



*The Congressional
Angels
in Adoption
Awards Celebration
2002*

A celebration of those committed individuals
making a difference in the lives of children and families

Tuesday, September 24, 2002
Washington, D.C.



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*. National Angel Awardees are chosen by the Congressional Directors of CCAI for their advocacy on a national and international scale. All other Angels are chosen by their Congressional Representatives.

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 eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic need of families.





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Welcome

Judy Woodruff & Al Hunt
Masters of Ceremonies

Invocation

Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie
Chaplain of the U.S. Senate

Message from the Director

Kerry Hasenbalg
Executive Director, CCAI

Video Presentation

Maxine B. Baker
*President and CEO,
Freddie Mac Foundation*

Musical performance

Steven Curtis Chapman
Grammy winning Recording Artist

Recognition of Congressional Members

Judy Woodruff

*Presentation of National Angel Award
to Dave Thomas, Founder of Wendy's,
in memoriam*

Senator Larry Craig
Congressional Director, CCAI

*Presentation of National Angel Award
to Hans van Loon, Secretary General,
The Hague Conference*

Senator Mary Landrieu
Congressional Director, CCAI

*Presentation of National Angel Award
to Hallmark Channel*

Congressman Jim Oberstar
Congressional Director, CCAI

*Presentation of National Angel Award
to Antwone Fisher, Author,
"Finding Fish"*

Kerry Hasenbalg

Musical Performance

Steven Curtis Chapman

CCAI WOULD LIKE TO THANK

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&

Target Corporation

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HARMONIOUS ENDEAVORS

CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS

**OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THEIR ONGOING
DEDICATION, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

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SENATOR MARY LANDRIEU

CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

MAXINE B. BAKER

VALDUR KOHA

PAUL SINGER

BARBARA WALZER

KATHLEEN STROTTMAN

FOR HER VISION AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE
CONGRESSIONAL ANGELS IN ADOPTION PROGRAM

MANY THANKS TO FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES FOR THE SPECIAL SCREENING
OF THE FILM "ANTWONE FISHER," AND TO THE SUZUKI VIOLINISTS
FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE DURING TONIGHT'S RECEPTION

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Message from the Director

Welcome everyone to the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's annual Angels in Adoption Awards Gala. It brings me great joy to see the fruit of our labor realized here tonight. This Gala provides a unique opportunity for members of congress, congressional staff, and corporate executives to meet the unsung heroes for children from around the country.

As many of you are aware, last year's Angels in Adoption event was scheduled to take place the evening of September 11th, but in the wake of the terrible events of that day, the banquet was canceled. This year's celebration has special meaning as we have invited the 2001 Angels to return to Washington, D.C. and be celebrated along with the 2002 Award recipients. As our nation's focus has turned to the true heroes in our society, we believe that this September is a most appropriate time to celebrate the unsung heroes for children.

The annual Angels in Adoption Awards banquet is the culmination of a year-long program that seeks to raise awareness about the thousands of foster children in this country and the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes. CCAI invites all Members of the United State's Congress to select individuals from their home states who have helped children in need through adoption. In addition, our congressional directors choose National Angels for their efforts on a national and international level. It has been rewarding for me to see the "Angels in Adoption" program grow from a Members' Press Conference in 1999 to a year-long public awareness campaign, concluding with this awards banquet. I am pleased to announce that 140 Members of Congress participated in this year's Angels in Adoption program, selecting Angels from all 50 states, including the island of Puerto Rico.

Tonight we will also be recognizing two of our 2001 National Angel Award recipients, Hans van Loon and Dave Thomas. CCAI was deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend, Dave, in January of this year; and although he is unable to be with us tonight, we are pleased to know that prior to his passing, he learned of his selection for this award. We are also delighted to be presenting this year's National Angel Awards to Hallmark Channel for their powerful "Adoption" television series and to Antwone Fisher for telling his story and bringing to light the children who wait in darkness.

As Executive Director, I have had the privilege of meeting many of the Congressional Angels and am amazed by their personal stories of dedication, perseverance, and compassion. While all of us may come from different

backgrounds, what unites us is our commitment to our world's most vulnerable children, those in need of forever families.

Our commitment to developing and maintaining successful partnerships with both governmental and nongovernmental organizations has been extremely rewarding. CCAI generally works in collaboration with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, which is a bicameral, bipartisan caucus, of more the 180 members of congress. Throughout this year, our office has worked closely with the Immigration and Naturalization Services, the Department of State, and the White House to assist children and families in addressing the difficult adoption situation in Cambodia. In addition, CCAI has successfully partnered with a number of other national organizations to raise the awareness of adoption and foster care-related issues; partnerships which include the congressional foster youth internship program and the National Adoption Campaign. These programs focus attention on the needs of the 550,000 foster children in this country, and specifically the 134,000 of them waiting for adoptive homes.

In addition to our public awareness programming, CCAI provides necessary educational resources to policymakers as they seek to eliminate barriers to adoption on a national and international scale. In January of 2001, CCAI organized its first Congressional Delegation trip to China. The highlight of our trip was a lengthy meeting with President Jiang Zemin, discussing the issues of child welfare and adoption. In June, we had the opportunity to reciprocate the honor by hosting the Minister of Civil Affairs from China, Douji Cairang; the Director of the China Center of Adoption Affairs, Lu Ying; and their six member delegation.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the CCAI staff for their fine work and dedication, and for helping make the Angels in Adoption Awards Celebration the crown jewel of our awareness programming. I am grateful to the CCAI board of directors for their support and devotion to the goals and mission of CCAI. Thanks to all our corporate sponsors, particularly the Freddie Mac Foundation and the Target Corporation, for their commitment to our mission of eliminating the barriers that hinder children from finding the families they so desire and deserve.

Together we are one step closer to the day when each child has a family to call his or her own.

Kerry Hasenbalg

Distinguished Guests

Judy Woodruff & Al Hunt

Judy Woodruff, a 30-year veteran of broadcast journalism who joined CNN in 1993, is CNN's prime anchor and senior correspondent. She anchors *Inside Politics with Judy Woodruff*, the nation's first program devoted exclusively to politics. In addition to her daily reporting duties, Woodruff co-anchors CNN's special coverage of such events as political conventions and summits.

In 1997, Woodruff won the News and Documentary Emmy Award for outstanding instant coverage of a single breaking news story for CNN's coverage of the Centennial Olympic Park bombing. In 1995, the Freedom Forum awarded Woodruff and journalist husband, Al Hunt, the Allen H. Neuharth Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Al Hunt is executive Washington editor for The Wall Street Journal and Dow Jones. His Journal responsibilities include writing the weekly editorial page column, "Politics and People," and directing the paper's political polls. He is president of the board of directors of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund; director of Ottaway Newspapers, Inc., a Dow Jones subsidiary; and a member of the Journal's management committee.

Hunt has been a member of Cable News Network's "The Capital Gang" since its inception in 1988, and he is one of the hosts of the CNN interview show "Novak, Hunt & Shaw." He is also a periodic panelist on the National Broadcasting Co.'s "Meet the Press." Additionally, Hunt has co-authored several political reports, including the 1987 Brookings Institute's "Elections American Style," and 2002's "Profiles in Courage for Our Time." Mr. Hunt was named the 1999 the recipient of the William Allen White Foundation's national citation, one of journalism's highest honors.

In addition to their experience with politics, Judy and Al have had personal experience with adoption. They are the proud parents of two boys, Jeff and Benjamin, and a daughter, Lauren, adopted from Korea.

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, their daughter 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.

In November, the Congressional Directors of CCAI had the distinct honor of awarding Steven Curtis and Mary Beth the National Angel in Adoption Award in 2001 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 a place in their heart, but don't have a place in their bank account for it." Included in Steven Curtis' most recent album, "Declaration," is a song written about his adopted daughter, Shaohannah, entitled "When Love Takes You In." Currently on tour, Steven Curtis takes time at each concert to highlight adoption and to encourage audiences to open their hearts to waiting children.

2001 National Angel in Adoption Awardees

Dave Thomas

CCAI was deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend, Dave Thomas, in January of 2002. An adoptee himself, Dave was a tremendous advocate for adoption, and a hero to the thousands of waiting children of the United States foster care system. In Dave's words, "Every child deserves a permanent home and a loving family."

In 1992, Dave established the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, which supports programs that make adoption easier and more affordable for families. Dave sought to promote adoption benefits for corporate and government employees, ways to simplify the adoption process, and to make adoption tax credits a reality for all adoptive parents. He took his message to every corner of the country, meeting with Members of Congress, corporate America and the media. Dave and the foundation were instrumental in the creation of the U.S. postage stamp promoting adoption, and an annual television special on CBS called "A Home for the Holidays." Both of these efforts have taken the issue of adoption into homes across America and prompted thousands of people to inquire about waiting children.

Dave had a true passion for waiting children. His family, dear friends, members of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Wendy's Corporation will continue to work with the United States government and the private sector to fulfill his dream that every child find their forever family. We are pleased that prior to his passing, Dave was aware that he was chosen as a 2001 National Angel in Adoption. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy in adoption continues to make this world a better place for children and now he truly is their Angel in Adoption.

Hans van Loon

Johannes ("Hans") H.A. van Loon is the Secretary General of the Hague conference on Private International Law, a long-standing intergovernmental Organization based at The Hague, the Netherlands. This organization is currently composed of 54 member states, including the United States of America, and, since the Second World War, has drawn up over 30 multilateral treaties to advance the exercise of rights of private individuals, families, businesses and other entities in transnational situations.

Before he took the position of Secretary General in 1996, Hans was the member of the Hague conference Secretariat who initiated, around 1985, the work of the Hague Conference. This ultimately led to the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption. Hans was responsible for persuading both Hague Conference Member and non-Member States of the need for and feasibility of negotiating a worldwide treaty on inter-country adoption. This included: extensive networking and traveling; participation in expert field missions with UNICEF and NUHCR to Romania, Albania, and former Yugoslavia; preparation of an in-depth scientific report; organization of a series of expert meetings in the years 1990-1993; as well as numerous side meetings, and the organization of a three week Diplomatic Conference at the Peace Palace in The Hague. After the treaty was first signed in May 1993, he continue to be involved in its promotion and implementation, including through high level contacts with governments, further missions to Romania and Paraguay, contact with associations of adoption organizations, universities, and other international organizations.

Hans has also been involved in the preparation of other multilateral treaties in and outside the family law arena, and has published widely on these issues.

2002 National Angel in Adoption Awardees

Hallmark Channel

Hallmark Channel is a 24-hour television network that provides high quality, family-friendly entertainment programming to a national audience of more than 45 million subscribers. In addition to its domestic distribution, Hallmark Channel is syndicated in more than 110 countries and has nearly 95 million subscribers across the globe.

“Adoption” was the Hallmark Channel’s first original series, a non-scripted, reality program, capturing the experiences of birth parents, adopted children, and adoptive parents. This series documented unfolding stories of both domestic and international adoptions.

With the premiere of “Adoption,” Hallmark Channel has dedicated the network’s inaugural national corporate outreach initiative to supporting and creating grassroots programs dedicated to positively impacting awareness of adoption in the U.S. By providing the tools that enable viewers to make a difference in their communities, Hallmark Channel hopes to dispel the myths surrounding adoption, and shed a positive light on the process. The Adoption initiative encompasses several customizable components including: turnkey promotions, public service announcements, educational tools, and programming elements to allow select markets to reach out and highlight relevant adoption stories in their community.

When asked about the “Adoption” series, Lana Corbi, President and CEO of Hallmark Channel, warmly remarked, “‘Adoption’ is perfect for Hallmark Channel because of our commitment to presenting ‘stories you keep.’ What we see in ‘Adoption’ is that it’s the love, patience and extraordinary sacrifices human beings are willing to make in order to give and share their love with a child.”

The Congressional Directors of CCAI are pleased to award Hallmark Channel the 2002 National Angel in Adoption Award for raising greatly needed awareness about the issue of Adoption through their television network.

Antwone Fisher

Antwone Fisher is a talented author, an acclaimed screenwriter, a devoted father, loving husband, and a former foster child. In a most unlikely way, the story of his life in the foster care system has received national recognition. While working as a security guard on the Sony production lot, Antwone met producer Todd Black. Upon learning his personal story, Todd felt compelled to communicate Antwone’s experiences to audiences across the nation in a major motion picture. The film, “Antwone Fisher,” details the account of a young man in the Navy who struggles with confronting his painful past, while finding hope for his future. The film’s screenplay was written by Antwone, himself, and is Denzel Washington’s directorial debut. Subsequently, Antwone wrote his memoir, entitled “Finding Fish,” which became a New York Times bestseller.

Born to a young, single mother, while she was incarcerated in Ohio, Antwone’s life began in adversity. His entrance into the world was less than ideal. From the moment of his birth, he became a ward of the state. He was ultimately raised by a foster family in a home that lacked the kind of love and support for which he longed. Support during these years came from friends, and a few caring adults who had a profound impact on his life. It was an elementary school teacher and his commanding officers in the Navy who primarily gave Antwone the guidance and encouragement he sought for so many years.

Today, Antwone lives in Los Angeles, California with his wife, Lanette, and children Indigo and Azure. He is one of Hollywood’s most sought after screenwriters. As a writer, he has given a name and face to the thousands of seemingly nameless and faceless children in the foster care system who long for a permanent, safe and loving home that every child deserves.

CCAI is delighted that Antwone is being publicly honored for his work knowing that in honoring him, we are honoring all those committed individuals who have made a difference in his life, as well as those making a difference in the lives of other vulnerable children.

Angel in Adoption Awardees

Alabama

Duane & Melissa Carter

Senator Jeff Sessions

Over the past six years, Dr. and Mrs. Carter have opened their home to four adopted children. Several years ago they adopted four-year-old twins, Benjamin and Nathaniel from Bulgaria. Following this adoption, the Carters had a biological child, Graham. Even with three active boys, they chose to open their home again to two young girls from Romania, Maggie and Seora. Unfortunately, the girls' paperwork was being processed when the Romanian government placed a moratorium on adoptions, but the Carters did not give up on these two children. Instead, they continued to work with the Romanian government to complete the adoption and, in April, the adoptions that began a year earlier, were completed. Maggie and Seora were allowed to travel to the United States with the Carters. This is truly a story that demonstrates the commitment this couple has to children in need of a family. They have made a place in their lives and their hearts for these children and, for this, I believe, they are truly deserving of the Angels in Adoption award.

James & Trista Ehlers

Representative Spencer Bachus

Trista and James Ehlers of Alabaster, Alabama, are wonderful examples of adoptive parents who have turned their experience into a resource for other families going through the adoption process. Before they adopted their son Laine from Russia, Trista and James attended an Alabama Friends of Adoption picnic where they received encouragement and advice from other attendees. After coming home with their Russian angel, Trista and James vowed to make it their mission to inspire people and share the joys of adoption with others. Trista became President and Treasurer of the Alabama Friends of Adoption, a nonprofit organization that provides a support group and advocates for adoption. Later, Trista and James founded the Alabama Families of Russian Adoption, a similar advocacy and support organization specifically for families whose children come from Russia. Under Trista's leadership of both organizations, a website has been created for both groups, as well as an Internet chat group to help families receive the information and encouragement they need as they go through their complex adoptions. Trista also serves on the Board of Directors of Villa Hope International Adoptions and organized a shoe drive last year that provided 150 pairs of shoes for Russian orphans.

Leslie & Rita Gorenflo

Representative Clay Shaw

Les and Rita have richly blessed the lives of the six children they have adopted and, in return, have been equally blessed. All of their children have special needs, most of which are medical. Rita, a registered nurse, no longer works outside the home because she now practices her nursing skills 24 hours a day, seven days a week with her children. Les, as a supporting husband and father, works long and hard so that Rita can stay at home to care for the children and be their advocate. Along with giving out medications, administering tube feedings and breathing treatments, Rita hands out much love and encouragement to her family. The smiles on the faces of the children tell how truly blessed they are to be a family.

Ricky & Romy Rorex

Representative Bud Cramer

As a young couple, Ricky and Romy's love for God, community, people, and each other was strongly evident in the way they lived their lives. Ricky, an electrical engineer and Romy, a social worker, have continued that commitment and are actively making a difference through their involvement within the community and church. When Ricky and Romy were chosen to be the parents for their son, the love they gave and received was never more obvious than in the outpouring of gifts and good wishes. Ricky and Romy will attest that Nicholas is truly an "answer to prayer."

Aside from their careers, Ricky is a deacon at the church where he and Romy are also department directors for a young adults Sunday school program. Ricky has also been a longtime member of the countywide Mandolin Orchestra, playing at various community events throughout the year. Romy has served, not only as the leader, but the primary originator of the Sarah Tate Reading Room, an after school-tutoring program for children. Because of her work and love for children, Romy was asked to serve as a member of the board of directors for the area Boys and Girls Club.

Alaska

Dwyane & Gretchen Jones

Senator Frank Murkowski

In the past three years, the Jones' comfortable household of six has doubled in number to an even dozen! First, they adopted the baby girl of Dwyane's drug-addicted niece in California. Since then, they adopted two more of her children who were in foster care. While the second adoption was pending, the widow of Dwyane's brother was killed in an accident in Pennsylvania, leaving three new orphans needing care. Dwyane's side of the family has been sadly plagued with broken marriages and drug addiction, so this couple admirably believed that among all his relatives, they were able to offer the children the best chance for a stable home life. Gretchen gave up her job in a doctor's office to care for the preschoolers. Now, they all live solely on Dwyane's salary as a police officer. Plans to take vacations and to retire early have been shelved, but the Jones' selflessly consider the many changes in their lives as an adventure, not a chore. Gretchen believes that: "Our Lord is only going to give me what I can handle." Because of the obvious love and concern that the Jones' have for all children and the commitment to family they have demonstrated, I am pleased to select them as my 2002 Angels in Adoption.

Arizona

Kay Ekstrom

Representative Ed Pastor

Kay Ekstrom cares passionately about the plight of children, particularly those who have been abused, neglected and often forgotten. Because of Kay's vision and strong belief that there should be a nurturing family for every child, Christian Family Care Agency (CFCA), which she founded, celebrates 20 years of service to the children of Arizona this year.

Kay and her husband, Chuck, not only raised seven children born to them, but also provided a foster home for many other children in both Chicago and Phoenix. Because of their experiences, Kay was motivated to start an agency to serve children and families, specifically those at risk. Twenty years later, more than 800 children have found loving, permanent homes and countless others have been provided temporary shelter, counseling and support because of CFCA and Kay Ekstrom.

Arkansas

Kaye McLeod

Senator Blanche Lincoln

Kaye is a distinguished adoption attorney in Little Rock. She has worked for almost 20 years as a dedicated advocate for adoption. An outstanding and dynamic individual, Kaye is a founding member of the Arkansas Adoption Association. In addition, Kaye wrote a substantial portion of the most recent Arkansas adoption legislation. I am proud of the service Ms. McLeod has provided to needy children and so I have chosen her as my 2002 Angel in Adoption award recipient.

Alan & Cindy Stanford

Senator Tim Hutchinson

Alan and Cindy adopted their daughter Mihaela in 1999. Prior to being adopted, Mihaela was living in an orphanage in Romania where conditions were less than adequate. The Stanfords were very excited to open their home and their hearts to little Mihaela and are dedicated to providing her with the unconditional love and support of a forever family that all children need and deserve. Although the transition to a new family and a new life here in the United States has been an adjustment for Mihaela, the love and commitment shown to her by her family, has enabled her to adjust and blossom in her new environment and new home.

I am proud to honor the Stanfords as my 2002 Angels in Adoption and commend their commitment to changing the lives of our deserving children everywhere.

Lindsey Toland

Representative Marion Berry

I am honored to choose Lindsey Toland for the Angels in Adoption award. She has been involved on the local, state and national levels with public and private agencies that deal with both domestic and international adoptions. Because she was adopted, she is able to take a heartfelt message across Arkansas to civic groups, banquet gatherings, churches, and by sharing her story of the joys, fulfillment, and opportunities that adoption can bring. During November, Lindsey organized proclamation signings in recognition of National Adoption Awareness Month in several towns in our state and participated in the signing with Lt. Governor Win Rockefeller. She donated adoption books to several public libraries in the community and recorded public service announcements in conjunction with the Department of Human Services. Lindsey also visits elementary, junior high, and high schools in eastern Arkansas to give age-appropriate speeches on adoption; volunteers her time as a lay counselor for Life Choices, a crisis pregnancy center; and is actively involved with Families are Special, Inc. (FASI), a private adoption agency, helping with their annual fundraiser yard sale and family picnic. She will join the FASI board of directors in 2003.

As a participant in the Miss America system, Lindsey chose Adoption Awareness as her critical issue, despite discouragement by advisors who believed there was not enough to do in the field of adoption. Lindsey proved them wrong by winning the "Quality of Life" Award at this year's Miss Arkansas Pageant. She was selected by an independent panel of judges based on her commitment to improving the quality of life in that community. Lindsey's pursuit of the Miss Arkansas crown was fueled by her passion to find families for children who do not have them. Lindsey believes it is her responsibility and privilege to give back to society with an issue that changed the course of her life. She is presently studying to obtain her Juris Doctorate and hopes to begin a career in Family Law.

California

Annette Baran

Representative Henry Waxman

Annette Baran is one of the nation's best known and respected experts in the field of child welfare and adoption. Her book, *The Adoption Triangle*, was published in 1973 and is still considered to be the foremost book in its field. Annette's book is credited with changing the institution of adoption throughout the world. Her writing is also included in *The Psychology of Adoption* and *Adolescent Psychiatry*. For many years, Annette served as the director of a major adoption center in Los Angeles. After organizing an adolescent drug treatment program for UCLA, she established a private psychotherapy practice in Los Angeles. She is frequently called upon by the media as a source for stories on adoption, child welfare and child abuse. She has been an expert witness in national cases on surrogate motherhood and adoption. Annette's work in the field of adoption has brought her international recognition including appearances on national news networks. She is often quoted in major news publications including *Time*, *Newsweek* and *McCalls*. It is my pleasure to choose Annette Baran to be an Angel in Adoption for 2002.

Families with Children from China of Northern California

Representative Nancy Pelosi

Families with Children from China (FCC) was originally founded in New York in 1992 by a group of parents who had recently adopted children from China. The San Francisco chapter opened in 1995, and has grown to include approximately 600 families. Functioning independently of any national organization, the San Francisco chapter attempts to foster a sense of community among parents with newly adopted children and provide information for families considering adopting from Chinese orphanages. Terry Fry has served as president of Families with Children from China-Northern California for the past three years. He and his wife Amy Klatzkin, also a board member of the organization, have adopted a little girl from China. Terry and Amy have been instrumental in FCC's national fundraising effort, which provides funds to about 80 Chinese orphanages to pay for corrective surgeries, eye exams, school fees, foster care, and a wide range of essential services. Families with Children from China, Terry, and Amy, should be honored for their work to improve the lives of children in Chinese orphanages.

William Fuser

Representative Robert Matsui

After a career as a social worker with the San Joaquin County Child Welfare Department, Mr. Fuser founded the Lilliput Children's Services in 1980 and since then has assisted in the care of over 500 children involved in either adoption or foster care. He is currently a member of the California Association of Adoption Agencies, the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, and the National Voice for Adoption. Mr. Fuser was also a board member with the National Foster Family Based Treatment Association and the California Association of Services for Children. In addition, he helped to found the Sacramento County Adoption Day. Mr. Fuser has helped our community make great strides to improve the situations of children. He has dedicated both his time and seemingly boundless energy to the world of adoption and is more than deserving of the Angels in Adoption Award.

James & Judy Mendonca

Representative Ken Calvert

James and Judy Mendonca were determined to give their grandson, Andrew, a life filled with unconditional love and support. That is why, two years ago, they adopted him after he was removed from an abusive situation at home. James and Judy selflessly opened their home without hesitation. They have enjoyed and loved every moment of their grandson's life ever since. James is the kind of grandfather who is willing to sacrifice his own comfort in order to provide for his grandson. Today, Andrew is an active three-and-a-half-year-old boy. James and Judy have created a life for him that is filled with love, warmth, security, comfort, spirituality and lots of fun. Thanks to James and Judy, Andrew is a very happy child with a bright future. As their Congressman, I am delighted to recognize James and Judy Mendonca as Angels in Adoption for their commitment and dedication to Andrew.

Brian & Marti Napier

Representative Gary Miller

Brian and Marti Napier are respected community members and business leaders who lead compassionate lives. Their adoption journey began when a client of Marti's sister had a pregnant teenage daughter wanting to make an adoption plan for her baby. In response, Marti and Brian adopted the child. Today, little Claire Elizabeth is a blessing to the Napier family and they have become strong advocates for adoption. Because of Marti and Brian, a teenage mother can rest assured that she did the right thing, and that her daughter is in a loving home.

Just as Marti and Brian opened their hearts and home to little Claire Elizabeth, in the past they have also opened their home to two international exchange students from Taiwan and two delegates from the United Presbyterian Church of East Africa. Both Brian and Marti are actively involved in their church and community. The couple dreams of Claire's future and are concerned for the world in which she lives. Most importantly, they treasure her as the most wonderful gift of their lives.

Shadé Ogunleye

Representative Howard McKeon

Shadé is a 16-year-old honor student who has been assisting the El Faro Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. The orphanage does not receive any government funding and has always been in dire straits. The first year the orphanage was open there were radio news reports of children dying in the winter nights because they did not have blankets. As a child, Shadé wanted to start her own orphanage, but instead searched the Internet to see where she could do the most good. When she was 13, Shadé's father helped her create a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation, the Kid's International Foundation. In the last three years, Shadé has raised over \$60,000 and has collected beds, storage units, clothes, linens, food, a swing set, toys, medicine, and a washing machine for the 73 kids in the orphanage. She has also arranged for a Rotary Club to help pay the school tuition for the school-aged children. Shadé tries to visit the orphanage twice a month and has organized as many as 25 cars to caravan over 300 miles to the orphanage to work. Shadé finds time to write a monthly column on her choice of subjects for her local newspaper and she is a frequent speaker on behalf of Kids International. Shadé was nominated to represent the United States as a Student Ambassador and recently traveled to Australia to learn about the country's customs and culture.

Javier & Maria Prado

Representative Adam Schiff

After being married for more than 20 years, Maria and Javier Prado left Mexico to move to California during the 1970's. Javier worked in Los Angeles area restaurants washing dishes and training to be a cook. Today, owing to their hard work, the Prados own two successful restaurants. The Prados have two biological children, a son, and a daughter born with down's syndrome. At present, their son is a college student, and their daughter is an active, exuberant young woman despite her challenges.

In 1997, the couple decided it was time for them to give back to the community. They could think of no better way than to be "angels" to children in need. So, Maria and Javier became certified as foster parents through the Sycamores, a comprehensive adoption service provider based in Pasadena. That same year, a four-year-old girl named Kayla was placed in their care. Until that time, she had experienced a life of abuse that caused severe emotional and behavioral problems. Maria and Javier introduced Kayla to a world of unconditional love, nurturing, and stability, and ensured that Kayla received the therapeutic services she needed. Today, Kayla is an extremely articulate third-grader, now participating in an accelerated learning program. Maria and Javier changed Kayla's life by ensuring her a permanent home by adopting her last year.

Dr. Robert & Robin Ross

Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald

Robert and Robin Ross began their adoption journey dedicated to providing a home for a child already born. That journey culminated in April 2002 when they brought to their Woodland Hills, California home a newborn girl whom they named Savannah, who is now five months old. Dr. Ross, a pediatrician, expressed their decision to adopt best when he said, "We have been extremely blessed with a wonderful family, friends and home and wanted to share that with a new family member. We also knew there are literally thousands of children who could benefit from a loving home. We can't help all of them, but we felt it was important to help at least one." Those words and the philosophy behind them make Dr. and Mrs. Ross my 2002 Angels in Adoption.

Gurith Torres

Representative Grace Napolitano

As a foster parent, Gurith Torres recognized the need for a foster family agency to cater predominantly to the Latino community in the Los Angeles area, where Latino children are the largest ethnic group of foster children in Los Angeles County. However, there is a serious lack of Latino foster families to care for them. Without waiting for anyone else to act, Gurith helped found Ninos Latinos Unidos (Latino Children United), becoming its secretary and treasurer. Gurith now works to ensure that Latino foster children are placed into culturally and linguistically appropriate homes and that they and their foster families are given the support services they need. She works closely with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and with the

Dependency Court for the reunification of foster children and their families whenever possible, or to develop alternative plans of adoption, legal guardianship, or emancipation. Ninos Latinos Unidos also provides an array of mental health services for foster children. The organization also brings together foster children, their families and staff for recreational opportunities that allow foster families to interact with one another.

Daphna Ziman

Senator Barbara Boxer

As the founder of an organization called Children Uniting Nations (CUN), Daphna Ziman has done more than her fair share in improving the lives of children. CUN provides at-risk children around the world with resources to make much needed changes in their own lives. For the last four years, CUN has organized celebrations to bring the public's attention to the needs of children. On Nov. 11, 2001 over 2500 foster care and children without parents attended the International Day of the Child extravaganza at the Santa Monica Pier in California. This day at the amusement park brought together foster children and volunteer families to share rides and music.

CUN has joined forces with the Governor of California's office to create a vast mentoring program for foster care youth. This program has been enormously successful and because of it, hundreds of foster care youth are getting the permanency and direction they need and deserve. Perhaps her most important achievement has been in succeeding to change the law in regards to the fate of abused children. During repeated visits to homeless shelters she became aware of many abused children who were sent back to their abusive parents when suitable foster parents were interested in their care. Mrs. Ziman went to Washington, D.C. and lobbied to change the law that would permit parents to reunite with their children, "as long as it's in the best interests of the child," which has resulted in dramatically increased protection for abused children.

Currently, she serves as chairperson of ABC LOVE (Adoption Brings Children Love), which is committed to finding and placing children in caring and loving families. She is also on the board of HIPPY (Home Instruction for Pre-School Youngsters). Adoption is more than a mission for Daphna, she is the adoptive mother of two beautiful children.

Colorado

Candy Pruett

Representative Bob Schaffer

Candy has dedicated 20 years to creating families and helping children. Already parents to their son, Rich and Candy made the decision early on that they wanted to expand their family through adoption. Prior to adopting their five children from India, Rich and Candy were mutual-care foster parents and took care of pregnant teens until their babies arrived safely. Candy is now a trainer for a local adoption agency, where she teaches families how to parent children from other cultures. In Candy's words, "Adoption is my life. It's what I do, I really believe in it. I'm a walking advertisement. I can honestly say it's the best thing that has ever happened to my family and me. These kids have opened up our world."

Connecticut

John & Eileen Merrill

Senator Joseph Lieberman

It is my great pleasure to choose Mr. and Mrs. John and Eileen Merrill of New Milford as my Angels in Adoption for 2002. They attempted to adopt a Vietnamese orphan in April 2001. Near the end of the adoption process, the Immigration and Naturalization (INS) office in Vietnam denied them an orphan visa because of allegations that the child has been purchased by a Vietnamese adoption agency from an unwed teenage mother. Upon providing evidence to the contrary, the Merrills were able to receive a visa for their daughter. In December of 2001, the Merrills were given final approval to unite their family. This family's story of courage and hope is truly an inspiration for all of us, and I am proud to recognize them for their tremendous efforts to improve the life of a child.

Delaware

Dr. Kathleen M. Cronan

Representative Michael Castle

As both co-founder and co-director of A.I. du Pont Hospital for Children's Adoption Consultation Services, Dr. Cronan has led one of our Nation's first pediatric programs designed specifically to provide a wide range of medical services to parents and newly adopted children. Since she and her husband, Dr. Stephen Zderic, are adoptive parents themselves, it is no surprise that Dr. Cronan serves as both the children's pediatrician and as a friend and supporter to their adoptive parents. In addition to her role as Division Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Dr. Cronan works to educate the public about child safety through KidsHealth.org, and serves as a member of the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware's Board of Directors.

Mary Jo Wolfe

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Mary Jo Wolfe is President of Adoptive Families with Information and Support (AFIS) and an adoptive parent of a 10-year-old daughter. She makes herself available 24 hours a day to assist families with concerns, fears and questions related to adoption and permanency planning. She coordinates the "warm-line" for adoptive families, runs support groups throughout the state, and participates in monthly meetings with the adoption agencies in Delaware to help identify issues and find resolutions for moving children into timely adoption. She also arranges community events for adoptive families, teaches the class "Family Building Through Adoption" twice a year, and organizes events to promote adoption during National Adoption Awareness Month. Mary Jo will do whatever it takes to offer support and direction for children and families whenever the need arises. She is beyond a doubt committed to finding families for children who have a goal of adoption and want a forever family.

Florida

Barbara Alessandro

Representative Karen Thurman

For 23 years, Barbara Alessandro has made a difference in the placement of children in safe and happy homes through her outstanding qualities of integrity, professionalism, commitment, exemplary leadership abilities, and expertise in the field of adoption. She has worked in state foster care and adoptions and at private, non-profit agencies. She is currently founder and CEO of her own adoption agency. Barbara continues to go above and beyond the requirements of her position. If she had been compensated for the thousands and thousands of hours she has given, she would have had a tremendous financial gain, but money is not the issue with Barbara. She is committed to the children of the world—those who are waiting for a loving family; this motivation is what touches Barbara's heart. When the interest of children and families are at heart, it is amazing how dedicated and how tirelessly one will work even when there is no salary. Children of the Nations International Adoption is a gift from Barbara's heart to the children of the world and I want her to receive the recognition she deserves.

Barbara Busharis

Senator Bill Nelson

Attorney Barbara Busharis, is an adoptee whose dedication has resulted in increased rights for adopted persons and has improved the integrity of adoption. For the past four years, she has been editor in chief of *The Decree*, the award-winning magazine of the American Adoption Congress (AAC). In addition, she edits *The Second Draft: Bulletin of The Legal Writing Institute*. Her creativity as a responsible editor in the adoption community has meant that articles from across the adoption community, with a wide variety of viewpoints have kept the community current and well-informed as adoption evolves in the 21st Century. She also teaches both legal writing and research as well as a seminar on children and families at the Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee. Her teaching draws on her experience as an adoptee as well as her experience as a Guardian *ad Litem* for children in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Leon County, Florida. During her tenure as a resident of Delaware, Ms. Busharis wrote legislation that was the foundation of the current law allowing Delaware-born

adopted adults the right to obtain a copy of their original birth record. She is co-author with Jane Nast of the *1996 AAC State-by-State Review of Legislation Affecting Access to Adoption Records*, which is in the process of being updated.

With full support and encouragement from her parents, Barbara has searched for, and been reunited with, members of her birth family. She and her husband are parents of a four-year-old son and youth leaders in the church they attend in Tallahassee. For the time and care she gives to document efforts to increase integrity in adoption with her legal, writing and editing expertise, Barbara is surely an Angel in Adoption.

Charlotte Danciu, PA

Representative Rob Wexler

A formative adoption advocate, Charlotte H. Danciu practices family law and concentrates on private adoption, gestational and traditional surrogacy, paternity and all areas of reproductive law. She has been practicing law in Boca Raton, Florida, for more than 17 years and has handled more than 1,200 adoptions. Her success in influencing state legislation for adoption has resulted in Florida's progressive adoption and surrogacy laws that lead the nation. She often appears on television and in the local news as an informative source for adoption and surrogacy. She is also a proud adoptive parent of a beautiful 13-year-old special needs child.

Sonya Mills

Representative Ander Crenshaw

Sonya Mills is a physical therapist at Mount Herman Exceptional Student Center in Jacksonville, Florida. In the spring of 2001, a special child came into her life and never left. Three-year-old Riley had spent most of her life in foster homes. Born with cerebral palsy, Riley needed to find a home that would be able to provide her not only with lots of love, but also with someone who could meet her medical needs. For Riley, beginning school at Mount Herman meant meeting Sonya, the woman who was to become her hero. Perhaps it was her blonde hair, or maybe the special twinkle in Riley's eyes, but the two instantly bonded. Sonya soon began taking steps to adopt Riley and just five months later, with the help of the Children's Home Society of Florida, Riley was placed in Sonya's home. Sonya, who already had a daughter born to her, provided Riley with love and a sister. Riley continues to thrive in her new home. She is learning to walk, talk, and to feed herself. Most importantly, Riley now knows what it means to have a loving family.

Georgia

Jerrold Hester

Representative Bob Barr

Jerry Hester is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, an organization of lawyers, judges, and law professors dedicated to the highest standards of practice in the field of adoption law. Although Jerry has been a legal counsel in over 1,500 adoptions, each situation was special to him. Jerry believes that the institution of adoption is a wonderful blessing and feels privileged to play a part in the creation of new families. He is inspired by both the steadfastness of couples who often endure years of heartache and disappointment in their quest to become parents, as well as the courageousness of young birth parents who must make a loving, but difficult, decision in order to provide a better life for their children.

Jerry has been practicing law in Georgia for 27 years. His practice, located in the Atlanta area, is primarily focused on adoption law. Jerry graduated from the University of Georgia in 1969, and after serving in the United States Army and attaining the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, he returned and earned his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. He and his wife Linda have been married for 32 years, and they have two children, Justin and Amanda.

Jody & Julie Humphrey

Representative Mac Collins

Jody & Julie have recently adopted their third child who had been in state foster care for five months waiting for a loving home. While pursuing this adoption, they successfully established a grass-roots organization called Families Supporting Adoption (FSA) that promotes and strengthens adoption in the state of Georgia. Jody and Julie have reached out to the community via FSA and developed a powerful organization of people that has positively impacted adoption. The Humphrey's recently sponsored a

12-hour adoption education course for couples interested in adoption. Additionally, they have monitored legislation, developed a news letter and held several support gatherings for adoptive families. Jody and Julie are eternally grateful for adoption and in turn have angelically promoted adoption; they have three children, one boy and two girls.

Hawaii

The Adoption Connection

Senator Daniel Inouye

The Adoption Connection is a judicial, public and private collaboration that stands out to me as an angel in the adoption community as well as to the state of Hawaii. The organization began in 1998, under the leadership of Family Court Judge John Bryant. As a result of the 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Adoption Connection was formed to find more adoptive homes for abused and neglected children. Participating partners include the Family Court, State Department of Human Services, Casey Family Programs, Child and Family Services, Junior League of Honolulu, Rotary Club of Honolulu, Friends of Foster Kids, Hawaii Behavioral Health, and private individuals. Its vision is simply that every child has the basic right to a safe, nurturing, and loving home and family.

The Adoption Connection is in its fourth year of collaboration. The goal of the first year, to raise public awareness of the need for adoptive families, was accomplished via a massive media campaign and an Adoption Expo at Kamehameha Schools. The awareness campaign continued through the second year while increasing its recruitment of adoptive families for children with special needs. A Treasure Hunt at the Honolulu Aquarium and a Zippity Zoo Outing at the Honolulu Zoo brought together approved adoptive parents to interact with waiting children. These recruitment efforts have resulted in the placement of 63 children. Recently, the organization has been focused on the incorporation of post-adoption services to support families. Committed to all participants in adoption, the Adoption Connection has implemented a local adoption website, support groups for adoptive children, a mentoring program for new adoptive parents, and a tutoring program.

Idaho

Victor & Barbara Contreras

Senator Larry Craig

Victor and Barbara Contreras became foster parents 13 years ago when they welcomed Colter Wilson into their home to be his personal care provider. It didn't take long for them to realize that their family had much more love to give. Barbara is already known in the Health and Welfare Department as "the angel." If there is any child that needs a home, Barbara will rise to the challenge and bring the child in with open arms. This is evidenced by the number of children the Contreras have had and currently have in their home. Five children were born to them: Tara (27), Aaron (24), Russel (22), Maria (20), and Sharon (16). They have adopted four other children: Kaeleb (seven) and three Hispanic sisters, Bernadette (14), Manuel (11), and Sean (three). In addition, their foster children include Colter (15), and five sisters, ages 15, nine, seven, six, and three. Over the years, they have cared for more than 40 children. What is most evident in the Contreras Family is the love they share for one another and each child. Victor and Barbara believe the secret to a successful adoption is to love the children and accept them for who they are, to treat each one as their own and to make sure all siblings share this attitude. The same philosophy applies to foster parenting. When asked how she can give the children back to their parents after working so hard with each one, Barbara said, "If I can help families stay together, that is worth

the risk. I give them all of my heart except one little piece, which I send with them to their families. It is all worth it if I can give them a little love so at least the child knows there is love out there for them.”

Donna Euler

Representative C. L. Otter

Donna has served as the Adoption Coordinator with Lutheran Community Services Northwestern (LCSNW) Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for 16 years. Even before her work with LCSNW, Donna served the state of Idaho by providing adoption services for families and children. Donna's work spans adoption and training, court reports for finalizations, birth parent counseling and support, adoption recruitment and family selection, as well as international adoptions. Among those contributions, Donna has also served on the Idaho Adoption Task Force, as a member of the focus group for Idaho for the President's Adoption 2002 Initiative, and the Idaho Children's Treatment Rulemaking Project. Donna serves the North Idaho community, is one of its unsung heroes in adoption, and is truly a worthy Angel in Adoption.

Patrick & LoriAnn Jones

Senator Mike Crapo

In the midst of raising the four children born to them, Patrick and LoriAnn Jones adopted nine children; four domestically and five from Haiti. Their home and attitude represents all of what adoption should stand for: unconditional love and acceptance. The Jones' set an excellent example and are greatly admired throughout the community of Twin Falls, Idaho. They were profiled in the local newspaper, and took the opportunity to spread awareness of the importance of adoption, not only at the local level, but they carry their message throughout the nation and our world. We consider the Jones' to be true Angels in Adoption.

Illinois

Baptist Children's Home and Family Services

Representative John Shimkus

I am nominating the Baptist Children's Home and Family Services (BCHFS) for the Angels in Adoption Award based on their years of work to bring loving families and needy children together as one. Carla Donoho, the director of Maternity, Adoption, and Family Services said it best in a quote she gave the *Centralia Morning Sentinel*. "There are some parents who just enjoy parenting," she said. "BCHFS is dedicated to helping make adoption easier and more fulfilling for all involved." BCHFS has operated in southern Illinois since 1970 when it started with domestic adoptions. It has a number of success stories in helping to provide loving homes to children in need. I am proud of the work they continue to do and encourage anyone who might be interested in taking advantage of or in helping in their ministry to support this worthy organization.

Larry & Arlene Betts

Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Larry and Arlene Betts are worthy recipients of the Angel in Adoption Award. The Betts have run the Sunny Ridge Family Center for a quarter of a century, creating one of the country's premiere adoption agencies and helping to facilitate over 2,500 adoptions. Larry served Sunny Ridge as president, while Arlene served as vice president of program services. The Betts, through their selfless and tireless efforts, created and developed a domestic program in 1979, adding its international adoption program in 1981. This brought Sunny Ridge a new vision of placing hundreds of babies into the loving arms of their new parents. This program has facilitated the adoptions of children from 44 different countries. Larry and Arlene have touched the lives of thousands of people. Adoptive parents, adoptive children, birth parents, grandparents, and extended families have all been profoundly touched by the leadership, vision and faith of Larry and Arlene Betts.

Esther Mae Brown

Representative Jerry Costello

Esther Mae Brown provided foster care to her four grandchildren for seven years prior to adopting them. Three of the children were adopted in 2001, and the last child was adopted in 2002. All of the children were adolescents, ranging in age from 12 to 15, when Mrs. Brown adopted them. Mrs. Brown is a stable, caring and responsible relative who has demonstrated a sincere desire and commitment to provide permanency for her grandchildren. All of the children are very loving and committed to Mrs. Brown. She treats each child as an individual, making every effort to help them reach their potential. She also continues to support the children's ties to their birth family. Mrs. Brown demonstrates outstanding dedication and commitment to her grandchildren by providing access to supportive services for the children. Mrs. Brown commendably meets the needs of her grandchildren on all levels.

Pat Cunningham & Judy Emerson

Representative Donald Manzullo

Pat and Judy are very special people who wanted a child that needed a family as much as they needed a child. In 1995, they adopted a little girl from China and named her Mary, after Judy's mother and Pat's oldest sister. They gave her the middle name *Kwai Le*, which means "happiness" in Chinese. Since they brought Mary home, Pat and Judy have learned much about the Chinese culture, made sure that Mary is well aware of her background and appreciates her heritage. Their home is filled with reminders of her birth country. At the same time, they have taught her the ways, customs and history of the United States. Pat and Judy's careers as journalists have allowed them to share their wonderful experiences with many others in their community. Through their newspaper columns, they write of the joys of life with Mary. In addition, they serve as adoption advocates and counsel others considering adoption. Judy once quoted an old Chinese proverb that says: Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps the singing bird will come. Mary came to them on September 25, 1995, and their hearts have been filled with happiness ever since.

State Representative Sara Feigenholtz

Representative Jan Schakowsky

State Representative Sara Feigenholtz, herself an adoptee, has long been an outspoken advocate for good adoption practice. She has sponsored and passed legislation to protect the rights of adopted children and families who want to adopt. Sara feels it is important that adoptive parents, birth parents and siblings have a mechanism to share vital medical information with each other. She sponsored and passed legislation that required the Illinois Adoption Registry to include the exchange of medical information between birth parents and adoptees. Sara also worked to make the sluggish Illinois Adoption Registry more efficient, and now, it boasts triple the number of registrants. In September of 1999, Sara received recognition from Children Remembered, an adoption advocacy organization in Illinois "for her tireless and courageous dedication to the advancement of adoptees and their families in Illinois." Sara Feigenholtz is truly an Angel in Adoption.

Michael & Michele Johnson

Senator Richard Durbin

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the proud adoptive parents of twin girls from Cambodia, Aysia and Jayda. Currently, the Johnsons are in the final stages of the adoption process and should be bringing their daughters home shortly. My office has worked closely with the Johnsons during the lengthy adoption process. Despite the difficulties associated with the suspension on Cambodian adoptions, I have been tremendously impressed with the patience, caring and persistence demonstrated by the Johnsons as they anxiously await the arrival of their daughters. Michele and Michael Johnson have been leaders in organizing other families in Illinois and throughout the United States to ensure that all families have access to the most current information related to Cambodian adoptions. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson not only are making a positive impact in the lives of their daughters, but also have provided hope to other families adopting Cambodian children. They traveled to Washington, D.C. to rally for the safe and quick arrival of their daughters. The Johnsons' love and commitment for their daughters has inspired my office and their community in McLeansboro, Illinois. As the senior Senator from Illinois and as a

member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, it is my pleasure to select Michele and Michael Johnson for the Angels in Adoption Award.

Melisha Mitchell

Representative Rod Blagojevich

Ms. Melisha Mitchell is founder and executive director of the White Oaks Foundation, an organization that provides numerous services to both adoptable children and adopting families. This not-for-profit organization, the result of Ms. Mitchell's dedication and vision, has improved thousands of lives and set an example for all those who care about adoption. Additionally, Ms. Mitchell was the primary architect of legislation reforming the Illinois Adoption Registry, a law passed by the Illinois State Legislature in 2000, which provides for easier exchange of medical background information between adult adoptees and birth relatives. By caring for children and reuniting families, Ms. Mitchell is dedicated to those involved in adoption.

Gerald & Judy Pett

Representative Tim Johnson

After raising their older children and sending them to productive lives in this work, Mr. and Mrs. Pett, decided they were not done. Consequently, they recently adopted a little girl from Sofia, Bulgaria. They are an excellent couple and outstanding members of our community. Their dedication to parenting children is apparent in their love for each other; a love they are now sharing with their new baby girl.

Indiana

Adoption Services, Inc.

Senator Richard Lugar

Adoption Services Inc. (ASI) a licensed, non profit agency, has served the Indianapolis and greater Indiana community since its inception in 1987. ASI was founded by co-directors Marilyn Weber, ACSW, LCSW and Doris Striker, MS, LSW. As a pioneering, two-person organization, ASI became a model for introducing traditional social work adoption services to adoption attorneys and their clients. Those services included birthparent counseling, foster care, adoptive parent preparation, supervision of placements, continuing education and social activities for families. Over 15 years, the agency has grown to include a small office staff and five contract workers who have worked with hundreds of families and children.

Dirk & Cathy Caldwell

Senator Evan Bayh

It is my honor to select Dirk and Cathy Caldwell of Jamestown, Indiana, as my Angels in Adoption for 2002. Over the last year, I have come to know Dirk and Cathy, and their passion for helping children in need, through my efforts to assist them in their adoption of twins from Cambodia. My involvement in their case was inspired by their devotion to their children and their efforts to draw attention to the cause of needy children around the world. Beginning last December, the Caldwells mounted an impressive campaign to be united with their children, Cadin and Cambria. They sought support from their elected representatives, the media, and others in their community to aid in this effort. Their work has produced a heightened awareness of the situation in Cambodia and issues related to international adoption in general in communities across Indiana in particular. Dirk and Cathy's enduring humanitarian spirit is illustrated by their effort to give their children all the advantages of being raised in the United States. The adversity they have encountered over the last 10 months has served to strengthen their dedication to their children and commitment to seeing the process through. I commend the Caldwell's decision to build their family through international adoption and appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance. Their struggle is not over and they anxiously await being reunited with Cadin and Cambria and beginning their new life as a family.

Herbert & Jane Hunt

Representative Mark Souder

For the last 15 years, Herbert and Jane Hunt of Fort Wayne, Indiana, have taken in about 40 foster children, ultimately adopting eight from three different sibling groups. Their ages range from five to 23 and are from every ethnic background. Many of the children have challenges to overcome. But now several of the children are active in the Navy, while others have attended college. One daughter, who was told she would never read, is now attending a Catholic school and is succeeding academically. The children understand the permanency of the love of those around them. The Hunts believe that it is up to parents—biological, adoptive and foster, alike—to give structure to the kids. In the Hunt home, each child works for points. The two with the highest points at end of month get to go out for dinner, as the king and queen, with Mom and Dad.

Iowa

Professional Photographers of Iowa

Senator Chuck Grassley

Beginning in the fall of 1996, The Professional Photographers of Iowa (PPI) began a unique partnership with the KidSake Special Needs Adoption Project. Since then, over 80 PPI members have donated their photography skills and supplies to benefit children with special needs awaiting adoption. Children in the KidSake program are treated like stars as they are professionally photographed. Their photos are used for recruitment purposes in KidSake publications, flyers, newsletters, posters and on its website. The photographs help to highlight the unique personalities of the children who are available for adoption through KidSake. Often the photos are the first contact an adoptive family has with a child. Prior to PPI involvement, KidSake photos were taken at local department stores, where children waited in long lines beside children who were waiting with their parents, creating an uncomfortable situation. PPI's program put the children's feelings and best interest first. With the donation of their time and studios, KidSake children are welcomed into a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The KidSake and PPI partnership has evolved over the years and, in 2001, photographers expanded their generosity and put their talents to use developing KidSake calendars filled with images of waiting children. The calendars are distributed across the state and donations are taken to benefit the KidSake project. Simply put, the work of PPI is one of the most important elements associated with finding a permanent, loving family for Iowa's special children.

Kansas

Lori Hutchinson

Senator Sam Brownback

Lori Hutchinson and the *Channel 13 News* photojournalism staff produce a weekly feature called *Wednesday's Child*, featuring a child who needs an adoptive family. Working with Lutheran Social Service (LSS), Hutchinson's program introduces children in the care of LSS to the public. They hope that, by getting to know them for a few minutes on the television screen, viewers will develop a connection to the children and will be inspired to make them a part of their own families. *Channel 13 News* and LSS are proud of the success stories that have developed from this partnership. Each child who has been featured in this endeavor, which began in February 2001, has generated phone calls. According to LSS, nearly half of the featured children have either been adopted or have a placement agreement in the works. Most of these children have numerous emotional or behavioral challenges, but the love of a forever family goes a long way in giving them the happy childhood that they deserve.

Lori is a Kansas native. She attended Kansas State University, where she earned a Bachelors degree in Journalism, and Central Missouri State University, where she completed coursework toward a Masters degree in Communication. Lori worked at KVII-TV in Amarillo, Texas, as an anchor/reporter before moving back to Kansas and working in the Topeka market. She has been in Topeka for more than 10 years, and is currently working as an anchor on the 10 o'clock news for the CBS affiliate. Lori has been an active part of the

community since she has been in Topeka. She has served on numerous boards including the YWCA and Florence Crittenton Services.

Michael Lerner

Representative Dennis Moore

In June of 2002, Michael “Mick” Lerner changed the life of a little boy living across the globe in an orphanage in western Siberia near Yekaterinburg, Russia. Led by love and guided by sheer will, Mick brought the little boy to the United States where he was given his father’s name, Michael William Lerner II (Mickey). Mickey is a healthy, happy, blond-haired, blue-eyed five year old, who is flourishing in his new environment. He is a handsome, tall, kindergartner, who especially enjoys swimming, soccer, snow skiing and music. He is popular with all of his teachers, and especially with his classmates. Incidentally, the orphanage from which Mickey was adopted is located in the same Russian city where Mick’s father’s relatives lived, before Mick resettled them in America four years ago. Once a small loving family residing in Kansas City, the Lerner house is overflowing with love and all the joys adoption can bring.

Kentucky

O.B. & Norma Turnbow

Representative Anne M. Northup

O.B. and Norma Turnbow have devoted 17 years of their lives providing care for foster children in Kentucky. In the course of that time, the Turnbows have taken 33 babies into their Beechmont home until they were adopted. Recently, seven adoptive families attended a celebration to honor the Turnbows for their years of service as foster parents. They were all so thankful for the love and care that the Turnbows provided for their children. The Turnbows are an inspirational example of the difference that two people can make in the lives of so many others.

Louisiana

Ashton & Royann Avegno

Representative David Vitter

Ashton and Royann Avegno turned a tragedy into an opportunity to change lives when the birth of a stillborn child prompted the couple to expand their family through adoption. Since then, the Avegno family has adopted seven children, many with disabilities and diseases. They needed the warm family atmosphere provided by the Avegnos or they might not have been able to overcome the hurdles of their illnesses. While raising their children with love and devotion, the Avegnos became advocates for adoption, especially for children with special needs. For more than 25 years, the Avegnos have drafted and lobbied for adoption and child advocacy legislation while serving as spokespersons and leaders of local, state and national adoption programs.

Karen Hallstrom

Senator Mary Landrieu

Since the beginning of her career, Karen truly has been an angel for the waiting children of Louisiana. In fact, the majority of the Louisiana Children’s Code would not exist if it were not for her hard work and dedication. Through her work in the Louisiana Court Improvement Project and the Campaign for Children, Karen has trained hundreds of lawyers and judges on how to effectively comply with the spirit and the law of the Adoption and Safe Families Act. An expert in foster care and adoption law, Karen has participated in several statewide and national conferences, hosted training forums for groups such as CASA and OCS, and designed bench cards for judges to use when presiding over children-in-care cases. Karen also developed and organized the Louisiana Justice for Children Conference, a statewide conference on child protection legal services. Outside the courtroom, she worked to develop a two-year Campaign for Children, which included the production of a public

service video on foster care, *Adrift in the System*. Karen currently serves as the Deputy Administrator of Children and Families at the Louisiana Supreme Court. Protecting the children of Louisiana has always been more than a job to Karen. Day in and day out, she has worked to make sure that our courts were ready and able to make the dream of a permanent family a reality for every child in Louisiana.

John & Ok Sun Thornton

Representative Jim McCrery

John and Ok Sun Thornton have known the both the joys and pains of being parents. After the loss of their biological son, the Thorntons found new joy and new opportunity in sharing the special bond with their adopted daughter So Hyun. So Hyun was born in South Korea, the daughter of Mrs. Thornton's sister. A car accident in 1999 left So Hyun's biological parents incapable of caring for her. The Thorntons answered the call to be more than a distant aunt and uncle. They brought So Hyun to the United States in 2000 and made her a permanent part of their family. So Hyun has adjusted well to life in the United States. She is full of smiles, talks a lot and really enjoys school, where she has been listed on the honor roll. The Thorntons feel truly blessed to have So Hyun in their lives.

Ada K. White

Senator John Breaux

Ms. Ada K. White was one of the first Adoption Specialists in North Louisiana, placing over 120 children with special needs into permanent homes. She continued her career by acting as a Foster Care Manager in the Louisiana State Office of Community Services. Ms. White then served as a State Adoption Program Manager for 13 years. As a Louisiana resident, she is currently serving as the director of adoptions for the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) in Washington, DC. She was instrumental in setting up the Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board (LAAB), through a 1990 Adoption Opportunities Grant. For these, and other initiatives, she received the 1994 LAAB Adoption Advocate of the Year award and one of the Charles E. Dunbar Distinguished Civil Service Awards for the State of Louisiana in 1997. Nationally, Ms. White was the first secretary of the National Association of Foster Care Program Managers. Additionally, she was the founder and first president of the National Association of State Adoption Programs (NASAP). She is currently a member of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute Practice and Policy committees, a member of the National Resource Center on Special Needs Adoption Advisory Board, and a member of the Casey Family Services Resource Task Force. As an executive committee member of the Advisory Committee on International Adoption and Voice for Adoption, she is also responsible for the CWLA National Advisory Committee on Adoption (NACA). In light of Ms. White's active role in the adoption community, I am pleased to select her as an Angel in Adoption for 2002.

Molly Womack

Representative Chris John

I am proud to select Molly Womack for the Angels in Adoption Award. Molly grew up in the foster care system in Lafayette, Louisiana. Now, Molly and her husband, Earl, have two children born to them who have grown into productive adults and who retain very close ties to her foster parents. Dedicated to working with the adoption community, she has served as treasurer of the Louisiana Adoption Advisory Board (LAAB) for the past five years and is an active participant in numerous other aspects of the board's activities. She donates several hundred hours each year to the adoption community with enthusiasm. Mrs. Womack has a deep sense of respect and gratitude for the foster care/adoption system that provided her with loving parents who cherished her. Yet, she has never lost sight of her love and respect for her biological parents. It is this sensitivity and spirit of generosity that contributes to the success of her work to further a stable, permanent home for all children in need.

Maine

Dawn Degenhardt

Senator Susan Collins

When Dawn Degenhardt was a child advocate in Cleveland, Ohio, she founded the Ohio chapter of the Council on Adoptable Children (COAC). Dawn also helped found Spaulding of Beechbrook, an organization that helps to place children with special needs in permanent homes. When Dawn and her husband Ed decided to start their own family, they adopted two infants domestically. When their second child was a year old, Dawn and Ed decided to adopt an older child. Over the next two years, they encouraged many other people to adopt older children. They also adopted four more children—one child from India and three children from Vietnam. Then they moved to Maine and adopted three older children, two through the Department of Human Services and one from India.

Though their family was complete with 10 children in all, Dawn continued to be concerned for the children still in the foster care system. As a result, she founded the Maine Adoption Placement Service (MAPS). Her original mission was to place children with special needs in permanent homes and to educate and train their adoptive families. After 10 years, the program expanded its services to include a housing component for pregnant teens and young women. MAPS facilitates adoption placement of children from around the globe while never losing sight of its original mission.

Jan Riddle

Senator Olympia Snowe

Jan Riddle has made a difference in the lives of thousands of children in the Maine foster care system through her organization, Kits for Kids. A foster mother herself, Jan realized the trauma that children endure when separated from their homes, often accompanied by little more than the clothing on their back. Kits for Kids was created with the goal of providing a duffel bag full of comfort items to each new child placed into foster care, so that they may arrive in their new home with a clean pair of clothes to wear and a stuffed animal to cuddle. When Jan and her husband, Rob, received a neglected sixth-month-old infant clutching a soiled blanket, she realized that many children pass between houses with nothing to call their own. Jan and Rob began asking friends and relatives for sweatshirts, tooth brushes, stuffed animals, and used bags to give to foster children. Word passed through the area and soon a community came forward to help by donating items, stitching bags, and packing KidPacks. Each child receives a basic 'KidPack' containing a sweatshirt, sweatpants, T-shirt, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a stuffed animal. Other items may be added, including shampoo, socks, a hairbrush, or a single-use camera. A copy of Jan's illustrated book, *Sam has a New Home Just Like You*, is also included in each KidPack. She designed this book to suggest to the reader that other children are also moving to a new home and to open a dialogue between the child and the foster parents. When the book is turned over, it becomes a Life Book where the child can document events during his or her stay in foster care. Jan's work has helped many frightened children through that first night in a new environment. In addition to her work with Kits for Kids, she is also the mother of two children, one whom joined the family as a foster son but who has since been adopted.

Maryland

Vicki Allgaier

Representative Roscoe Bartlett

Vicki Allgaier has volunteered her services as Area Representative Volunteer Coordinator to birth mothers in the adoption program at LDS (LDS) Family Services in Frederick, Maryland. She has spent countless hours recruiting and training Agency Representatives who work with birth mothers in local areas served by the Frederick office. She has opened her home to birth mothers in need and adoptive parents awaiting permission to travel with their infants. She has arranged for medical service donations through her physician husband, Dr. Wayne Allgaier. Vicki has been an integral part of each adoption placement that LDS Family Services has completed.

Kathy Dugan

Representative Thomas Davis

Kathy Dugan is the founder of The Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc. (CASE) an independent, non-profit organization that offers support and education services that concentrate on the joys and challenges facing adopted children and their families. The creation of CASE is the result of many years of commitment by Ms. Dugan to effective, long-term, post-adoption services for adoptive families. Ms. Dugan has over 25 years of experience providing workshops and consultation for foster and adoptive parents whose children have a wide range of special needs. She has spoken to professional and advocacy groups and has raised funds to support several community programs.

As a parent of 12 children, including eight who were adopted through the child welfare system, she has worked with public and private schools, mental health professionals, and adoption workers to develop services for her children and others. These services deal with attachment issues, fetal alcohol effects, mental impairments, and emotional disabilities. Kathy and her husband are therapeutic parents for one of their children with severe attachment disorder. They both have received honorary doctorate degrees from Belmont Abbey University in North Carolina for their work with children with special needs.

Joseph & Lisa Harvey

Representative Wayne Gilchrest

Joseph and Lisa Harvey have been involved in the foster care and adoption system for over 12 years. During that time, they, along with their daughter, have welcomed many children into their home. With Lisa's own daily struggles of hearing impairment, the Harveys have been able to create a safe and understanding environment for many children with special needs. Lisa and Joseph have been able to provide a wonderful home for their three children with special needs. They continue to educate themselves on their family's special needs as well as advocate for all children for whom they come to care. Their commitment and dedication to children in need of safe, permanent and loving homes makes them very deserving of the Angels in Adoption award.

International Children's Alliance

Representative Albert Wynn

The International Children's Alliance, ICA, is an adoption agency located in Silver Spring, Maryland, that places children from such countries as China, Russia, Bulgaria, Albania, and Kazakhstan. ICA is dedicated to advancing the health and well being of orphaned children and children with special needs. In addition to adoption, the agency provides effective humanitarian aid, medical options, and educational possibilities for orphaned children and children with disabilities. ICA is one of only a few agencies recognized by the Chinese government for placing children with special needs with families. In addition, ICA is known for accommodating parents with disabilities. ICA also conducts fundraising to help provide financial assistance to families seeking to adopt.

Nina Kostina, Ph.D.

Representative Connie Morella

Dr. Nina Kostina, Ph.D. is a co-founder of Frank Foundation Child Assistance International (FFCAI) and currently serves as president of the organization. Founded in 1992, FFCAI, a Montgomery County-based non-profit with operating offices in Washington, D.C., is dedicated to assisting children in need throughout the world. Through its mission to help disadvantaged children integrate into society, FFCAI has developed and implemented lasting programs, which have helped thousands of children throughout the former Soviet Union.

The tremendous success of the foundation and Nina's tireless labor are most visible in the number of orphans she has helped to be adopted. Since 1992, FFCAI has helped nearly 5,000 children throughout Russia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova find permanent homes with loving families of their own in all parts of the world. In the United States alone, nearly 4,000 families have been touched by Nina's work and have embraced an orphan child through FFCAI's work.

Through Nina's vision, tireless energy and creative strength, FFCAI serves thousands of less advantaged children and provides individuals and communities with hope and healing. Nina is a true advocate for adoption. Along

with a 21 year-old biological son, Nina has two adopted daughters from Russia; Victoria, now 16, was adopted eight years ago, and Maria, age 10, who was adopted four years ago. Nina is a most generous individual and a true inspiration to all.

Massachusetts

Claudia Coplan

Representative John Olver

Claudia serves birth families and adoptive families with the rare combination of academic excellence, professional distinction and a caring heart. Compassion and understanding are critical for families involved in the adoption process. Ms. Coplan is the consummate professional and a kind soul.

Peter Gibbs

Representative James McGovern

It is my privilege to select Peter Gibbs to be a 2002 Angel in Adoption. He has truly earned this honor. Peter has spent nearly the last 20 years of his professional career working in the field of adoption in various positions. He currently holds the position of director of the Center for Adoption Research at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester. In addition to making a difference in the lives of children through his professional pursuits, Peter has volunteered a significant amount of his time to several family service and adoption advocacy groups. He is currently an advisory board member for the Fostering Families Today organization. Peter has published numerous articles about adoption. Through his writing, he has helped to heighten adoption awareness both in Massachusetts and on a national level. Peter Gibbs has dedicated himself to making a positive difference in the lives of children. He is truly an “unsung hero” of adoption.

Maxine Kreikamp

Senator Edward Kennedy

Maxine Kreikamp has been a dedicated public employee for over 30 years, the vast majority of the time specializing in providing adoption services to children, birth families and adoptive families through the Department of Social Services. Maxine has been a social worker, supervisor and a manager with the department. As such she has not only directly provided the services but trained and supported many other adoption social workers and supervisors in their work with families and children. Maxine has always demonstrated a respectful and kind manner in dealing with birth families, adoptive families and colleagues. She is known for her ability to make difficult decisions in a sensitive and honest manner. She offers a balanced approach to decision-making that focuses on the values of family life but a keen awareness of a child’s need for permanency. Maxine is committed to maintaining the highest standards in placing children in permanent homes and supporting families to ensure successful transitions.

In addition to her regular management responsibilities, Maxine consistently volunteers to participate in agency committees regarding the development of adoption programs and policies. She has been a driving force in the organizing of statewide Adoption Match activities. She graciously offers her years of experience, insight and wit to the Department of Social Services’ efforts to improve practice and develop resources for adoptive families.

Adam Pertman

Representative William Delahunt

After 25 years as a journalist (mostly at the *Boston Globe*), Adam Pertman left his job last year because he wanted, in his words, “to try to make the world better for my kids.” Now, after writing the groundbreaking book, *Adoption Nation: How the Adoption Revolution is Transforming America*, Adam has become a leading expert, lecturer and writer on adoption issues. He also recently founded the Adoption Nation Education Initiative, an organization devoted to dispelling the myths and negative stereotypes surrounding adoption and helping children who need permanent families. It also provides ongoing education about this wondrous institution and the millions of lives it touches every day. While at the *Boston Globe*, Adam was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for



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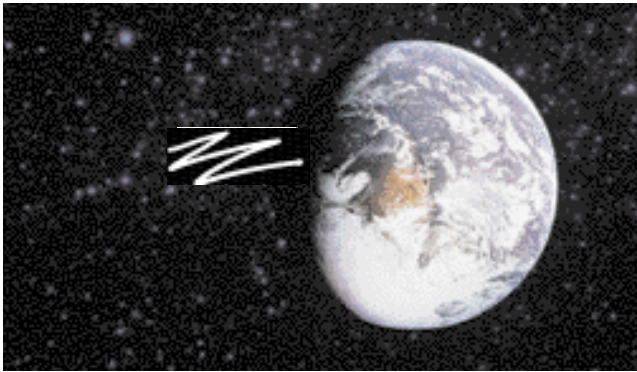
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for showing your commitment to children and families
by honoring these deserving individuals*

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his landmark series on adoption. Among the organizations that have honored him for his work as an adoption educator are the New England Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; the ODS Adoption Community of New England; Holt International Children's Services; the American Adoption Congress; and the Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law, which gave him its first award for "the nation's greatest contributor to public understanding about adoption and permanency placement issues." Adam lives outside of Boston with his wife, Judy Baumwoll, and their two adopted children: Zachary, eight, and Emilia, five.

David Potel

Representative Barney Frank

David Potel's interest in adoption stems from his close connection to friends who have added to their families through adoption. When Dr. Aaron Lazare, chancellor and dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, joined forces with Governor Weld to start the Center for Adoption Research, they turned to David to serve as an advisory board member. David's expertise in law and business management has been a critical factor in building the only academic research program in the world dedicated solely to adoption and foster care. Mr. Potel has served effectively as a legal advisor and management consultant since the inception of the program in 1996. His contacts in the business community have also assisted the Center in its development and fund raising goals. He is an invaluable part of the team and he looks forward to working with it for many years. Though not an adoptive parent himself, his relationships with adoptive families and his extraordinary professional expertise will ensure that children around the world have a better chance to grow up in the arms of a loving family.

State Representative John Rogers

Representative Stephen Lynch

In January 1998, State Representative John H. Rogers (D-Norwood) was appointed by Speaker Thomas Finneran to chair a special legislative committee to reform adoption law in Massachusetts so as to ensure that the best interests of the child are of paramount concern. His work was so successful, he was recognized by the Massachusetts Families for Kids, the Legislative Caucus on Foster Care and the Department of Social Services for his efforts as Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Adoption and as author of the landmark adoption law of 1999. In March of 1999, Representative Rogers was presented with an award from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for his leadership and commitment to mental health issues. In May of 1997, he was named one of 10 annual recipients of the Ten Outstanding Young Leaders (TOYL) Award presented by the Boston Jaycees in recognition of outstanding community leadership and commitment.

Representative Rogers is a lifelong resident of Norwood and now represents the 12th Norfolk District, which includes Norwood as well as sections of Walpole and Medfield. He graduated *cum laude* from Brandeis University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts. He holds a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University Law School, which he received in 1992, and has also studied at the University of Galway Law School in Galway, Ireland. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in November of 1992 and is currently serving his fifth term as a legislator. Representative Rogers is the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The Massachusetts Jewish Community Relations Committee also recognized Rogers as their legislator of the year in January 2001 for his assistance in exempting restitution payments for Holocaust survivors from state income tax and his legislation creating a charitable deduction in Massachusetts. Representative Rogers and his wife Brenda are the proud parents of their daughter Abigail.

Jack Williams

Senator John Kerry

In 1981, TV news anchor Jack Williams pioneered a segment known as *Wednesday's Child*. Each week, in this segment, he highlights a child or sibling group that is in need of adoption. This has broadened the search for healthy and stable homes for children in need. Through this work, Mr. Williams has helped hundreds of children find happy, permanent homes; and his innovative idea has inspired numerous similar segments across the country.

Mr. Williams' desire to have the public assist in the adoption process reaches far beyond Massachusetts in influence. In addition to the weekly *Wednesday's Child* broadcast, Mr. Williams has broadened the base of support available to those involved in the adoption process through the creation of the Jack Williams Endowment for *Wednesday's Child*, a fund and non-profit organization dedicated to obtaining charitable donations to aid children

and families. Annually, he also orchestrates the Jack Williams Ski Race for *Wednesday's Child* as a way to raise even more funds from a number of corporations and private citizens. Jack Williams' 21 years of hard work on behalf of children in need of stable, loving homes demonstrates his dedication to adoption. Mr. Williams is an example of how individuals in all sectors of society can personally make a difference in adoption.

Michigan

Seth & Carol Brandenstein

Senator Carl Levin

Carol and Seth Brandenstein were unable to have biological children, yet they have parented more than 100 children. They have adopted six children over the past 27 years and have opened their home to nearly 100 foster children. Most of them have special physical or mental needs and many have been abused. Between adoptions, the family has served as a haven for children whose parents are learning to be parents and for children waiting to be adopted. Most of these children have nowhere to go or have needs too daunting for others. The Brandensteins try to heal children who are badly scarred. Whether the foster children stay three days or three years, Carol says she cries as each one leaves her house for the last time.

Joel & Lois Groat

Representative Vernon Ehlers

Joel and Lois Groat were already raising three biological children, Joanna, Thaddaeus, and Abraham, when they decided to adopt. They adopted Rebecca and twins Joshua and Zachariah, and now the Groats feel that their family is complete. They adopted Rebecca as an infant. Now eight-years-old, she is the family's "social butterfly," friendly with everyone she meets. The nine-year-old twin brothers, Joshua and Zachariah, were adopted in February. They were originally placed in foster care owing to abuse and neglect. Both boys have special needs that traditionally have been treated with medication. Since joining the Groat family, Joshua and Zachariah have been weaned off their medications and are maintaining their behavior with the help of Joel and Lois's good parenting skills. Joel works at the Institute for Religious Research and Lois is a homemaker. The Groats have made a strong commitment to adoption since it helped complete their family. Even though it has been a challenge to add children with special needs to their family, the Groats would have it no other way.

Lauran Howard

Representative Joe Knollenberg

Lauran Howard began as a social worker at the Department of Social Services, now known as the Family Independence Agency. In 1974, she began working as a caseworker for the Honorable James Lincoln at the Wayne County Juvenile Court. At the same time, she attended law school at the University of Detroit, graduating and passing the bar in 1977. After several years as a full-time homemaker, she returned to practice law at Kemp, Klein, Umphrey & Endelman in Troy, Michigan, concentrating on adoption and family law. She is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA) and has been counsel in hundreds of adoptions. Since January 2, 2000, Lauran has been a court administrator in adoption and juvenile support for Oakland County, Michigan. As an administrator, Lauran ensures that adoptions are processed quickly and in accordance with the Michigan adoption code and court rules.

James & Susan Wheeler

Representative Heather Keiser

Susan and James Wheeler have adopted six children and taken in several foster children, adding to their family of four biological children. Inspired by the selfless motivation of others to provide children in their community with a loving home, the Wheelers entered the foster care system roughly 12 years ago. Before they knew it, their family had more than doubled, but the Wheelers felt that they could not turn away any child in need. They have built a very multicultural family with children that are Hispanic, African-American and bi-racial. Presently, they have eight children living in their home and have two others who have recently graduated from college. The

childrens' ages range from six months to 25 years. In addition to serving as a foster care and adoptive parent, Susan serves on the Lansing Catholic Social Services board of directors. Truly, the Wheelers are pillars of their community and worthy of being recognized with the Angels in Adoption Award.

Minnesota

Linda Forde

Representative Jim Oberstar

Ms. Forde is an adoptive parent of two wonderful children who were born in Vietnam. Because of her concern regarding the treatment of U.S. families seeking to adopt from Vietnam, she contacted me to voice her support for these families. Through her advocacy, Ms. Forde has demonstrated that motivated citizens can make a difference to promote adoption. It is for this reason that I am pleased to recognize Ms. Forde for her dedication to orphans who seek their forever families.

Don & Kim Rosacker

Representative Gil Gutknecht

The Rosackers have been involved in the adoption of disadvantaged children for many years. The two are the founders of the Hearts of Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps infants and children in Romania find homes to live happy lives. The Rosackers have two healthy adopted children. Trevor was adopted from Romania at the age of eight months, while Parker, was adopted from Russia at the age of 10 months. The Rosackers are a wonderful family and it is my honor to select them as my Angels in Adoption.

Scott & Cabrini Schaller

Representative Bill Luther

Over a year ago, Scott and Cabrini Schaller decided that they wanted to provide a child with a loving and nurturing home. They found Jenifer, a baby from Guatemala, and began the adoption process. The Migration Department in Guatemala was disorganized, which caused a long delay in processing Jenifer's adoption. Despite the delay, Scott and Cabrini's love for Jenifer increased daily as they anxiously awaited the completion of her adoption. They were finally able to bring Jenifer into their home in February of 2002. While the adoption process was challenging, they feel that adopting Jenifer was the best decision they have ever made. Jenifer has helped Scott and Cabrini find a different meaning in the idea of family and an understanding that adoption is a process in which both the parents and children are truly blessed.

Amy Silberberg

Senator Paul Wellstone

Amy Silberberg is an adoptee, an adoptive parent of two children, and a tireless worker for adoption-related causes. A respected adoption attorney, Amy is a member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA), a select association of attorneys dedicated to high standards of practice in the field of adoption law. She is also the winner of the AAAA 2002 Child Advocacy Award, chair of the Minnesota Supreme Court's Adoption Rules Committee, and author of the book *Minnesota Adoption Law and Practice*. Her expertise in adoption policy and law gives her the opportunity to be a frequent speaker at events across the country, including conferences presented by the American Adoption Congress, the North American Council on Adoptable Children, and the Minnesota Institute of Legal Education. Amy is also a volunteer for the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network and performs *pro bono* legal work for children and families, particularly Native American children.

Mississippi

Barbara Beavers

Representative Ronnie Shows

Barbara Beavers has been the director of Center for Pregnancy Choices for over a decade and served as a volunteer for years before. Mrs. Beaver's commitment to women and children is evident through the positive support given by her every day. She has been a strong advocate for providing information and assistance to women and girls facing unexpected pregnancies. The Center for Pregnancy Choices provides testing, counseling and support services to pregnant women, including parenting classes, baby supplies and maternity supplies. Women also have the opportunity to participate in Bible Studies offered there. Mrs. Beavers has been instrumental as a facilitator of adoptions, ensuring that children are placed in the best possible homes. For this, she is truly an Angel in Adoption.

Loretta Shepherd

Representative Charles Pickering

Mrs. Loretta Shepherd has made a great difference in the adoption community. Mrs. Shepherd is an adoptive parent as well as an adoption recruiter. Upon receiving the recruiting position, she immediately set out to make the cause of adoption known in the Southern Mississippi District communities. She contacted a Christian women's group and persuaded them to agree to partner with Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) Adoption Unit to form an organization called Mississippi On the Move, MOM. The purpose of MOM is to find families for each waiting child in Mississippi, and be a haven for finding families for waiting children in other states. The group began by inviting local newspapers, television stations, and radio stations to a meeting to discuss their vision. At this meeting, Mrs. Shepherd dressed as Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* to enforce her speech entitled, "There's No Place Like Home." This was merely the start of Mrs. Shepherd's public appearances as Dorothy. She hoped to remind the public that there really is no place like home, and Mississippi's children have the right to live in one. She is dedicated to the cause of placing waiting children in adoptive families in the state of Mississippi. For her hard work, I select Mrs. Loretta Shepherd as my 2002 Angel in Adoption.

Rhonda Weidner

Senator Trent Lott

Ms. Rhonda Weidner, the morning anchor and host of the noon-day magazine show at WLOX in Biloxi, Mississippi, has been a great advocate for adoption for several years. A few years ago, Ms. Weidner contacted the Mississippi Department of Human Services Family and Children's Services Adoption Unit about doing a television piece about the children in the Gulf Coast area who are waiting for adoption. Her presentation was so successful that the station let her do an ongoing series called "A Home for Keeps." Ms. Weidner selects about four children a month and does a news story on them. Her program has many success stories, including a story of two brothers who were teenagers at the time they were featured. The next morning a couple called DHS and the boys were soon placed with that family. The parents reported that they were not thinking of adoption before they saw the segment on television. Ms. Weidner's insight, compassion, and enthusiasm during her segments has inspired others to consider adoption. Any time there is an adoption event, Ms. Weidner is always willing to interview a staff member on her show. She is ready to attend adoption meetings and events and ever ready to talk with people about adoption. In short, she is a powerful advocate for finding good homes for the children of Mississippi.

Missouri

Tom & Leslie Burcham

Representative JoAnn Emerson

Leslie and Tom Burcham are an inspiration to adoptive parents across our nation. Since 1998, they have adopted four children from the foothills of the Transylvania Mountains in Romania. They were heartbroken to see so many children in the Romanian orphanage who were in desperate need of loving homes. They feel blessed that

they were able to adopt four children, Megan, Maggie, and biological brothers, Tom and John. All four children are doing very well and have made an extremely smooth transition to their new home in Missouri. They are truly a family of angels!

Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home

Senator Christopher Bond

Larry McDaniel, his late wife, Cathy, along with an active board of directors, founded the Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home in 1991. The McDaniel's experience with foster care led them to a realization that there was a tremendous need for a loving home that was able to address the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of the children. Today, there are three Coyote Hill homes that serve up to 24 abused and neglected children at a time from all over the state of Missouri.

The program at Coyote Hill is aimed at breaking the cycle of child abuse and neglect, replacing it with a cycle of success. It is committed to providing children with a safe place in which to grow. Coyote Hill is licensed by the State of Missouri to respond to a variety of both temporary and long-term child and family treatment needs. While Coyote Hill is committed to preserving family whenever possible, it is also active in helping to facilitate adoptions. Many of the children at Coyote Hill have experienced serious abuse and neglect and have social and behavioral problems. Children at Coyote Hill benefit from regular counseling and receive help in developing crucial life skills. They also screen potential parents to make sure the family would be compatible for the child. In addition, they provide opportunities for interaction between the child and the potential parents and educational services and therapy to help parents prepare for adoption. Once an adoptive placement has been made, they provide follow-up services, including in-home visits and family therapy, to help ensure a smooth and successful transition.

Dennis & Debbie Sparrow

Senator Jean Carnahan

In 1991, Dennis and Debbie Sparrow embarked on a journey to Romania that would eventually change not only their lives, but also enrich the lives of hundreds of needy children. Upon their return with their first child, Debbie's heart ached with memories of children destined for a life of poverty and she decided she could make a difference. As a successful CPA, Debbie closed her practice in order to establish a non-profit adoption agency named Save Eastern Europe's Kids (SEEK). Since its inception, SEEK has not only helped 109 children find loving new homes, but also has established two placement centers in Romania. These facilities provide expectant mothers with pre-natal care and offer comfort to orphaned infants and toddlers as they wait for permanent placement.

Over the past decade, SEEK has turned into a family affair. Dennis and Debbie have been blessed with the support of their parents, siblings, relatives and a countless number of friends who volunteer their time and talents for the children. During the summer of 2001, Debbie, with six of her eight children (five of whom are adopted), moved to Romania for more than six months to oversee the establishment of their second placement center. Dennis and their two other children remained in the U.S., but the entire family was willing to sacrifice their personal needs for the sake of the less fortunate. Quietly, Dennis and Debbie have offered random acts of humanity that are, indeed angelic. Their actions speak for the children of our world that have no voice.

Montana

Arlyn & Susan Johnson

Representative Denny Rehberg

I have selected Arlyn and Susan Johnson for this award because of their countless years of selfless service to children. Over the years, the Johnsons have adopted 14 children, taken in 30 foster children, and raised three children born to them. The Johnsons have taken in many children with special needs including such challenges as autism, abuse, microcephaly, absent brainstem, newborn drug addiction, and functional *epidermolysis bullosa*. Each child they care for has a special talent, which is encouraged and nurtured. The Johnsons are a musical family and many of the children play instruments including drums, piano, trumpet, and guitar. Arlyn and Susan have also adopted terminally ill children, pulling them into the arms of their loving family. In

February of 2001, six-year-old Joseph passed away. Shortly after losing Joseph, the Johnsons were approached about taking in another terminally ill child named Julia. Arlyn and Susan agreed, on the condition that they could adopt her. They did not want Julia to die without a family. Three months after Julia's birth she was adopted into the family. Just under two months later, Julia passed away. Thanks to Arlyn and Susan, Julia left her mark on an entire community and she died surrounded by a loving family. Arlyn and Susan never accept any credit for what they do but always acknowledge those around them. They are driven by a belief that their purpose on earth is to love and meet the special needs of every child possible.

Julie Koerber

Senator Conrad Burns

Julie Koerber, a news anchor for KTVQ in Billings, has always shown a special interest in the placement of children waiting for adoption. While growing up in Detroit, her family was host to three children waiting in foster care.

In 1996, Julie founded and pioneered a broadcast series called *Waiting Children*, which features children categorized as hard to place, owing to age or disability. Since the program's inception, *Waiting Children* has expanded beyond Billings, Montana. Now, by using the Internet and other technology, the program has a 75 percent placement rate of featured children. Julie knows and understands that words simply cannot describe the power of adoption and what it means to a child and their new family.

Nebraska

Chad & Ronda Jividen

Senator Ben Nelson

Ronda and Chad Jividen adopted three siblings, two of whom have special needs. The middle daughter was traumatized when she was removed from her birth parents' home and as a result, experienced many behavioral and emotional problems. Ronda and Chad first provided a home to the two older children. In the end, they felt it important to take the third sibling into their family as well. To this day, they have never regretted their decision. Ronda is a stay-at-home mom and Chad works outside the home. However, they both devote their time to their daughters and enjoy each unique quality they bring to the family. In a recent letter to their Health and Human Services caseworker, Chad wrote, "We are so grateful for all you have done to help make us parents. We thank God that you were in the right place at the right time to help us."

Mike & Jessie Norder

Representative Tom Osborne

Jessie and Mike Norder requested a homestudy in 1997 as part of their efforts to adopt. Their homestudy was completed in May of 1997 and they were placed on the adoption exchange. A worker from another service area saw their profile and called the local office because there were three girls available. While Mike and Jessie had originally wanted one or two children, they met the three girls and welcomed them home. About a year later, Jessie and Mike became guardians of an adolescent boy who could not live at home any longer. In the summer of 2001, twin infant boys came into the system, one with a broken leg. The twins were the nephews of one of the Norders' charges through guardianship. The local worker placed the twins with Jessie so she could use her skills as a nurse to care for the infant with the broken leg. While the leg healed, the family bonded, and Jessie and Mike became licensed foster/adoptive parents for the twins. The Norders are currently in the process of adopting the twins, making this a family of eight children, including two biological sons.

Kathi Plato

Representative Lee Terry

Kathi has been a foster care provider and adoptive parent to children with special needs for almost 25 years. She is a single mother who currently has eight children in her home between the ages of two and 24, six of whom are adopted. She is the legal guardian of one and the foster parent of the other. The children's special needs include

mental retardation, down's syndrome, fetal drug exposure, Attention Deficient/Hyperactive Disorder and disorders that require feeding tubes. Kathi is a registered nurse who worked for many years in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Currently, she is working as a social worker in foster care at a private adoption agency in Omaha. Kathi is extremely organized, patient, flexible and calm. She always sees the progress her children are making rather than dwelling on the negative. She honors the Native American culture of two of her children, and is teaching them to value their background. She respects birth families and encourages contact between siblings and extended family. Kathi literally calls on her village to help her raise her children by accepting the generous support system of community providers and friends. Kathi is well known and well respected in the local adoption community, as a parent and as an advocate to help facilitate placements for children with special needs. She is truly an Angel in Adoption.

Randy & Robbie Rotschafer

Senator Chuck Hagel

Throughout life, we are given many special gifts, none of which compares with being a parent. As parents, we are given the very special privilege of sharing in the lives of our children. This is something Randy and Robbie Rotschafer know well. Randy and Robbie have four children, two of whom are adopted. Hannah came to live with the Rotschafers in 1996, and Stephen in 2001. Their blended family reflects their philosophy that how their family was built matters little. Randy expressed it best when he said, "From our perspective, raising adopted children is every bit as precious and amazing as raising children born to us." Randy's quote says it all and it is that philosophy and their dedication to children that make the Rotschafers my Angels in Adoption for 2002.

New Hampshire

Stephen & Darlene Kimball

Senator Bob Smith

Stephen and Darlene Kimball learned about Bethany Christian Services through their church in 1987. After learning more about the services and care that Bethany Christian Services provides their families, the Kimball family agreed to be an interim-care family for Bethany. Newborn babies were brought to their home directly from the hospital, usually one at a time but sometimes they were blessed with two at once! The Kimball's cared for each baby as their own by rocking, walking, feeding, bathing, and simply loving the babies while the necessary paperwork was being completed for a formal adoption. Some babies stayed eight days while others stayed five months. The Kimball family feels that adoption is not only a privilege but an incredible experience for all of them.

New Jersey

Drs. David & Anne Brodzinsky

Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr.

David and Anne Brodzinsky are well known in the adoption community for their efforts to bring a greater understanding of the impact of adoption on children. Both Anne and David have focused on the mental health needs of adopted children. David has conducted research on the psychology of adoption for nearly 25 years, co-authoring two books, *Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self* and *Children's Adjustment to Adoption: Developmental and Clinical Issues*. Anne is an author in her own right having penned the classic children's book on adoption, *The Mulberry Bird* as well as co-authoring *Children's Adjustment to Adoption: Developmental and Clinical Issues*. Both Anne and David are also co-directors of the Family Mental Health Consultants.

Anne is a clinical psychologist, consultant, author, and adoptive parent, whose research and professional work has focused on both adoptive and birth families. In addition, she has published a number of research and clinical articles in professional journals on children's understanding and adjustment to adoption, and the experience of birthmothers who make adoption plans. Dr. Anne Brodzinsky maintains a private clinical practice in psychology. She is also a member of the advisory committee to the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York City.

In addition to his extensive research activities, David is associate professor of Developmental and Clinical Psychology at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, and director of the Rutgers Foster Care Counseling Project. In addition, he has published numerous research and clinical articles on adoption in professional journals and as book chapters. Dr. David Brodzinsky maintains a private clinical practice in psychology focusing on the mental health needs of adoption triad members. He was founding director of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and currently serves on its board of directors. Dr. Brodzinsky has lectured widely on adoption throughout the United States and Europe, has served as an expert witness in numerous court cases involving adoption issues, and has been a strong supporter of changes in adoption legislation, testifying for greater openness as a means of improving the emotional well-being of adopted individuals.

Throughout their teaching, research, writing and clinical work, Drs. Anne and David Brodzinsky's compassion and influence has touched and improved the lives of thousands of children and adults affected by the issues of adoption. Their work has had a marked influence on the policy, practice, ethics, and awareness of adoption issues worldwide.

Betsy Forrest

Representative Marge Roukema

As an adoptee, Betsy Forrest has used her personal experience to facilitate understanding between adoptees, their adoptive parents, and their birth parents. Her clear vision, organizational experience and innovative techniques in adoption training and counseling have helped a number of families on both a national and local level.

Betsy began her career as the legislative director of the American Adoption Congress' (AAC) board of directors, organizing nationwide efforts and having key roles regarding legislative initiatives. Currently Betsy works with the Children's Aid and Family Services of Paramus, NJ, once again specializing in the training of pre-adoptive parents and reuniting consenting family members separated by adoption.

Kathleen Forvour

Representative Mike Ferguson

Kathleen Forvour has been part of the Department of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) special needs adoption program for 18 years. Always an advocate for children and families, Kathy has held various positions, including managing the operation of the Southern Regional Adoption Center. Her current responsibilities as Case Practice Specialist include systematic planning and coordination, training and mentoring of staff, and the monitoring of service delivery. Her job is to assure that the children under the supervision of the Southern and Central Adoption Resource Centers receive appropriate services, including timely placement with adoptive families. Her exceptional accomplishments represent her commitment to assuring that all children have a family that loves and nurtures them.

Kathy has recently developed a valuable instrument to ensure that adoption placement decisions are made quickly and appropriately. The Placement Assessment Tool is based both on a child's individualized needs and a family's capacity to meet those needs. Approximately 75 percent of DYFS adoptions are foster-parent adoptions. Clearly, in most instances, it is best that children are adopted by the family that is caring for them. However, there are situations where foster parents are unable to adopt or where it might not be in the best interest of the child, making the identification of the services necessary to support the placement of critical importance. Not only has Kathy developed the Placement Assessment Tool, but she also trained the staff in its use and is currently overseeing its implementation in the Southern and Central Adoption Resource Centers. Kathy Forvour is an individual who has shaped her career around her commitment to adoption. She has refused to consider promotions that would mean leaving the Adoption Program, and has focused her energies on facilitating successful adoption placements.

Douglas & Noreen Hill

Representative Robert Andrews

The journey Douglas and Noreen Hill have taken to adopt their three small children is one that is truly a testament of love and commitment. Traveling to Marioupol, Ukraine was an experience that ended better than they could ever have anticipated. Despite the obstacles of international adoption, they definitely felt that the

journey to get these three beautiful additions to their family was well worth it. The children are truly wonderful gifts and blessings that have overcome a great deal of adversity early in their lives. Each child is flourishing; healthy, active in sports and the many activities that make up any childhood.

Noreen continues to speak Russian to her children because she and Douglas recognize the importance of the children maintaining their Ukrainian culture. They love their children and never question their decision to adopt. Now the family waits with anticipation to welcome another child into their family.

Jean Jackson

Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen

Jean Jackson is an adoptee who joined the Adoptee's Liberty Movement Association (ALMA) in the late 1970's. Jean has had an amazing career within ALMA, working first as a volunteer with the New Jersey Chapter and later becoming the assistant coordinator of the New Jersey Chapter in 1980. In 1981, Jean began working in the New York office as a volunteer and eventually became the Registrar of the ALMA Databank Reunion Registry, a position she held until 1998. Ms. Jackson is currently active as the president and registrar of the ALMA Society, Inc.

Because of Jean's commitment and careful attention to detail, reunions between adopted adults and members of their birth families will continue to take place through this registry, which services people from around the globe who have contacted ALMA since its inception in 1972.

Barbara Kalish

Senator Robert Toricelli

Barbara Kalish was the founder and first president of the New Jersey chapter of the Adoptive Parents Committee (APC). APC is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to providing information and support to pre-adoptive and adoptive families. As president of APC/North Central New Jersey, Barbara worked very hard to establish a new chapter to expand the services provided by APC to more New Jersey residents. Within only a few years, membership has grown to 350 families. Barbara also created the chapter's Children's Relief Committee, which provides holiday gifts, theater tickets, workbooks, and sports equipment to more than 100 children in New Jersey who are awaiting adoption. Barbara spearheaded the drive and had the APC focus on helping local children. On a broader level, Barbara has worked to set up a legislative committee in New Jersey so that knowledgeable volunteers from APC/NCNJ can meet with state representatives. In addition to leading the organization, Barbara also dedicates countless hours providing advice and support to families in all phases of the adoption process.

Anna Marie O'Loughlin

Senator Jon Corzine

Anna Marie O'Loughlin has dedicated over a decade to caring for children in the foster care and adoption system and to working with parents and advocates. Her boundless energy, courage and steadfast commitment make her an outstanding parent and an asset to the state of New Jersey. It is an honor to choose her as my 2002 Angel in Adoption. In 1991, Anna Marie and her husband Frank adopted their first child, Jason, who was born addicted to drugs and alcohol. As a result, he suffered multiple learning disabilities. Five years later, Anna Marie and Frank adopted another child, a 10 year-old boy with an attachment disorder. That same year, the O'Loughlins volunteered to serve as foster parents, receiving their first foster child, an infant girl, in January of 1997. Seven months later, the baby's biological sister joined the family. Anna Marie and Frank adopted both of the girls in December 2000.

In January 2001, Anna Marie left a 20-year career in order to be more consistently available to her children. The couple also opened their home as an emergency placement foster home for older children and teenagers. Children, ages two to 17, passed through their home, some in the middle of the night, and moved on when the Department of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) found a foster home. Anna Marie established a particularly special relationship with one of these children, a 16-year-old boy who had been in multiple homes and treatment facilities. The O'Loughlin home became a respite home, and, in January 2002, a permanent foster home for this young man. By now, he would have aged out of the system to an uncertain future, had Anna Marie not stepped in with her characteristic determination to change that outcome. Anna Marie has served on the board of

Concerned Parents for Adoption and currently works with DYFS as a co-trainer for adoptive and foster parent applicants.

New Mexico

Jack & Valeri Dille

Senator Jeff Bingaman

Jack and Valeri Dille are caring and generous individuals with a strong commitment to children and family. They are the adoptive parents of three children, AJ, Caleb and Hannah, and have provided a temporary home for over 20 other children making the transition to adoptive families. They refuse to accept the traditional fee for acting as temporary caregivers. They also provide support and guidance to other families going through the adoption process by volunteering their expertise as well as opening their home to families waiting to adopt. Valeri speaks to birth parents about her experiences as an adoptive mother. They are also involved in the Cradle Care program, helping birth parents and adoptive parents during the difficult decision-making process. Their commitment to this process and to providing a stable and loving home for children in need is truly commendable.

Ron & Sally McKay

Representative Joe Skeen

Sally and Ron McKay believe that they are truly blessed to have their daughter, Amanda, in their lives. Ron and Sally were married in August of 1976 and knew that they wanted children in their lives and that they would need to adopt. Calls to adoption agencies revealed that adoption rules would exclude them from adopting in New Mexico - couples had to be married for at least five years before they could apply for adoption and the husband could not be over forty years of age. By the time they celebrated their fifth anniversary Ron would be forty.

In 1978 Sally was offered a job with the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Yokohama, Japan. While in Japan they were able to adopt precious Amanda Nicole through the Human Services Agency of Korea. Many people have told the McKays "how wonderful they are" for adopting a child from Korea where many children have been abandoned and left on streets. The truth is that Sally and Ron have been truly blessed with Amanda. She was an answer to prayer, God gave the three of them a special present - a family. Amanda is now a senior at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Dan & Kris Shine

Representative Heather Wilson

The Shines have been foster parents to nearly 90 children over the past 11 years, and have adopted three children as well. They provide service to medically fragile children who are particularly hard to place due to medical and social needs. They have had people tell them not to take in a certain child because it is too risky or too much work, and the Shines reply, "We don't give up on kids!" In the past, Kris Shine has served on committees to work with, support and train foster parents, however due to the needs of her children she is unable to participate formally at this time. Kris continues to receive calls at home from foster and adoptive families asking for her guidance, and has been asked by their church to provide parenting classes for families of children with special needs. The Shines are also champions of the annual Easter party for foster and adoptive families in our community. They work with a sponsor, who pays for everything, including the 2000 eggs needed for the Easter egg hunt! Hundreds of families attend the event each year. All have fun with the bouncing tents, air slides and water games and each enjoys a great meal. In addition to being great foster and adoptive parents, the Shines are wonderful members of our community. For instance, they also participate in other activities in our town such as the annual Thanksgiving program to feed the homeless. They believe that everyone can give back to his or her community. The Shine family is truly an inspiration to us all, and I am proud to choose them as my Angels in Adoption.

Martin & Margie Smith

Representative Tom Udall

Martin “Marty” and Margie Smith have been active and enthusiastic advocates for adoption for many years. They adopted nine children themselves—children with varying ethnicities and backgrounds. Margie has volunteered with the Latter–Day Saints Family Services for over 10 years, in both Texas and Farmington, New Mexico, and has actively supported adoption and birth parent work. Both she and Marty, have been strong supporters of adoption efforts in their community. Margie has written several articles on adoption and enjoys participating in discussions regarding adoption issues and is pleased that others are able to benefit from her experience and expertise.

Marty and Margie Smith are wonderful examples of kind, loving and supportive parents. They are also highly valued in their community as providing exceptional adoption support and consultation. I am pleased to honor the Smiths as my Angels in Adoption.

New York

Adoption Resource Network, Inc.

Representative Louise Slaughter

The Adoption Resource Network, Inc. has made an important difference in the community because it is an independent source of information, support, and referral on all aspects of adoption and foster care for many families in the Rochester area. In 2001, Adoption Resource Network provided services to 3,279 people through telephone conversations, professional development seminars and school presentations. As a result of their annual conference in 2000, four children over age 12, with significant special needs, were placed in adoptive homes. According to a local caseworker supervisor of adoption, placing just one in a year is a big deal. Two additional families from the conference last year have also started to investigate adopting U.S. waiting children. Adoption Resource Network is an innovative service to the adoption community.

Mark & Monica Holly

Senator Hillary Clinton

Mark and Monica Holly of Suffolk County are the parents of 11 adopted children, ranging in age from eight to 20. The Holly family has participated in every form of adoption, including domestic, international, and the adoption of children from the foster care system. Their children arrived from infancy to adolescence. The Holly’s are known for their commitment to never saying no to a child in need. In addition to their family responsibilities, Monica maintains a full-time job as a systems analyst. Mark is a full-time, stay-at-home Dad. The Hollys are active advocates on behalf of adoptive families and children through their involvement with the Adoptive Parents Committee (APC), the oldest adoptive parent group in North America. The Hollys were co-presidents of the Long Island Adoptive Parents Committee and are currently serving as vice presidents of the board of governors of the Tri-State APC, which serves more than 2,600 member families in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut through counseling, education, and advocacy.

North Carolina

Children’s Home Society of North Carolina

Representative Howard Coble

The Children’s Home Society of North Carolina (CHS) is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. It was founded in 1902 by a group of businessmen (now the Chamber of Commerce) dedicated to finding homes for children. The mission of CHS is to promote the rights of every child to a permanent, safe and loving home. The Children’s Home Society is a statewide, non-profit, licensed by North Carolina’s DHHS–DSS and accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children & Family services. Over 40 percent of their \$5 million plus budget is secured through private donations, illustrating the success of a public-private partnerships. CHS assists the

public DSS by recruiting, training and supporting families who are interested in adoption. The DSS refers children to them and they help match these children with families. CHS then supports and guides the family and children through the adoption process, which includes counseling and support. Many children referred by DSS have been abused, neglected, and may have emotional and behavioral issues owing to their histories. CHS also serves birth parents that consider placing their young infants for adoption.

Last year, CHS placed 104 children from the custody of DSS as well as 58 infants in North Carolina. These children were racially diverse and many were children with special needs. In its 100 years, CHS has placed 12,850 children and looks forward to the next 100 years of continuing its work finding homes for the children who need them.

Jacob & Sally Ehrisman

Senator Jesse Helms

Jacob and Sally Ehrisman were already successfully raising (and home schooling) the three children born to them, when, after a heartbreaking miscarriage, they applied to do a trans-racial adoption. They were soon chosen by an unmarried African-American young woman, and they enthusiastically awaited that child's birth. They were justifiably alarmed when Samuel was born at 28 weeks gestational age, weighing only two pounds, 11 ounces, leaving his survival in considerable doubt. Jacob and Sally immediately accepted custody of Samuel, put him on their insurance policy, and spent time with their new son everyday for the first 67 days he was in the hospital. Three times they had to insist on a higher standard of care, and twice they transferred him to facilities more willing to provide for his special needs. Even after Samuel was allowed to come home, he required round the clock attention for many months. At age four, however, Samuel is now an active, intelligent child, surrounded by a loving family that now includes another adopted sister. The Ehrismans received the "North Carolina Adoptive Family of the Year" award for their love and heroism, and, truly, they are Angels in Adoption.

Dede Van Zandt

Representative Richard Burr

Dede Van Zandt has been involved with international adoption for over 10 years beginning when her daughter, Hannah, who is now 11, joined the family from Romania. Dede is married to Dr. Keith Van Zandt, who is equally involved in her work and is her most ardent supporter. Dede and Keith already had three children born to them (which Dede calls her homegrown kids) when Hannah came home in 1991. However, their experience in Romania made the entire family become involved in finding homes and providing humanitarian aid to the children who remained behind. Her family has adopted two more Romanian children—Annie (nine) and Sophie (four) in recent years. During her decade of work in Romania, Mrs. Van Zandt helped many others who were interested in adopting children, assisting in the adoption process in many capacities. She served on the Relief Committee, which coordinates financial assistance for families adopting children with special needs and has served on the board of Carolina Adoption Services. In addition, to assisting with adoptions, Mrs. Van Zandt has organized several mission trips to Romania, which have often included the participation of her biological children, Rebecca (23), Kyle (20) and Tyler (16). During these trips, volunteers provide assistance at orphanages, medical clinics, day camps, and churches. Her dedication to the children of this world make her my Angel in Adoption.

North Dakota

Connie Cleveland

Senator Byron Dorgan

Connie Cleveland has been assigned to Cass County Social Services since 1997 to implement the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). In this capacity, Connie has aided Cass County and North Dakota in becoming leaders in ASFA implementation by developing a unified Notice of Hearing form. She gathered some 175 termination petitions, approved over the course of a few years, to enable children to be adopted. Previously, about ten petitions had been approved in the past 20 years. Additionally, Connie trains staff in Cass County, helps new workers in testifying, allows new attorneys from other North Dakota counties to shadow her as they

learn the process. Connie is an Angel in Adoption because she is effective in the courtroom and in aiding parents and children in need.

Lori Collison

Representative Earl Pomeroy

Thanks to Lori Collison, dedicated to both her family and the state, six children with special needs have been provided the invaluable gift of family and a loving home. However, Lori's commitment to youth goes beyond her family. She serves as an educator for new adoptive and foster parents and runs a daycare.

Lori has raised her six children, now between the ages of three and 14, single-handedly. She encourages her children to explore their Hispanic, Caucasian, Bosnian, and Native American roots. This family is only the beginning of Lori's contribution to adoption in North Dakota.

In addition to teaching new adoptive and foster parents, Lori has been working on a grant to provide presentations to high school and college students regarding attachment disorder and fetal alcohol syndrome. She volunteers her time to make young people aware of these problems and has spoken to hundreds of students about her story and the struggles her children have faced. Because of Lori's energy, patience, and compassion, her children, as well as young people all over the state, have reaped so many benefits. Lori Collison is truly deserving of the Angels in Adoption Award, and I have the utmost admiration for her commitment to serving children.

Ron & Janet Mack

Senator Kent Conrad

For the past 21 years, Ron and Janet Mack, along with their three children, have served as foster parents for over 110 babies who have been adopted or are in the process of being adopted. Ron and Janet have made the adoption transition a loving and comforting experience for many babies and infants. In addition to serving as foster parents, Ron and Janet extended their family even more by adopting one of their foster children with special needs. In addition to Ron and Janet's careers as an industrial builder and child-care provider, they also serve their community as volunteer fire fighters. Janet, with the support of Ron, is constantly accomplishing a lifetime goal of hers: to help children and to give every child the chance at life that he or she deserves.

Ohio

Jeff & Judy Carman

Senator Mike DeWine

After raising two children, Jeff and Judi felt their family was not yet complete, so they decided to adopt. They decided that with Judi's nursing background they would consider children with special needs. They adopted their son Eddie, who suffered abuse and neglect as a child; Mary, who was born with spina bifida - requiring the amputation of her legs; Michael, who suffers from cardiac problems and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder; John, who was born with a rare birth defect that caused many of his organs to form on the outside of his body; and Katherine, who suffers from a rare metabolic disorder. Raising five children with special needs has been anything but easy for the Carmans. They have learned to tube feed John, catheterize Mary, and prepare special foods for Katherine. The couple has spent many sleepless nights in hospital rooms at the local children's hospital not knowing if their child would make it through the night or through the next surgery. They have had to fight to get their children the best medical care possible. They have flown to other cities with their sick child to seek out specialists and have flown specialists in to see their sick children. There is nothing this couple would not do for any of their children making them my Angels in Adoption for 2002.

Jerry & Faye Hammond

Representative Ted Strickland

Jerry and Faye Hammond are soft-spoken, modest people who reside in rural Lawrence County, Ohio. The Hammonds first became certified as therapeutic foster parents on September 15, 1992. At that time, Jerry and

Faye, both in their late twenties, were the parents of one son. Despite their young age, the Hammonds displayed a unique understanding of the needs of foster children with special needs. They have since given love and care to approximately 60 children in their home over the last nine-and-a-half years. Today, the Hammonds have three biological children, ages 11, nine, and two as well as sibling daughters, adopted this year at the ages of seven and eight. They currently have three foster children living in their home as well. Jerry, a truck driver for the Pepsi-Cola Corporation, and Faye, a full-time homemaker, have a busy schedule with their large family and keep the children active in everything from beauty pageants to ball games. This couple is truly dedicated to sharing their lives with children.

Scott & Kathy Rosenow

Representative John Boehner

Scott and Kathy Rosenow epitomize what is meant by the term Angels in Adoption. It has been my privilege to lend a hand on their behalf in years past to help them produce one successful adoption story after another. The Rosenows have been married for 25 years and have nine children: four biological and five through adoption. Two of their biological children have been classified as special needs for various reasons, and this fact launched the Rosenows into the world of adoption.

Each of the five children adopted by the Rosenows are from abroad, including two boys from Bolivia, two girls from China, and one girl from Haiti. By truly rescuing these children from less-than-desirable circumstances and bringing them into a loving and nurturing home here in the United States, the Rosenows are a model couple for those wishing to embark on an adoption journey.

I am proud to recognize Scott and Kathy Rosenow as 2002 Angels in Adoption. They should be most proud of the work they have done on behalf of the adoption mission both domestically and overseas. I wish them and their entire family continued happiness and health in the years ahead.

Oklahoma

Cheryl Bauman

Representative John Sullivan

Cheryl Bauman founded Crisis Pregnancy Outreach (CPO), 19 years ago to place children for adoption. The non-profit organization was also created to assist women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Since none of the staff members take a salary, the cost is affordable for middle class parents seeking to adopt a child. CPO makes the medical and legal arrangements for each adoption, and refers the birth mother to a qualified host home during the pregnancy. CPO also operates a transitional home for the women once they have made an adoption plan.

Beverlee Einsig

Senator James Inofe

Beverlee Einsig and her husband, John, have five children, two from Oklahoma and three from Korea. One of their children has dealt with attachment disorder, while another has extensive undiagnosed medical problems that will probably require life-long care. Not only is Beverlee the mother of five, she is also the director of Educational Services for Dillon International, Inc. She coordinates pre-adoption workshops that take families through the entire international adoption process as well as facilitates in Korea, China, India, and Eastern European Culture Camps for adoption. She also manages to find the time to host a Discovery Weekend each year for high school and college-age adoptees to offer them the friendship of other adoptees and to assist them as they deal with adoption issues. Beverlee Einsig is definitely an Angel in Adoption.

O. Jane Morgan

Senator Don Nickles

Jane Morgan, Masters in Social Work, is currently the National Adoption Specialist for the Children's Bureau of the US Department of Health and Human Services. She joined the Children's Bureau in 1999 after a 23 year

career in child welfare with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. She served as a direct service adoption and child welfare worker, supervisor, state-wide child welfare training coordinator and was the administrator for the Oklahoma State Adoption Program for nine years. While in Oklahoma, she developed the SWIFT adoption program which resulted in adoptions more than doubling for the State of Oklahoma. She served as the first Secretary for the National Association of State Adoption Program Managers (NASAP).

Currently, she coordinates national adoption initiatives and state training and technical assistance programs. She is a member of the National Review Team that provides leadership for the Child and Family Service Reviews. As a national expert in adoption, she provides leadership in initiating, planning, developing and implementing nationwide programs in adoption. She also serves as a liaison to state adoption program managers. I am pleased to select her as an Angel in Adoption.

Oregon

The Boys and Girls Aid Society

Senator Ron Wyden

The Boys and Girls Aid Society has facilitated adoptive placements for nearly 100 years and is one of Oregon's oldest adoption agencies. Within this organization is the Special Needs Adoption Coalition (SNAC), which places children from the Oregon DHS, who cannot return to their families of origin owing to abuse or neglect. In addition to placing children in adoptive families and working with children with special needs; the Boys and Girls Aid Society places *Wednesdays Child* announcements in over 80 newspapers throughout Oregon each week. These announcements share information about children in state custody who are waiting to be adopted. It also operates a toll-free foster and adoption inquiry line for the DHS, publishes the *Family Matters* newsletter, that serves as a recruitment and training tool for 7,000 subscribers, and prepares prospective adoptive families of children with special needs.

Every year the Boys and Girls Aid Society participates in the placement of over 100 Oregon children into adoptive homes in over 40 states, while working with more than 60 private and public adoption agencies. Because the Boys and Girls Aid Society places Oregon children in homes all across the United States it plays a lead role as the primary contact for families outside of Oregon who have been identified as potential matches for Oregon children. Through the work of the Special Needs Adoption Coalition, the Boys and Girls Aid Society places children into families that best respond to the children's needs, without regard to the geographic location of the adoptive family. Oregon has become a national leader in the placement of children into adoptive homes because of the work done by organizations such as the Boys and Girls Aid Society and its Special Needs Adoption Coalition.

Thomas McDermott

Senator Gordon Smith

Thomas McDermott volunteered as the lead attorney when Oregon's *Measure 58*, a law allowing adult adoptees to gain access to their original birth records, was challenged in court. His many hours of *pro bono* work and personal dedication helped turn back this legal challenge that later turned into an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The result allowed more than 6,000 Oregon-born adopted persons to obtain copies of their birth certificates. For Mr. McDermott, the most significant affirmation came from his son who said: "I'm going to put on my tombstone; "My dad was a hero because he fought for adoptees!"

Bob & Cyndi Michael

Representative Darlene Hooley

Bob and Cyndi Michael are an ordinary couple who went to extraordinary lengths to see that a Cambodian orphan found a good home in the United States. With their strong commitment to the welfare of their adopted daughter, the Michaels persevered through a lengthy process fraught with bureaucratic obstacles. Owing to concerns about the trafficking of Cambodian children, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service suspended all American adoptions from Cambodia last fall. The Michaels efforts to adopt Tevy, who was in the

final stages of the adoption process at the time, were brought to a halt. A lengthy investigation into these allegations left the Michaels and Tevy stuck in limbo for months. Despite the difficulties, however, the Michaels never gave up. They fought to bring their daughter to America, lobbying the State Department and INS to restart the process, working with my office to clear up the situation. They made several trips to Cambodia to fight to ensure that Tevy received adequate health care. In June, their efforts paid off and the Michaels were finally able to bring Tevy home. I have selected the Michaels as Angels in Adoption because they fought so hard for their daughter, and, in refusing to give up despite many obstacles, they made a profound difference in the life of one little girl.

Greg & Robin Deivert

Representative Greg Walden

Greg and Robin Deivert have had a somewhat different exposure to the needs of children. Greg is a police officer for his community of Grants Pass, Oregon, and has seen the extreme needs of children who have been abused, neglected, and who are in need of caring families. Over a period of many years, Greg and Robin Deivert have added a mix of cultures and needs to their family of five adopted children. They are a close-knit family with children ranging in age from 17 to six. The community of Grants Pass is fortunate to have the Deivert family among its unsung heroes of adoption.

Pennsylvania

Tom & Theresa McFarland

Representative Paul Kanjorski

Tom and Theresa McFarland are Angels in Adoption because of the dedication they demonstrated during the adoption of their new daughter, Molly, from Korea. The McFarlands took the first steps toward adopting Molly, who was born Ja-Hee Kim, in March 2001. The process took much longer than they had anticipated, because, over one year later, the required documents still had not arrived at the American Embassy/Consular section in Korea or the Immigration and Naturalization Service office in Philadelphia. Happily, the McFarlands were able to overcome these obstacles and traveled to Kennedy International Airport in New York City on May 2, 2002 to welcome their new daughter to their family and to the United States.

Jerry & Dottie Sandusky

Senator Rick Santorum

After serving as foster parents to numerous children, Jerry and Dottie Sandusky ran out of room in their house and decided to broaden their help to children by forming a non-profit organization, The Second Mile, to provide care for foster children. Its philosophy is simple: it is easier to develop a child than to rehabilitate an adult. Along the way, Jerry and Dottie adopted six children, five boys and one girl (Ray, E.J., Jon, Matt, Jeff and Kara).

The Sanduskys continue to reach out to change the lives of other children in need. In 2000, Jerry, after 32 years in Penn State's football program, retired so that he could devote more time to The Second Mile. The organization that began as a group foster home now serves over 100,000 children a year, free of charge. It has nine prevention, early intervention, and community-based programs that are focused on serving children who face challenging circumstances in life. This organization challenges young people to achieve their potential as individuals and community members by providing opportunities for them to develop positive life skills and self-esteem. Their work also provides education and support for parents and professionals addressing the needs of youth. While The Second Mile has expanded its mission beyond just providing care for foster children, it continues to help recruit and support foster families.

Carol Smith

Representative George W. Gekas

Carol Smith has worked for Dauphin County Social Services for Children for more than 30 years. She has been an inspiration throughout her work within the agency and the community. Currently, she is directly responsible for all adoptions within the agency. Her leadership and guidance led to an increase of over 300 percent in finalized adoptions during 2001. In addition to her primary responsibility, she helped develop procedures that improve the timeliness of adoption. Ms. Smith has worked very closely with the Dauphin County Juvenile Court Judge and Hearing Officers. She also works closely with adoptive parents and agency staff to ensure the availability of all adoption services to assure that ongoing subsidies are available to support adopted children. Carol is highly respected by her peers, her staff, the courts and the community. Carol has proven herself to be a credit to the profession of Social Work, Dauphin County, and to the children and families for whom she has worked so hard.

Phyllis Stevens

Senator Arlen Specter

In 1988, Phyllis Stevens founded the Together as Adoptive Parents Organization (TAPO). As founder and executive director, Phyllis devotes countless hours towards building support groups and providing assistance to adoptive families. Comprised of ten core families, TAPO provides information to over 100 adoptive families, and plans yearly social activities geared towards building support for adoptive children, families and advocates. In addition to her involvement with Together as Adoptive Parents, Ms. Stevens is a member of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Adoptive Parents. This Coalition works with over 70 support groups in every county to gather and distribute informative resource brochures for current and prospective adoptive families. As a woman who says family comes first, Ms. Stevens spends a lot of time with her husband of 25 years, and five children; one by birth and four adopted with special needs. In 2001, Ms. Stevens was awarded the Adoption Advocate of the Year Award by the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) and was appointed to the NACAC board.

David & Gail Workman

Representative Joseph Pitts

Dave and Gail Workman are tireless advocates for adoption. As an Extension Family for Adoption, both Dave and Gail frequently speak to groups about adoption and the extremely positive benefits for both the adopting family and the child being adopted. Dave and Gail are also available to families who have questions about the sometimes complicated and frustrating adoption process. Their commitment to all parties involved in the adoption process makes them very deserving of this great award.

Puerto Rico

Jerry Santiago & Zoraida Lisojo

Representative Anibal Acevedo-Vila

Jerry Santiago and Zoraida Lisojo were married on January 21, 1969. They planned to have a big family, but were unable to bear children. In 1996, they decided to share the happiness of their family and contacted the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's Department of Family with the intention of becoming a foster family. They were evaluated and, in 1997, received five children aged from one to six. The children had been subject to abuse in their former home, which prompted their removal, and were put under the care of the Santiago-Lisojo family. Jerry and Zoraida cared for these children and quickly realized that they wanted to offer them a permanent home and family. The couple began the adoption process, and on January 4, 2001, they legally adopted the children and became the proud parents of Yomaira, Hector, Raymond, Jaider, and Jarol. They reside in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, and are grateful for the blessing of being able to adopt these children.

Rhode Island

Darlene Allen

Senator Lincoln Chafee

Darlene Allen is passionate in her belief that all children deserve a permanent, loving home. She is committed to supporting adoptive families as they open their hearts and homes to children. Adoption Rhode Island provides an array of information, education and advocacy services, such as *Tuesday's Child*, parent support groups, an annual adoption conference and a monthly newsletter. Under Darlene's leadership, Adoption Rhode Island has recognized and responded to the increased needs in the adoption community, expanding its focus to include Child and Family Support and Preservation Services. Additionally, Darlene has vigorously promoted the agency's Youth Empowerment Services in an effort to engage Rhode Island's young people in the adoption process. She also organized a collaborative group, the Special Needs Adoption Coalition, and continues to lead this coalition in working with children and parents toward adoption. To the children and families of Rhode Island, Darlene Allen is truly an Angel in Adoption.

South Carolina

Janine Fleming

Representative Jim DeMint

For the past 25 years, Janine W. Fleming has been one of the most influential individuals in adoption in upstate South Carolina. Prior to her involvement in adoption, she held various mental health and counseling positions. For 20 years, she has been certified by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to complete home studies and obtain consents from birth parents.

She has worked with many agencies and private attorneys as a Guardian *ad Litem* and is recognized and respected by many Family Court Judges. Janine has always had the support of her husband and children in her adoption work. She is the type of person that does her job quietly and wants no recognition for a job well done. Her focus is ensuring that the adoption is being handled with the best interest of the child as the first priority. She has spent countless hours with adoptive couples, children, and birth parents to ensure the children are placed in proper homes for their needs.

Joann E. King

Representative Joe Wilson

Joann E. King is the State Director for Bethany Christian Services in South Carolina. Joann began her work at Bethany in January 1988 as the Columbia office first opened. For the first three years, she was a birth parent counselor, foster care worker, secretary, and fundraiser - all on a part time basis. In 1992, she assumed the responsibilities of Assistant Director, which included supervision of the social work staff as well as completing adoptive family assessments. In 1995, the board named Joann as State Director. Joann received a Bachelor of Science in Social Work in 1975 and a Masters of Social Work in 1976 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 1987 she received a Certificate in Biblical Studies from Columbia International University.

Bethany Christian Services is a national and international agency with locations in 30 states and several foreign countries. Joann is responsible for the four South Carolina offices, located in Greenville, Columbia, Florence and Myrtle Beach. Bethany provides free crisis counseling to birth parents throughout the state of South Carolina. Adoptive services include domestic, international and special needs adoption. The Bethany motto that "Every Life is a Promise," has been the focus of her work.

Joann has been married to her husband Michael for over 26 years. She has a son Seth, an electrical engineer who is a recent graduate of the University of South Carolina, and a daughter, Ellisha, who is a junior at Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee.

South Dakota

Steve & Cat Roskam

Senator Tim Johnson

Steve and Cat Roskam are true Angels in Adoption in western South Dakota. In addition to being foster parents, Steve and Cat have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, children in need of permanent homes. Beyond opening their homes and hearts they have been strong advocates for the children in their care and have worked to improve the adoption and foster care system in ways to benefit all children.

I am honored to select Steve and Cat as my Angels in Adoption 2002 and commend their great efforts and commitment to our world's most vulnerable children. It is through the dedication of families like the Roskams that we are closer to the day when all children have a safe, loving, permanent home.

Tennessee

Julie Bolles

Senator Fred Thompson

Julie Bolles currently serves as a staffer with Catholic Charities in Nashville, Tennessee. During her time there, she has demonstrated a degree of caring, industriousness, and dedication that is uncommon today. Julie's performance of her duties is exemplary, and she is always willing and able to go above and beyond her job description for the families she helps. During her tenure with Catholic Charities, she has proven herself to be a reliable, responsible, and focused individual who has become a valued asset. Julie has expressed a great desire to continue in her endeavors with charity work. I would like to recognize her as an individual worthy of carrying on the legacy of excellence among the Angels in Adoption. Julie is an outstanding individual who would be an asset to any organization

Bob Tuke

Representative Bob Clement

A worthy candidate for the Angel in Adoption award, Bob Tuke is the adoptive father of Sarah and Andrew Tuke. Bob has spent much of his adult life as a member of the adoption triad, and he has worked tirelessly to improve the world of adoption and foster care. As a partner with Trauger, Ney & Tuke, Bob has handled both domestic and international independent adoptions. Bob has also been involved in several landmark adoption cases and serves as a legal counsel for two adoption agencies. He has published several articles on adoption law and he teaches several seminars on the subject each year.

In 1995, Bob served on the Adoption Study Commission for two years. While on the Commission, he was one of the principal drafters of the landmark Tennessee Adoption Code. All of his reform work has been done *pro bono*.

Bob is also the president of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys and a member of the Advisory Board of Tennessee Conference of Children's Services and the Nashville Area Adoption Coalition. He has received The Emma May Valardi Humanitarian Award from the American Adoption Congress. On a personal note, it has been my honor to work side by side with Bob Tuke in the realm of adoption reform. He has worked tirelessly and passionately to improve the world of adoption.

Texas

Julie Banta

Representative Pete Sessions

Despite her busy life as a parent, Julie Banta continues to serve as an ardent advocate for children who need families. For the last 10 years, Julie has been involved with Holt International Children's Services. She has assisted with fundraising and co-founded an adoption support group. Julie and her husband, Steve, have seven

children, three by birth and four adopted from Brazil, Thailand and Hong Kong. Several of the children have special needs, which, according to Julie, has broadened her parental experience. She uses her experiences to encourage other parents who are considering the adoption of a child with special needs. Julie also draws upon her educational background, which includes a degree in special education and a Masters degree in learning disabilities, as she helps other families through an adoption support group. Julie was recently invited to serve on the Holt International board of directors in a volunteer position. It is remarkable that she contributes such time and energy to helping others at her own expense. The adoption community has not only a friend but also a strong advocate in Steve and Julie Banta.

Leonard Price

Representative Nick Lampson

Leonard Price adopted Rodnell on June 26, 2002 in a somewhat unique way as Rodnell was originally placed in the home of Leonard's mother as a foster child. Leonard's mother, Ms. Price, had applied to adopt six-year-old Rodnell. However, the agency and Ms. Price felt that, with her age, it would be very difficult to take on the responsibilities of a child. The entire Price family had grown to love Rodnell. Leonard felt that a bond had developed between their family and this child; a bond so strong that he wanted Rodnell to remain as part of their family. Leonard contacted Child Protective Services to become licensed to foster parent or to adopt, and the agency placed Rodnell with him. Leonard is a single father and, in addition to his work at NASA, is now giving Rodnell the life he deserves.

Dr. John Richardson

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson

For 29 years, Dr. John Richardson provided one of the most critically important services ever required by the Gladney Center, where he was pediatrician to the agency's newborns. From 1964 to 1993, his job included caring for more than 7,000 infants. In the mid 1990s, Dr. Richardson was concerned when he read stories about young women who were willing to abandon a child on the street rather than seek adoption or the resources of the Gladney Center. Dr. Richardson read a newsletter which mentioned a unique approach to abandoned babies where mothers could relinquish them to a fire station or a hospital emergency room without having to leave identifying information. He took this idea to his niece, who advised him that he would have to change the family code through the Texas Legislature. He found sponsors and in July 1999, Governor George W. Bush signed into law Dr. Richardson's "Baby Moses Project." The law allows infants 60 days old or younger to be handed over to an emergency medical technician, a fire station, an emergency room or an adoption center with a registered nurse on staff, with no repercussions. Texas was the first state to have the Baby Moses Law. Now, 35 other states have similar laws modeling the Texas law. Dr. Richardson also received the 2002 Physician Humanitarian Award. According to the Tarrant County Physician Magazine, all of Dr. Richardson's achievements have one common dominator: "Children are my business," Dr. Richardson says, "I try to be a spokesman and a representative for them and look out for their best interests."

Dan & Deni Sciano

Representative Charles Gonzales

Two year's ago Dan and Deni Sciano, already the proud parents of three wonderful children, began to consider adoption. The Sciano family felt that adopting a child would make their family more complete. The Sciano's sought Russia for their blessing. Witnessing the hardships of living in orphanages they knew they had to do something for at least one of the many children waiting for families. With love and affection, the Sciano family has been able to provide her with the joys of a childhood and a family.

Utah

Suzanne Stott

Senator Orrin Hatch

Suzanne Stott began as a volunteer in adoptions in 1974. She first served as a support to adoptive parents through the Latter-Day Saints (LDS) adoptive support groups. Later she helped form a listing of children available for adoption, for parents to view. This began a series of television segments featuring children awaiting adoption which evolved into the *Wednesday's Child* program. She continues to serve on a number of community organizations supporting adoptions, and was instrumental in helping found the Adoption Exchange in Utah. Ms. Stott has adopted 10 children, nine of which are African American. She has supported and been in leadership of a number of support groups for children of other cultures, including Asian, Eastern European, African American, and South American. She has been highly committed to the building of self-esteem through culture camps. Ms. Stott has served as an outside adoption expert for years for the Division of Child and Family Services, helping screen foster children for adoptive placements. She is highly committed and has a positive impact on adoptions in Utah as well as nationally and internationally. Ms. Stott formed her own adoption agency several years ago, known as Families for Children, a non-profit specializing in economical adoptions, where she continues to provide outstanding services to adopting families and children needing placement. Ms. Stott is currently caring for 11 children in her home.

Vermont

Wanda Audette

Senator James Jeffords

Over the past six years, Wanda Audette has worked as the director of Adoption Services for Lund Family Center helping advance over 350 adoptions. For almost two years, she single handedly ran the adoption department finding waiting children their forever families. In addition to running the adoption department, Wanda still finds time to make sure every member of the triad feels important by providing food for families with a child in the hospital, hosting ceremonies for adopted children and having a yearly picnic celebrating adoption. She has done this and countless other acts of kindness without hesitation, often at the expense of her personal life. Though being in a field where adversity can sometimes be overwhelming, Wanda continues to do her work with love and passion.

Carol MacDougall

Senator Patrick Leahy

Carol MacDougall is one of six adoption social workers for the Vermont Office of Social and Rehabilitation Services. As of this year, Carol has spent 15 years with this agency. Carol offers case consultation on adoption issues to all the SRS social workers in her office. She also consults all prospective adoptive families as well as birth parents considering an adoption plan. Approximately 150 children from Vermont need adoption services each year, and a majority of these fall into Carol's caseload. She is responsible for the most heavily populated region with the greatest concentration of children. Though many of the children she serves are difficult to place owing to abuse, neglect, special needs or large sibling groups, Carol completes 17 adoptions every year in a professional and expedient manner. Her stunning record and careful skill make her an example that will leave a mark on this state for generations to come.

Virginia

Commonwealth Catholic Charities

Representative Eric Cantor

Since 1923, Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) has offered a wide variety of services to fit the needs of the community they serve. For over 76 years, CCC has worked tirelessly to build strong, stable families in

Virginia; their main focus has been to provide support and counseling services to persons desiring to expand their families by adopting, especially those individuals who are in need of specialized care and training owing to emotional/behavioral problems or physical/mental disabilities. CCC's mission is to provide quality, compassionate human services to all people, particularly the most vulnerable.

Steve & Karin Fitzgerald

Representative Bob Goodlatte

I am pleased to choose Mr. and Mrs. Steve Fitzgerald for the 2002 Angels in Adoption Award. The Fitzgeralds were willing to open their hearts and home to take in four children, in addition to raising the four children born to them. Steve and Karin adopted Tessa in 1995 and Kelcey in 1997 through the Bethany Christian Adoption Service. Kendra and George, biological brother and sister, joined the growing family in 1999 through the Department of Social Services. While everyone in the Fitzgerald family has been required to make sacrifices such as sharing a room or clearing additional dishes from the table after dinner, they have found the importance of family devotion. Karen and Steve recognize adoption as a double blessing for them as parents, and for their children, as they join to provide a loving home. While raising eight children is challenging and requires many hours, the Fitzgeralds feel that it is a task with great rewards.

Washington

Marie Jamieson

Senator Patty Murray

Marie Jamieson is an exceptional advocate for children and families. As director of Washington Families For Kids Partnership (FFKP), she has worked to eliminate the backlog of children in state foster care and to reform the system so that other children are never again wait so long for permanent families. The Families for Kids Partnership is a non-profit organization that works with public and private agencies, advocates, corporations, tribes, and others, on behalf of foster children. Marie's personal leadership around adoption issues has led to a doubling in the number of adoptions of Washington children from foster care since 1995.

Working with hundreds of the FFKP partners across Washington State, she has produced several publications, including the Washington State Permanency Framework. The Framework outlines action plans to improve the foster care system and is used as a guide for all agencies, associations and individuals, coordinating their efforts around permanency for children. Marie's personal commitment to finding a permanent family for every child has led to policy changes that are now being reflected across the country. Prior to joining the Washington Families for Kids Partnership, Marie served for seven years as the northwest director for Lutheran Social Services of Washington and Idaho. Marie has also been a court-appointed special advocate for twelve years and, in 1998, was named Washington State Social Worker of the Year.

West Virginia

Aaron & Janice Pettry

Senator John Rockefeller, VI

Janice and Aaron Pettry are Angels in Adoption for 2002 because they unconditionally love the young people in adoption and foster care in Ashford, West Virginia. Married for over 20 years, and foster parents for over 10, Janice and Aaron Pettry have given many children the ultimate gift of a loving home. Over the years, the Pettrys have adopted several of their foster children, many of whom had special needs.

Understanding the true bond and security of a family, the Pettrys recently became a family for a sibling group of four children. Although they experienced a few struggles with children adapting to the separation from the biological family, they never gave up, proving once again that their family is forever.

In addition to the numerous activities and community involvement, the Pettry family continues to help children by providing permanent homes through their adoption work with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

Wisconsin

Harold & Patty Anglin

Senator Herb Kohl

For their continuing support of children with special needs, I am pleased to choose Harold and Patty Anglin of Mason, Wisconsin, as my Angels in Adoption. With seven children born to them, the Anglin's commitment to children led them to adopt eight children who have faced many challenges in their young lives. The impact of physical abuse, abandonment, disabilities and exposure to drug addiction have been overcome by the unconditional love and support received from the Anglin Family. The Anglin's devotion to children extends well beyond their own. Their non-profit agency, Acres of Hope, provides support, educational information and financial assistance to families adopting children with special needs. No financial or emotional sacrifice has been too big for this family when it comes to opening their home and their hearts to children.

Wyoming

Michael & Gretchen Kelso

Senator Mike Enzi

The Kelsos are an extraordinary Wyoming family that have fostered and adopted a sibling group of three, along with a young child from Russia. They are also in the process of adopting another group of siblings. The Kelsos are known as a big-hearted family that work to preserve relationships with birth families, while giving their children a stable and loving home. They are also highly regarded for their ability to work closely with the Wyoming Department of Family Services to recruit, train, and maintain families that foster and adopt children.

Past Angel in Adoption Award Recipients

1999 National Angel in Adoption Awardee

Freddie Mac

1999 Angel in Adoption Awardees

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

2000 National Angels in Adoption Awardees

Congressman Tom Bliley
Lynnette Cole, Gail and Larry Cole
Bertha Holt
Children's Action Network/Henry Winkler

2000 Angels in Adoption Awardees

<i>Alabama</i>	John Hamilton Carr Judith Smith Crane Anne Forgey	<i>Louisiana</i>	Judith Legett Sister Rosario O'Connell
<i>Alaska</i>	Dawn Crombie	<i>Maine</i>	Anne Henry Sister Theresa Therrein, LCSW
<i>Arizona</i>	Barbara & Samuel Aubrey John A. Oliver Lori Vandagriff	<i>Maryland</i>	Lisa A. Olney
<i>Arkansas</i>	Curtis & Margaret Blake Connie Fails	<i>Massachusetts</i>	Dr. Laurie Miller Penny Callan Partridge Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao Nancy Reffsin
<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>Michigan</i>	Sydney Duncan Mary Ellyn Lambert Jim Rockwell Milton & Julia Smith JoAnne Swanson Craig & Paula Van Dyke Judge Joanne E. Young
<i>Colorado</i>	Clem & Florence Cook Yuri Gorin Mike & Ellie Honeyman Tom & Jackie Washburn	<i>Minnesota</i>	Roger Toogood The Wittikko Family
<i>Delaware</i>	Mary Lou Edgar	<i>Missouri</i>	Janet Harp Ed & Joan Harter Howard & Rochelle Muchnick Connie Quinn Small World Adoption/Brenda Henn & Slava Platonov
<i>Florida</i>	Florence Gilbert Jesse and Cheryl Parsons Beverly Young	<i>Nebraska</i>	Stewart & Dari Dornan Tammy Nelson
<i>Georgia</i>	Edward W. (Kip) Klein, III	<i>Nevada</i>	Judge Nancy M. Saitta
<i>Hawaii</i>	Frank & Denise Mazepa	<i>New Hampshire</i>	David Villiotti
<i>Idaho</i>	Jolyn Callen	<i>New Jersey</i>	Lawrence & Deborah Andrews Barbara Cohen Joseph Collins Karen Flanagan Ken & Bonnie Moore Jane Nast Mary Hunt Peret Paytra Skelly
<i>Illinois</i>	Chuck and Lynn Barkulis Kennith & Kim Lovelace Annette & Jim McDermott Henry & Odessa McDowell Judy Stigger	<i>New York</i>	Dr. Jane Aronson Thomas Linda Bellick Kevin & Eileen Gilligan Frederick Greenman
<i>Indiana</i>	Moses Ann Gray		
<i>Iowa</i>	Jim & Diane Lewis Bambi Schrader		
<i>Kansas</i>	Joe Harvey		
<i>Kentucky</i>	Virginia Sturgeon Martin & Lisa Williams		

	Marie Keller Nauman New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc. Paul & Jackie White Scott & Barbara Williams Alan M. Wishnoff & Lisa Smith	<i>Texas</i>	Jeannie French Mark Kelsey & Calla Hogue Jon & Laurie LeBar Judge Merton B. Tice, Jr. Kathleen Foster Tom & Mary Alice McCubbins Armando & Lucy Valdes
<i>North Dakota</i>	Jared & Tammy Gasal and Family	<i>Utah</i>	Gerry Simmons
<i>Ohio</i>	Mary Malloy Theodore & Lillian Mason Marvin & Faith Smith	<i>Vermont</i>	William M. Young
		<i>Virginia</i>	Cathy Harris Brian & Kellie Meehan Sandra F. Silvers WRIC TV 8 & United Methodist Family Services
<i>Oklahoma</i>	Jerry & Denise Dillon Debbie Espinosa		
<i>Oregon</i>	Judith Spargo	<i>Washington</i>	Ivan Day Janice Neilson Jon and Kerri Steeb
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Barbara Schoener		
<i>Rhode Island</i>	Dennis B. Langley	<i>West Virginia</i>	Scott & Faith Merryman
<i>South Carolina</i>	Anthony & Brenda Davis Peggy Ewing Tomilee Harding William Brantley Hart	<i>Wisconsin</i>	Cheri Kainz Lisa Robertson
<i>South Dakota</i>	Andy & Jeanine Jones Browles Dale & Arleen Decker	<i>Wyoming</i>	Ellen McGee

2001 National Angel in Adoption Awardees

Steven Curtis & Mary Beth Chapman
Rosie O'Donnell
Dave Thomas
Hans van Loon

2001 Angel in Adoption Awardees

<i>Alabama</i>	Judge Mike Bolin & Rosemary Bolin Rodney & Johnna Breland Richard & Rebecca Smith	<i>Colorado</i>	Greg Cox & Ron Roberts Karen Spencer Arta Banks Megan Ross
<i>Alaska</i>	Helena & Jim Heisel	<i>Connecticut</i>	Norm & Judy Goldberg Mark & Joyce Smith
<i>Arizona</i>	Michael J. Herrod Van & Shirley Hughes	<i>Delaware</i>	Carolyn Hoard Harlan S. Tenenbaum
<i>Arkansas</i>	James & Nancy Williams	<i>Florida</i>	Richard & Becky Copeland Terence & Cameron Davis Judge James C. Henderson
<i>California</i>	John Capellaro & Karen Christofferson CASA of Fresno Fred & Patty Duarte Joyce Hayes Roberta Friedman & Leslie Kornblum Mr. & Mrs. McPherson Reuben Pannor	<i>Georgia</i>	Phillip & Linda Beggs
		<i>Hawaii</i>	Eric & Arlene Anderson
		<i>Idaho</i>	James & Sherrill Cooper State Senator Grant Ipsen Dr. Eric & Kelly Jones

<i>Illinois</i>	Linda L. Hageman Theresa Hardy Lee & Lois Jackson Cleo M. Terry	<i>Nevada</i>	Al & Christall Rotta Barbara Van Dyke
<i>Indiana</i>	Judge & Mrs. Dennis D. Carroll Daryl & Deb Fansler Theresa Maxwell	<i>New Hampshire</i>	Belinda L. Castor
<i>Iowa</i>	Judge Terry Huitink & Judge Stephen Clarke	<i>New Jersey</i>	Betty Allen, Ph.D. Richard & Diana Barker Pat Bennett Adrienne E. Byers Danny & Nettie Johnson Paul Simon & Jennifer Carll-Simon Gloria Smith Darlene Marcina Supnick Marian Yankowski Cecilia Zalkind Rose Zeltzer
<i>Kansas</i>	Debra Murphey-Sheumann Michael & Shelly Smith	<i>New Mexico</i>	Charles Anderson Drs. Thomas & Janet Arrowsmith-Lowe Ann Nokes
<i>Kentucky</i>	Elizabeth Everman	<i>New York</i>	Kathy Ann Brodsky Reverend Thomas F. Brosnan Jon & Robert Cooper Nicholas Scoppetta
<i>Louisiana</i>	Lillie Petit Gallagher Kaaren Hebert Linda Woods Volunteers of America-North Louisiana	<i>North Carolina</i>	Lori Stuart Dwane & Sherri Twente
<i>Maine</i>	Bill & Ellen County	<i>North Dakota</i>	Merrel & Shelley Bussert Dan & Keatha McLeod
<i>Maryland</i>	Michael and LaRue Beckley Charlie Cooper Janice Goldwater Ronald & Patricia Lambert	<i>Ohio</i>	Dr. & Mrs. Emil Gullia Gary & LaVerne Humphrey Heather Hamilton Mock Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Joan Lefler Clark Dr. Aaron & Louise Lazare Sharon Silvia Deborah Wingard	<i>Oklahoma</i>	Mary Breshers Mary Gates Jim & Terri Slaymaker Lou Watkins
<i>Michigan</i>	Former Lieutenant Governor, Connie Binsfield Gerard & Adele Maat David & Bethann Marchionna Donald Marengere Sue Pacic Mary L. Wilkins	<i>Oregon</i>	Gary Conkling
<i>Minnesota</i>	Gene and Becky Lourey William & Lauren Schneider	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Bill & Gina Ackerman Steve & Tracey Benckert Margaret Maria Evans Patricia Weaver
<i>Mississippi</i>	Christopher M. Cherney Scott & Stacey Hartman Maggie Wade	<i>South Carolina</i>	Kevin & Carmen Baltimore Pat Wheeler
<i>Missouri</i>	Mike & Julie Keathley Paul & Alicia Matteucci	<i>South Dakota</i>	Mark & Deb Barnett Tim & Pam Homan
<i>Montana</i>	Jennifer Copley	<i>Tennessee</i>	Brenda Baker Caprice East Judge Muriel Robinson
<i>Nebraska</i>	Brian & Anne Kitten Kevin & Jennifer Klatt Theresa Maher Chip and Pam Maxwell Linda Snyder		

Texas

Carol Demuth
Patricia Martinez Dorner

Utah

Curt Dahl
Wayne and Shanna Holgreen
Tyallee Pendleton

Virginia

Laura Flynn & her son
Nicholas Flynn-Tanner
Jewish Family Services
Samuel & Cathy Wallen

West Virginia

Ken Watson
Bernie & Bonnie Yonkosky

Wisconsin

Judge Michael Dwyer
Karen Slaney

Wyoming

Bill & Regena Field

*U.S. Virgin
Islands*

Grace L. Griffith Gregory

Angels in Adoption

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 that even one life has
breathed easier because you have lived...
this is to have succeeded.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



**Congressional
Coalition on
Adoption
Institute**