their own dreams will mean fewer children will be in orphanages and need homes.

Oregon

Susan Cox

Senator Ron Wyden

Susan Soon-Keum Cox, Vice President of Public Policy and External Affairs for Holt International Children's Services, has been an adoption advocate for over 25 years. Her life in adoption began in 1956 when she was one of the first Korean adoptees to come to the United States. She has since dedicated her life to finding homes for homeless children and advocating for the world's most vulnerable. She is recognized as one of the top adoption professionals in America today and her work has gained the respect of the international adoption community as well.

Her first exposure to child welfare was at the age of 27, when she became the first Korean adoptee to sit on the Board of Directors of Holt International Children's Services. After serving on Holt's Board, Ms. Cox became the Director of Development. Ms. Cox is a nationally and internationally recognized public speaker on international adoption and child welfare issues. For over a decade Ms. Cox has advocated for the rights and needs of adoptees. She is a delegate to The Hague Conference on Private International Law

Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention. She has lobbied for laws that protect internationally adopted children such as the Immunization Act of 1997, the Citizenship Act of 2000, granting automatic citizenship to internationally adopted children, and the International Adoption Act of 2001. In 2000, Ms. Cox was invited by the White House to sit on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to represent the Asian adoptee population. Within the adoptee community, Ms. Cox is seen as a leader. She is the founder of the Gathering of Adult Korean Adoptees (Washington, DC, 1999 and Oslo, Norway, 2001) and the Reunion of the Vietnamese Adoptees 2000 in Baltimore, MD. These events have changed the international adoptee community and served as the catalyst for other adoptee conferences and gatherings throughout the nation.

Franklin Hunsaker

Senator Gordon Smith

Franklin Hunsaker and his wife Nancy are the adoptive parents of five children. Two of their children were the result of private-placement adoptions, two were the result of agency adoptions (one was an international placement), and one (who is now deceased) was the result of a special needs placement through the state. He is a strong adoption advocate and encourages couples to consider adopting at every opportunity. In his law practice, he has represented adoptive and birth parents in facilitating adoptions. In 1998-2000, he represented, on a pro bono basis, a group of Oregon birth mothers who filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of an Oregon law that was enacted in 1998 and that retroactively opened sealed adoption records. In that legal challenge, he worked closely with the National Council for Adoption, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the birth mothers. Although that legal challenge was unsuccessful, he continues to offer support to birth mothers in coping with the new Oregon law and also with birth parents attempting to prevent the enactment of similar laws in other states. He volunteers his time and efforts in assisting birth parents in this regard because of his strong belief that reunions between adoptees and birth parents should be based on mutual consent.

Portland Metro Korean Lions Club

Representative David Wu

For the past five years, the Portland Metro Korean Lions Club has taken on the entire responsibility of preparing and serving Korean dinners for hundreds of families during the annual Holt Heritage Camp in Portland, a camp administered by Holt International Adoption Agency. The Camp is attended by more than a hundred adoptees, not only from Oregon, but throughout the country. In addition to the camp activities, members of the Portland Korean Lions Club travel to Eugene each year to prepare and serve a Korean lunch to the several thousand families attending the annual Holt Picnic. Not only do members donate their time and expertise, they contribute the meal and donate the proceeds to help children in orphanages overseas. Two years ago, the Club established an educational scholarship fund for Korean adoptees. The work of the Portland Korean Lions Club is a wonderful example of commitment and service. Community involvement is of the utmost importance in increasing adoption awareness and the Portland Korean Lions Club is a prime example of how one organization can make a profound difference in both the local and international communities. I am pleased to select the Portland Korean Lions Club for the *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Deborah Radcliffe

Representative Greg Walden

Deborah Radcliffe developed her passion for helping children when she worked in a shelter home for troubled teens in Jackson County, Oregon. Three and half years later, she began working for the state as a caseworker for the Children's Services Division. After eleven years of casework, she found her niche as an adoption certifier. Deborah says, "I am constantly in awe of how people who want to adopt have opened their hearts to care for the children who need families, and what they are willing to do to make a difference in the life of a child." Her enthusiasm for adoption has spilled out onto her two children. Her daughter, Ellen, has suggested that her parents adopt a child and promises she would be willing to share her toys with a new sibling. Deborah and her whole family are thankful for adoption and for their commitment. I am pleased to select her as a 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* award recipient.

Pennsylvania

Jeffrey and Lydia Buck

Senator Rick Santorum

Jeffrey and Lydia Buck decided to become foster parents in 1995, and after the placement of their first foster child, Christopher, they realized that they could not imagine their lives without him. The Bucks decided to adopt Christopher, who is now six years old. Over the years, they have adopted five other beautiful children – Anna (15), and Robert (13), Stephanie (10), Chelsea (8), and Dylan (7). The Bucks have opened wide their hearts and home in welcoming these children.

They stress to their children and others the importance of family, and their belief that through love and adoption, families can extend beyond just those who are biologically related. Jeffrey and Lydia demonstrate this kind of love in their efforts to involve their children's birth families with their family. They regularly hold family outings with biological parents, siblings, and grandparents to keep them involved in the children's lives. They also keep birth parents up to date on their children by sending them pictures and updates. Their caseworkers have testified that the Bucks are "the best example of a family that has opened their home, hearts, and lives to make a difference in the life of a child." I am proud to select Jeffrey and Lydia Buck as my 2003 *Angels in Adoption™* as a tribute to the dedication and selflessness they have demonstrated in providing a happy, loving family for these children and their extended families.

Maxine Chalker

Senator Arlen Specter

Almost 20 years ago, Maxine Chalker founded *Adoptions from the Heart* (AFTH), a non-profit adoption agency in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, which pioneered open adoptions between birth parents and adoptive families. Based on her own experiences as an adoptee and searching for her birth mother, coupled with her work with adoptees who search, her mission was to dispel the myth and stigma surrounding adoption and eliminate the pain adoptees encounter when they journey to find their biological beginnings. Maxine strongly believes that open adoption allows children to feel more complete and comfortable with their adoption story by creating an opportunity for communication. Open adoption now accounts for nearly all of AFTH's domestic placements. Her dedication provided for

quick growth for AFTH which has expanded to include five Pennsylvania offices, in addition to offices in Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Connecticut. AFTH also offers international adoptions in 10 countries. Her work has led to the creation of more than 2,700 beautiful families. Concurrent with Maxine's passion to educate the public about adoption, she created a program for elementary and middle school personnel to teach students about family diversity. Her most recent project is opening a non-sectarian maternity home for women considering adoption.

Susann Hoke

Representative Jim Gerlach

Susann Hoke began her work with the Berks County, Pennsylvania, Office of Children and Youth Services in 1982. As a caseworker, she was increasingly drawn toward adoption cases. Being promoted in 1991 to Supervisor of the Adoption Unit, Susann has had a direct influence on the adoption of more than 800 children and has helped structure the Statewide Adoption Network. Susann is a caring individual and has given children the attention and compassion they need. Susann has also touched the lives of countless children and ensured these children have found permanent, reliable families to give them love and support. Susann is highly regarded by her peers and her focus is clearly on the needs of children.

Marjorie McKeone

Representative James Greenwood

Marjorie McKeone, throughout her 14-year career in child welfare, has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to establishing permanence for children. She accomplishes this one child at a time, one family at a time, and one policy at a time. A Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency employee since 1989, Ms. McKeone supervises a five-member adoption unit that provides comprehensive services to children, birth and adoptive families. These services are tailored to meet the needs of individual families in a caring and compassionate way while striving to ensure that they meet a standard of unparalleled excellence.

Her philosophy recognizes the need for broad-based government support in building strong families through adoption and her practice creates an environment that nurtures people in pursuit of parenthood. The Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency offers services sensitive to the recognition of infertility; a significant departure from customary child welfare practice. She is an

advocate, trainer, and volunteer within the public and private adoption community, and has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between these two disciplines. It is Mrs. McKeone's commitment to the children and adoption that energizes her staff, her colleagues, and her community. I am honored to select Marjorie McKeone, ACSW, LSW for the 2003 *Angels in Adoption™* award.

Myron and Sally Stoltzfus

Representative Joseph Pitts

Myron and Sally Stoltzfus adopted a 10-year-old girl from Russia, having biological children ages 10 to 18. Mr. and Mrs. Stoltzfus have found the entire adoption process to be a tremendous growing experience for the entire family. It has increased their faith and has been a real blessing. They believe they are living out what the Bible says in the book of James, "to look after the widows and orphans in their distress." While adoption may not be for everyone, the Stoltzfus's believe that many families are missing out "big time" on the incredible rewards of adopting. Their lives have changed forever in a positive way since their daughter Tania became part of their family.

Kelley Strieb

Representative Melissa Hart

Michael and Kelley Strieb discussed the possibility of adoption during their first thirteen years of marriage but that dream did not become a reality until August 27, 2000 when they welcomed their baby daughter home from China. Kelly is the co-chair of the adoption ministry at her church, which gives her the opportunity to educate people about both domestic and international adoption, as well as to mentor families during the adoption process. The seminars she conducts are free, open to the public, and extensive – lasting about five hours. Kelley also speaks at various civic organizations on adoption and her own adoption experience. She devotes much of her volunteer time counseling families throughout the adoption. She always makes herself available to help offer a kind ear or words of encouragement. She has already served as an angel to the families she has helped, but now it is my honor to name her my 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* for her kind and dedicated work.

Three Rivers Adoption Council

Representative Mike Doyle

The mission of Three Rivers Adoption Council (TRAC) is to improve adoption opportunities for all children growing up without permanent caring

families. The agency's main focus is on African-American children and children with special needs. TRAC provides recruitment, information and referral services, counseling, family preparation, post-adoption services, and parent and professional education services to achieve and maintain maximum permanency opportunities for adoptable children and their families. Three Rivers Adoption Council is truly worthy of the 2003 *Angel in Adoption*[™].

Hanna D. Wallace

Representative John Murtha

Hanna Wallace is a founder of Adoptions International (AI) which has been licensed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 1984. Her professional commitment to adoption began after she adopted her daughter, Bianca, from Honduras in 1983. Prior to starting AI, Hannah worked as a Social Worker and is also a certified family therapist. Under her leadership, AI strives to meet the highest standards of clinical and ethical adoption practices in Inter-country adoption. AI was the first agency to be licensed in Honduras and the third U. S. agency licensed by the Peruvian government. In addition to her work with families and children, Hannah has been a strong advocate for ethical adoption practices and developing adoption opportunities for children. She is a past Board Member of the Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS) and served as Vice President of JCICS in 1997. Currently, she serves as Co-Chair of the JCICS Country Caucus for Guatemala. Recently, Hannah's commitment to advocacy led her to form Focus on Adoption - an Adoption Advocacy Organization, which has been intensely involved with organizing advocacy efforts to preserve adoptions in Guatemala.

Rhode Island

Chris Cotatgis

Representative Jim Langevin

Chris Cotatgis carried a hole in her soul most of her adult life because she was unable to bear children. Even so, she felt blessed with her best friend and husband of 21 years, Nel. After his devastating, sudden death in 1999, Chris felt the need to fill a huge void, so she returned to something she had done many years before – she became a foster mom. As fate would have it, two of the 15 children Chris

fostered were meant to stay forever – Chanel and K.C., both now 3 years old, were adopted in 2001.

"I had the most wonderful husband in the world," Chris reflects. "Now, I have the most wonderful children. God works in strange ways."

As an "emergency care" provider who takes in children that are removed from their homes suddenly, often in the middle of the night, Chris was bothered by the fact that the children's belongings were often toted around in garbage bags. In response, she began to spearhead an ongoing "backpack drive" in Rhode Island, collecting new or slightly used backpacks to give to Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) for use in "emergency care" situations. Chris says this helps bring some dignity to the process. In addition to being an adoptive and foster mom, Chris has twice served on the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Foster Parent Association and in 2002 received DCYF's Child Protective Services Foster Parent Award. She has also provided training to prospective adoptive and foster parents and remains active in DCYF's recruitment activities.

South Carolina

Hal and Diana Stevenson

Representative Jim DeMint

Hal and Diana Stevenson have dedicated themselves and their family of five children to the plight of others by reaching out to the homeless, those in prison and young pregnant women. They are active in the adoption and pro-life community and have served as a shepherding family for Bethany Christian Services where they have both served as chairs of the board of Bethany in Columbia, SC. They have taken many young expectant mothers into their home and supported them until their child was born. These women were then able to return to their homes. Hal's most recent efforts to promote adoption include devising a marketing plan with other Bethany groups in the Southeast region of the country. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson work tirelessly to promote adoption as a positive option for families facing unplanned pregnancies. For their hard work and support of the adoption community, it is my honor to select Hal and Diana Stevenson as my 2003 *Angels in Adoption*[™].

South Dakota

Harold and Sharon Holder

Senator Tim Johnson

Harold and Sharon Holder have 10 children, having added eight children to their two biological children, Harold Jr., and Rachel. Their journey into adoption began in 1996, when the Holders adopted Nathan at age five. Two years later, they made siblings Tracy, Demarcus, and Shamira, ages six, seven and eight part of their family. Finally, in 2000, two sets of twins – Daniel and Dorcas, age eight, and Miracle and Malachi, age six, completed their family.

Owing to the Holders' generosity, these children were adopted with their siblings, one of the most important gifts that can be given to children waiting for permanent homes. Harold and Sharon have also become part of an important support network for other adoptive parents.

Their love for their children and dedication to improving the lives of children in South Dakota has served as an example for other families in the Black Hills area. Circuit Court Judge Janine Kern put it best when she described the Holders' devotion to their children. "The Holders are joyful people committed to raising these beautiful children who were abandoned early in their lives," she said. "When you see this family together, you know that something very special and very good is occurring in their lives. Truly, families like this are what make America such a great nation." They are also deserving of being named *Angels in Adoption*™.

Jeff and Dori Nelson

Senator Tom Daschle

Jeff and Dori Nelson are adoptive parents of two boys from South Korea – Ian (now 9) and Jesse (now 4). The Nelsons chose international adoption after a relative had adopted from Korea. It is a decision that has blessed their lives in many ways.

Ian was adopted in 1994, when he was five months old. Holt International flew Ian to the United States with returning military personnel as escorts. The soldiers assigned to Ian became very attached to their little charge before meeting Jeff and Dori in Des Moines, Iowa where they turned him over to the Sioux Falls couple. In fourth grade now, Ian is a very talented young man who plays the violin and piano. He has also become involved in Tae Kwon Do.

Jesse was adopted in 1999, when he was four and a half months old. Jesse completed their family and fit in immediately. He soon became very close to his brother. Jesse is a very active child that loves to run, ride, swim and anything else that keeps him moving. Ian is very proud of his little brother and the fact that he was the one who gave him his new first name.

The Nelsons do many things with their boys — one of which is to be involved in the Korean Culture Camp in Hudson, Wisconsin each year. It is a week-long event that brings over 200 Korean children together from across the country. The camp includes food, dance, sports, art and all things Korean. The boys have brought a new international flavor to the extended Nelson clan, one that has contributed much to the joy of parenting two boys through adoption.

Tennessee

Dr. Paul Heil

Senator Bill Frist

Dr. Paul Heil is a local pediatrician who has worked tirelessly with international adoption issues. He speaks to groups who are considering adoption, does pre-screening evaluations for international adoptees, and has treated more international children than any other pediatrician in the state. His practice is predominantly internationally adopted children. He is a board member for the International Adoption Clinic at Vanderbilt University. Senator Frist is pleased to select Dr. Paul Heil as a 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™.

Davis and Sherry Lundy

Representative Zach Wamp

Davis and Sherry Lundy wanted a family and through the gift of adoption were able to have three children who are now in high school, middle school and elementary school. The Lundys are an inspiration to everyone who knows them in East Tennessee. Davis and Sherry are active in dozens of charitable endeavors while helping national and international adoption organizations with coordination and resources. Davis has dedicated large percentages of the profit from his company, The Moriah Group, to various ministries including those that help children in need from around the world. He works hard to provide a loving, caring Christian home where they have instilled their values of a giving spirit and humble hearts in their children.

Claude and Bernadette Whatley

Representative Jim Cooper

Claude and Bernadette Whatley are residents of Nashville, Tennessee, where Claude works for U.S. Bank and Bernadette is a pre-K teacher with the local Head Start Program. They have two children who arrived through adoption: a son LaQuan, who is now six, and a daughter Kaneisha, who is now five. They were forced to wait through the long, frustrating, adoption process, but in the end, they realized that waiting period is necessary because it helps the adopting parents become more prepared to receive a child into their home.

For Claude, one of the most rewarding parts of being a father is coming home at night to the exciting greeting of his children who show their love for him freely. The Whatleys are not only adoptive parents, but are excellent adoption advocates. Claude took the initiative to write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper to advocate for the older children in our country who desperately need homes. He promises "that once they adopt an older child, that child will love them just as much as a newborn or probably more because they finally have a home to call their own with parents who truly love them." Moreover, Claude wants people to realize that, "The child of their dreams could be up the street, and they just don't know it because of their own prejudice." The Whatleys freely share their adoption experiences with friends and co-workers and try to encourage others to adopt, knowing full well the benefits for both the parents and the child. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Claude and Bernadette Whatley who are not only outstanding parents but strong advocates for adoption.

Pamela Wolf

Representative John Duncan, Jr.

Pam Wolf is not only an adoptive mother, she is one of East Tennessee's most outstanding adoption advocates. In 1996, two years after bringing her daughter home from China, Wolf created Harmony Adoptions in Maryville, Tennessee. Using her degree in clinical social work, Mrs. Wolf not only finds loving homes for children from all over the world, but also offers education to adoptive parents throughout the entire state. Since its creation seven years ago, Harmony has helped place thousands of children in safe, caring homes. Wolf has designed a unique step-by-step program that assists parents not only in the emotional rigors of adoption, but also in paperwork and general adoption preparation. In addition, she provides programs for pregnant women wishing to make an adoption plan

for their children. Pam worked tirelessly to make Harmony Adoptions a successful agency, while holding several part-time jobs and raising her own child. Throughout the years, Mrs. Wolf has written grants to benefit Harmony Adoptions and to create neighborhood programs in East Tennessee which serve as resources for prospective and adoptive parents. It is with much respect and admiration that I select Pam Wolfe for the 2003 *Angels in Adoption™* Award.

Texas

Jean Boyd

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Judge Jean Boyd was responsible for bringing National Adoption Day to Texas. As a result of her efforts, Fort Worth was the first city in Texas to participate in training attorneys and providing volunteer services to finalize adoptions for state foster children in the State of Texas under the Adoption Day Program. Judge Boyd has received numerous awards, and she is continually recognized for her commitment to children and promoting permanency through adoption. Judge Boyd was instrumental in the Tarrant County Bar Association's recent acceptance of the STAR award for their participation in National Adoption Day. This is one of five awards given by the State Bar of Texas to local bar associations for exemplary programs. Although our local bar association received the award, the program and success of the program can be directly attributed to Judge Boyd.

Barry and D'Wanna Finkel

Representative Michael C. Burgess

Barry and D'Wanna Finkel became the host family for an orphaned seven-year-old Ukrainian boy, Denis Konuka. Denis came to the U.S. with medical needs that required open-heart surgery, so the Finkels arranged for a San Antonio Hospital to provide the needed surgery free of charge. Meanwhile, the Finkels paid for Denis to travel to Texas and provided for his needs before, during, and after the surgery. Having no children left at home, the Finkels fell in love with Denis while caring for him and decided to pursue his adoption. Because Denis came to the U.S. through a special medical referral program in the Ukraine, the Finkels were required to return to the Ukraine in order to proceed with an international adoption. After Denis returned to the

Ukraine, the Finkels finally were able to formally request his adoption, the Ukrainian court approved their adoption request, and they were able to bring their beloved son home to the United States.

Suzanne Faske and Karen Hall

Representative John Carter

This past July, when Suzanne Faske and Karen Hall learned that Orphans Overseas, an Oregon adoption agency, had lost their funding to bring children ages 5-15 from Kazakhstan to America, they immediately went into action. Their church, The First Baptist Church of Brenham, had expressed an interest in expanding their orphan ministry to include a hosting program which Orphans Overseas was experienced in doing. By the time Suzanne and Karen connected with Orphans Overseas, they had only three to four days to meet the deadline for passports, tickets, and visas in order to have the children travel on the designated date in August. They were told that there might still be time to raise the required \$1,500 per child. Using their network of church and other friends along with a foundation called ICARE, they began calling for donations and for volunteers to act as host families. Suzanne and Karen worked almost 20 hours a day making phone calls and working tirelessly to interview families. In about four days enough host families were found and 30 children from two different orphanages were able to come to America. Over \$46,000 was donated to cover the expenses. Half of the volunteer families came from First Baptist Church of Brenham alone. Working tirelessly, not only were Suzanne and Karen able to raise a large amount of money, but this dedicated team made assignments to the host families and coordinated meetings for the required training by agency professionals. Nineteen children from Kazakhstan arrived in the first group. The next group of 11 is scheduled to arrive in late September to new families these women have located. Almost all of these orphans have a family that wants to adopt them. Suzanne and her team are praying that when all is said and done, they will have homes for all these children. Driven by the needs of children in an age bracket that is so often forgotten, they have been able to connect these Russian-speaking children with loving Texas families. These children will now know what it means to have a mother and father and be surrounded by family and friends who love them and really want them as a part of their family and their community. These ladies have truly been *Angels in Adoption™*.

Anna James

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee

Anna James is diligent public servant committing many hours of personal time to help others and, as the mother of two boys who joined the family through adoption, has instilled in them the value of community service. Partnered with her corporation, Southwestern Bell, Anna began convincing her corporation that giving back to the community was the right thing to do. Her 25+-year tenure at Southwestern Bell has made her the "go-to" person when people are in need of funding for community projects.

Anna and her husband, A.D., adopted Anthony and Adam as babies. The boys often accompanied their mother on weekends to various community service events and as a result have acquired the same commitment to helping others. For her steadfast support to the community and for passing on this value to another generation, Anna is the epitome of a truly deserving *Angel in Adoption™*.

Dorothy Le Pere

Representative Lamar Smith

Dorothy Le Pere has devoted her professional life to strengthening families joined by adoption. As an adoptive parent herself, she understands the complexities of the adoption experience which makes her dedication stronger. Dorothy is an untiring advocate for responsive services designed to help families cope with the challenges they face. Evidence of her professionalism and dedication to adoptive families is demonstrated through her 14 years with the Texas officials through the Texas State Post-Adoption Program where she works to provide services to families throughout the San Antonio region who have adopted children through the foster care system. She ensures families have the tools, services and support they need to assure success for each and every family member. Her goal is to see all family members are enriched and positively impacted by the adoption process. Dorothy Le Pere is devoted to adoption and those whose hearts and lives are forever changed by adoption. Her devotion is deserving of recognition through the *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Lutheran Social Services of the South

Representative Tom Delay

Since Lutheran Social Services of the South was established in 1926 in Round Rock, Texas, this faith-based agency has sought to provide loving homes

and safe shelter for abused and neglected children. More than 5,300 children have been placed in loving homes through the LSS domestic and international adoption programs, which continually expand to meet the needs of orphaned, abused, and neglected children. LSS is the largest provider of children's residential services in the state of Texas, with more than 350 foster homes providing safe haven to over 1,000 foster children and nearly 600 children served annually in four residential treatment centers. LSS provides help, healing, and hope to more than 35,000 children, elderly, and the poor throughout Texas and Louisiana each year. In addition to its work in adoption, foster care and children's residential treatment, LSS of the South also provides services for adult day care, skilled nursing care, home health services, assisted and independent living for seniors, disaster assistance, emergency assistance and clergy care.

Rodney and Renee Nolen

Representative Max Sandlin

Rodney and Renee Nolen adopted for the first time in 1990 through a private adoption agency and were thrilled when they brought their daughter, April, home. However, they knew their job in caring for children was not done. In 1993, they became certified foster parents for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services - Child Protective Services. They enjoyed their years of fostering and soon became foster-adopt parents. Rodney and Renee eventually adopted two brothers, Jake and Josh, through Child Protective Services. Josh is extra special to them because he has significant special needs, including Spina Bifida, Arnold Chiari Malformation, Hydrocephalus, Reactive Airways Disease, and is fed completely through a G-tube. Rodney and Renee have provided the children with a loving home and a supportive environment. The Nolen family is a shining example of the joy that comes from adopting.

Judge Peter Sakai

Representative Charles Gonzalez

On January 1, 1995, Associate Judge Peter A. Sakai was unanimously appointed to the judicial bench. As a judge, he hears all of the cases that involve child abuse and neglect as well as the adoption cases that involve foster children. Through Judge Sakai's leadership, adoption of foster children in Bexar County has increased nearly 650% from 1995-2002. Bexar County routinely leads the State of Texas in the number of foster children being adopted into permanent homes, thanks to the advocacy of Judge Sakai. He has supported and helped create a variety of model programs intended

to affect adoption rates. These models include UJIMA, a local program to promote and encourage adoptions of African-American foster children into families through neighborhood churches. Another model program is Vision for Children, Inc., which brings collaboration and communication to the community. Judge Sakai has also helped create a model program entitled CREST (Comprehensive Relative Enhancement and Support Team) which supports relative adoptions. These efforts in the field of adoption have led Judge Sakai to be awarded and recognized by a variety of individuals and organizations. President (then Governor) George W. Bush recognized him and his model court on the Governor's Initiative on Adoption. The Texas State Foster Parent Association recognized his efforts on adoption of foster children by foster parents in 1996. In 2001, the San Antonio Bar Association and the Bexar County Commissioner's Court recognized Judge Sakai's efforts on Law Day 2001 and declared it Honorable Peter A. Sakai Day for his commitment to youth. I am pleased to join this distinguished group in recognizing Judge Sakai's special contributions to adoption.

Snow Wu

Representative Lloyd Doggett

As president and founder of Austin's own Great Wall China Adoption (GWCA), Ms. Wu works to unite children from China with loving, adoptive parents throughout the United States. Since its inception as a non-profit organization in 1996, GWCA has matched over 1,800 orphans from China with nurturing families here in the U.S. The services offered by GWCA include the "Waiting Children's Program" which was developed to find families for younger children with medical conditions and older children who do not qualify for adoption under standard programs. The program makes these children a priority for placement.

Ms. Wu's dedication to helping the children of China extends beyond her involvement with GWCA. Through the China Charity Federation (CCF), she volunteers her time collecting donations for Chinese orphanages. Ms. Wu has served as a guest speaker on various topics relating to adoptions from China at the International Adoption Symposium. Such distinctions have helped to build Ms. Wu's reputation as an expert in the field of international adoption. As a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I am delighted to select Snow Wu for the 2003 *Angel in Adoption*™ Award.

Utah

Christena Christensen

Senator Orrin Hatch

Christena is a passionate advocate for adoption education being in a unique position to share her personal experiences as the grandparent of a child placed for adoption. Several years ago, her youngest daughter made an adoption plan for the baby she was expecting. As she helps people to see adoption as a positive option for women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, Christena's story has touched hearts throughout the country through her extensive schedule of speaking engagements. Between January 2001 and December 2002, she gave educational presentations on adoption-related topics to almost 8,000 individuals. Today she tirelessly continues her volunteer efforts to reach as many people as possible. Christena believes in her message of hope for those in crisis pregnancies. Her service, as well as her continued willingness to teach others and dispel negative perceptions on adoption, truly qualifies her as an *Angel in Adoption™*.

Vermont

Diane Dexter

Senator James Jeffords and Senator Patrick Leahy

Since 1993 Diane has been the State Adoption Director for Vermont's Social & Rehabilitative Services (SRS). Prior to assuming her current role, she worked for six years at the Social and Rehabilitative Services office in Barre, providing adoption and child protection casework. In spring of 2000, Diane worked with Wanda Audette (a 2002 *Angel in Adoption™* of the Lund Family Center to create *Project Family*, a federally funded initiative that finds homes for foster children throughout Vermont. *Project Family* also offers a variety of resources to new adoptive parents, including pre- and post-adoptive counseling, adoption finalization services and post-placement visits. Diane has worked to secure additional funding for a new phase of *Project Family* that will, over the next five years, coordinate efforts to recruit rural Vermont families to become involved in adoption. Because of

her dedication to the children and families of Vermont and the respect of her colleagues, Diane is our *Angel in Adoption™*.

Virginia

Bethany Christian Services of Fredericksburg

Representative Jo Ann Davis

Since 1944, Bethany Christian Services has been restoring, preserving, and building families through a comprehensive range of therapeutic and adoption services. Bethany provides free pregnancy counseling to expectant parents, assists women who plan to make an adoption plan in need of housing, food, and clothing, provides domestic and international adoption services to the community, and recruits loving permanent families for children with special needs. For its extensive work nationwide and globally, Bethany is a recognized leader in the field of domestic, international, and special needs adoptions.

Bethany Christian Services of Fredericksburg, Virginia, has seen significant growth in the past 18 months. Fueled by the efforts of a few hard working and dedicated individuals, the Fredericksburg community has benefited from the vital services Bethany has to offer. Within the last year, 12 young women have made adoption plans for their children, the number of international adoptions has increased, and the office now supervises an outreach program in the Richmond area offering free pregnancy counseling to young women considering adoption. Under the leadership of Virginia Branch Director Constance Barry and the hard work of Director of Clinical Services Joan Richwine, MSW and Social Worker trainer Louise M. Motsko, Bethany Christian Services of Fredericksburg is an active advocate for adoption in the Fredericksburg community.

Bethany Christian Services of Hampton Roads

Senator George Allen

Bethany Christian Service of Hampton Roads opened in 1991 and was soon recognized as a licensed, independent branch office in the Bethany national system in 1995. Locally, Bethany offers a number of valuable services to the community

including professional pregnancy counseling, foster care homes, adoption services and educational resources and presentations. Both nationally and locally Bethany Christian Services offers professional help from the Christian motivation of compassion and hope. There are 75 offices in 30 states, including four in Virginia, and 13 field offices internationally. In 2002, Bethany placed 1,862 children with their forever families through adoption

Chris and Christy Craig

Representative Tom Davis

Chris and Christy Craig had been married for 10 years when they decided to adopt from Vietnam. Chris knew first hand how much adoption could bless his family because his sister was adopted. Christy traveled to Vietnam with her mother to begin the adoption process, and during that trip, she met Spencer (Luu Van Hoa) and Liliana (Hoang Thu Huong) and fell in love with them. In November 2000, Chris and Christy traveled to Vietnam to finalize their adoptions and bring Spencer and Liliana home. During their extended stay in Vietnam, they learned a great deal about the Vietnamese people's love for children. When they returned to the United States, they would take walks around their neighborhood and people would approach them and tell them how lucky their children were; but the Craigs disagreed. They know what most adoptive parents know, that it is the parents who are the lucky ones because they have been blessed with special children and their families are now complete. Craig and Christy find joy each day living with Spencer and Liliana and, next to their marriage, they regard their decision to adopt as one of the most blessed events in their lives.

Ronald Federici

Representative Frank Wolf

Dr. Federici has, in his more than 20 years as an outstanding developmental neuro-psychologist, helped thousands of children with serious social and medical problems. He is the president of Care for Children International, Inc., which provides vital equipment and expertise to the Romanian Department of Child Protective Services. He is also an adoptive father, having added seven children from Eastern Europe to his family. His devotion to those left behind, prompted him to help establish several important rehabilitation facilities in Romania. His contributions to humanitarian causes such as these reflect his absolute dedication to children and their well-being. Both nationally and internationally,

Dr. Federici has offered hope to thousands of physically and mentally challenged youths and provided practical, compassionate care options for their loved ones. I am honored to select Dr. Federici for the 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Mara Kamen

Representative James Moran

Mara Kamen is the current Editor of the FRUA newsletter- National, Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA). FRUA is the largest parent support network for families adopting from Russia and the other Eastern European countries. She performs her job totally as a volunteer. In her years with FRUA, Mara has held many positions, including: Fundraising Chair, 1996-1998; Regional Liaison, 1998-2000, contributing to the expansion from eight chapters to 40; and finally as FRUA Newsletter Editor in Chief beginning in 2000. Newsletter circulation has increased from 1,500 to 3,000 and she has authored a 50-page booklet outlining the adoption process for parents titled *A Brief Overview of Our International Adoption*. In addition, she and her husband, Russell, adopted two children from Russia. I am extremely pleased to select Mara Kamen for the 2003 *Angel in Adoption™* Award.

Dr. Patrick Mason

Senator John Warner

Dr. Patrick Mason is a tireless advocate for the health of internationally adopted and special needs children. As the only Pediatric Endocrinologist in the area of international adoption in the United States, he is active in conducting several research projects to better understand the effects of early life experiences in orphanages on the body's stress response and its impact on growth and puberty in internationally adopted children. Dr. Mason has also participated in countless medical missionary teams all over the world. These teams have resulted in the adoption of many special needs children along with improving the lives of hundreds of children who need specialized medical care. Here in the United States, he contributes his time and talent to pro-bono work for special needs children who have been adopted. His unrelenting generosity and his long record of service in the field makes him most deserving of being honored with the title of my 2003 *Angel in Adoption™*.

West Virginia

Mildred Mairs

Senator Jay Rockefeller

Mildred "Millie" Mairs has been described by a colleague as a "guardian angel" to West Virginia's children who lack permanency in their lives. She has worked for the Children's Home Society of West Virginia for 28 years. In the beginning, Millie was employed as an adoption secretary offering administrative support. However, over time her responsibilities and duties evolved to the point where she currently oversees the Adoption Resource Center located in Charleston, West Virginia. She handles all adoption inquiries, meets with prospective adoptive parents and provides adoption information to hundreds of individuals each year. Millie works collaboratively with other adoption agencies, hospitals and social service agencies and is well known by everyone involved with adoptions in West Virginia.

Wisconsin

Mark and Faith Richter KuFahl

Senator Herb Kohl

Under the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, Faith and Mark's daughter, Rose Ling, became a U.S. citizen; however, since there was no official recognition of the event, Faith saw the need for a public celebration recognizing the automatic U.S. citizenship of internationally adopted children. She wrote to the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, adoption agencies, and other international adoptive families, and asked them to help support a Proclamation for the first International Adoption Citizenship Day. She then founded International Adoption Citizenship Day™, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, whose mission is to provide resources, education, information, and support for an annual public ceremony to celebrate the U.S. citizenship of internationally adopted children. The most recent International Adoption Citizenship Day event was held in Madison, Wisconsin on July 12. There were over 500 attendees from all parts of Wisconsin, and from the neighboring states of Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota,

and Iowa. Faith and Mark look forward to seeing this celebration grow and to formally welcoming these special children into their new country.

Wyoming

Carol Burman Lindly

Senator Michael Enzi

Carol Burman Lindly has dedicated her life to helping children find permanent homes balancing her dedication to her work with her devotion to her four children, ages seven to 18, three of whom came home through adoption. Carol has been the director of Wyoming Children's Society (WCS), a statewide, non-profit adoption agency serving young women and children since 1911. Carol has worked for 28 years in the child welfare field including residential treatment, crisis intervention and as a child protection worker. She has been with WCS for 14 years where she now manages the statewide placing and adoption.

Carol enjoys working with birthparents as they explore their options and with couples who hope to build their families through adoption. In addition, she is a tireless advocate for the rights of children in the foster care system by bringing their needs to the forefront through education, grant writing, and networking with other social service agencies to expedite permanent placement. Carol works unceasingly to insure that every child she encounters finds a permanent home with a loving family. Carol is active in many child welfare organizations including the Wyoming State Adoption Council, The Wyoming Confidential Adoption Intermediary Commission and the Laramie County Foster/Adoptive Parent Association. Her unyielding devotion to her career and the belief that every child deserves a permanent home solidifies my belief that she is a worthy to be honored as an *Angel in Adoption™*.

PAST
*Angel in Adoption*TM
AWARD RECIPIENTS

1999 National *Angel in Adoption*TM Awardee

Freddie Mac Foundation

1999 *Angel in Adoption*TM Awardees

<i>Arkansas</i>	Lori & Willie Johnson Dennis & Shirley Smithson	<i>New Hampshire</i>	Brenda Edusei
<i>California</i>	Gloria King	<i>New Jersey</i>	Joan McLaughlin Candice Mueller
<i>Colorado</i>	Larry & Jackie Bebo	<i>New Mexico</i>	Anne Desiderio
<i>Florida</i>	Francis Ann Mobley	<i>New York</i>	Jessica Dennis Peggy Soule
<i>Idaho</i>	Earl & Judy Priest	<i>North Dakota</i>	Nancy Kleingartner Carol Stoudt
<i>Illinois</i>	Reverend George Coates Vivian Robinson	<i>Ohio</i>	Dave Thomas
<i>Iowa</i>	Ruth Ann Gaines Jeff & Earletta Morris	<i>Oregon</i>	Sallie Olson Senator Gordon & Sharon Smith Kurt & Stacy Stahl
<i>Kansas</i>	Doug & Mary Spangler Sky Westerlund	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Carol McMahon Anne Pierson
<i>Louisiana</i>	Hays & Gay Town	<i>South Carolina</i>	Fletcher D. Thompson & Jim Thompson
<i>Maryland</i>	Hope Marindin Doreen Moreira	<i>South Dakota</i>	Bill & Brenda Becker Geraldine Bluebird Richard & Karen Butler Debbie Hoffman Reverend Ed & Diane Nesselhuf
<i>Michigan</i>	Mike & Becky Dornoff Sandy Duncan James L. Gritter James & Denise Jones Steve & Cherie Karban	<i>Washington</i>	David & Jane Zatz
<i>Minnesota</i>	Gary Cerkvenik & Kim Stokes	<i>West Virginia</i>	Judge Gary Johnson Laurence & Jane Leech
<i>Missouri</i>	Debbie Breden Debra Klopert Peter & Mary Myers Tom & Debbie Ritter Bill & Laura Trickey	<i>Wisconsin</i>	Aimee Ouellette
<i>Nebraska</i>	Jane Sarnes		

2000 National *Angel in Adoption*™ Awardees

Congressman Tom Bliley

Lynnette Cole, Gail and Larry Cole

Bertha Holt

Children's Action Network/Henry Winkler

2000 *Angel in Adoption*™ Awardees

<i>Alabama</i>	John Hamilton Carr Judith Smith Crane Anne Forgey	<i>Indiana</i>	Moses Ann Gray
<i>Alaska</i>	Dawn Crombie	<i>Iowa</i>	Jim & Diane Lewis Bambi Schrader
<i>Arizona</i>	Barbara & Samuel Aubrey John A. Oliver Lori Vandagriff	<i>Kansas</i>	Joe Harvey
<i>Arkansas</i>	Curtis & Margaret Blake Connie Fails	<i>Kentucky</i>	Virginia Sturgeon Martin & Lisa Williams
<i>California</i>	Dr. Frank Alderette & Delia Morales Hillview Acres Children's Home and Foster Family Agency Mark & Sylvia Olvera Walden Family Services Nancy Wang	<i>Louisiana</i>	Judith Legett Sister Rosario O'Connell
<i>Colorado</i>	Clem & Florence Cook Yuri Gorin Mike & Ellie Honeyman Tom & Jackie Washburn	<i>Maine</i>	Anne Henry Sister Theresa Therrein, LCSW
<i>Delaware</i>	Mary Lou Edgar	<i>Maryland</i>	Lisa A. Olney
<i>Florida</i>	Florence Gilbert Jesse & Cheryl Parsons Beverly Young	<i>Massachusetts</i>	Dr. Laurie Miller Penny Callan Partridge Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao Nancy Reffsin
<i>Georgia</i>	Edward W. (Kip) Klein, III	<i>Michigan</i>	Sydney Duncan Mary Elyn Lambert Jim Rockwell Milton & Julia Smith JoAnne Swanson Craig & Paula Van Dyke Judge Joanne E. Young
<i>Hawaii</i>	Frank & Denise Mazepa	<i>Minnesota</i>	Roger Toogood The Wittikko Family
<i>Idaho</i>	Jolyn Callen	<i>Missouri</i>	Janet Harp Ed & Joan Harter Howard & Rochelle Muchnick Connie Quinn Small World Adoption/Brenda Henn & Slava Plotonov
<i>Illinois</i>	Chuck & Lynn Barkulis Kennith & Kim Lovelace Annette & Jim McDermott Henry & Odessa McDowell Judy Stigger	<i>Nebraska</i>	Stewart & Dari Dornan Tammy Nelson

<i>Nevada</i>	Judge Nancy M. Saitta	<i>Rhode Island</i>	Dennis B. Langley
<i>New Hampshire</i>	David Villiotti	<i>South Carolina</i>	Anthony & Brenda Davis Peggy Ewing Tomilee Harding William Brantley Hart
<i>New Jersey</i>	Lawrence & Deborah Andrews Barbara Cohen Joseph Collins Karen Flanagan Ken & Bonnie Moore Jane Nast Mary Hunt Peret Paytra Skelly	<i>South Dakota</i>	Andy & Jeanine Jones Browles Dale & Arleen Decker Jeannie French Mark Kelsey & Calla Hogue Jon & Laurie LeBar Judge Merton B. Tice, Jr.
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<i>North Dakota</i>	Jared & Tammy Gasal and Family	<i>Utah</i>	Gerry Simmons
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<i>Oregon</i>	Judith Spargo	<i>Washington</i>	Ivan Day Janice Neilson Jon & Kerri Steeb
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Barbara Schoener	<i>West Virginia</i>	Scott & Faith Merryman
		<i>Wisconsin</i>	Cheri Kainz Lisa Robertson
		<i>Wyoming</i>	Ellen McGee

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Rosie O'Donnell

Dave Thomas

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2001 *Angel in Adoption*™ Awardees

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Arkansas	James & Nancy Williams	Iowa	Judge Terry Huitink & Judge Stephen Clarke
California	John Capellaro & Karen Christofferson CASA of Fresno Fred & Patty Duarte Joyce Hayes Roberta Friedman & Leslie Kornblum Mr. & Mrs. McPherson Reuben Pannor Greg Cox & Ron Roberts Karen Spencer	Kansas	Debra Murphey-Sheumann Michael & Shelly Smith
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<i>Minnesota</i>	Gene & Becky Lourey William & Lauren Schneider	<i>Ohio</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Emil Gullia Gary & LaVerne Humphrey Heather Hamilton Mock Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
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<i>Missouri</i>	Mike & Julie Keathley Paul & Alicia Matteucci	<i>Oregon</i>	Gary Conkling
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		<i>Wyoming</i>	Michael & Gretchen Kelso

When Love Takes You In

Written and performed by Steven Curtis Chapman

You've heard about a place called home
But there doesn't seem to be one for you
So one more night you cry yourself to sleep
And drift off to a distant dream
Where love takes you in and everything changes
A miracle starts with the beat of a heart
When love takes you home and says you belong here
The loneliness ends and a new life begins
When love takes you in
And somewhere while you're sleeping
Someone else is dreaming too
Counting down the days until
They hold you close and say I love you
And like the rain that falls into the sea
In a moment what has been is lost in what will be
When love takes you in everything changes
A miracle starts with the beat of a heart
And this love will never let you go
There is nothing that could ever cause this love to lose its hold
When love takes you in everything changes
A miracle starts with the beat of a heart
When love takes you home and says you belong here
The loneliness ends and a new life begins
When love takes you in it takes you in for good
When love takes you in

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SWEPT AWAY

Written and performed by Geoff Moore

We would say your name
A hundred times a day
Like speaking words in faith

And with a mixture of
Hope and fear and trust
We prayed for the strength to wait
And dreamed of how we'd feel the day
You'd be in our arms and...

Swept away
Caught up in our love
Home to stay
You'll never be alone
You'll be amazed
At how much you are loved
Your life will never be the same
Once you're swept away

What once was just a dream?
Is now reaching up to me
And I hold her in my arms
Father thank you for the way
You held her all those days
That we had to spend apart
And now I see the impossible dream
Is holding me and I'm...

Swept away
Caught up in your love
Home to stay
I 'll never be alone
And I'm amazed
At how much I am loved
My life will never be the same
I've been swept away

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Angels in AdoptionTM Prayer

We assemble tonight, Lord, to celebrate the transforming power of Love, and we pause to thank you for using us as your instruments. Through the process of ADOPTION, those with abundant love to give are matched with those who need the balm of that love.

We celebrate tonight, Lord, the transcendent grace of family life. We remember with gratitude the birth parents whose genes have shaped a child's body with potential. We thank you, especially, for adoptive parents who have opened their hearts and homes to include new children.

We stand here tonight, Lord, mindful that it is really the children who are the ANGELS-God's messengers — to us. They daily remind us of the magnificence of LIFE, and entrust us through their innocence and helplessness with the task of "guiding" them.

We pause tonight, Lord, aware that we have been commissioned by you to see each child as a renewal of your presence and your purpose. We ask for your wisdom that we may see in each child a reflection of You.

We renew ourselves in your sight, Lord, that we may be steadfast protectors of all children's rights and courageous ministers on behalf of those children in need of the security and peace that only a loving home can provide.

Finally, we thank you, Lord, for this food, for those who provided the opportunity for us to gather here in heaven's work on earth.

AMEN!

Sister Rosario O'Connor of Houma, Louisiana
2000 Angel in Adoption Award Recipient

To know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived...
this is to have succeeded!

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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