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**Contact:**

Kim Zandy

The Village for RI Foster and Adoptive Families

[kimz@rivillage.org](mailto:kimz@rivillage.org)

401-419-3419

Jimmy Maddox

Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute

jimmy@ccainstitute.org

202-544-8500

Senator Jack Reed Celebrates **The Village for RI Foster and Adoptive Families** as an *Angels in Adoption®* Awardee

To Be Recognized at National Event in Washington, D.C.

Cranston, RI – Sept 7, 2017 – Senator Jack Reed will celebrate **The Village for RI Foster and Adoptive Families** as a 2017 *Angels in Adoption*® awardee for their outstanding advocacy of RI DCYF reform and outstanding support of resource (foster and adoptive) families. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the *Angels in Adoption*® Program, will honor The Village at an awards ceremony on September 26 and gala on September 27 in Washington, D.C.

**The Village for RI Foster and Adoptive Families** is a 501(c)3 organization, founded by 5 foster and adoptive mothers, who understood the need for a support network that connected these special families to each other and to specialized services within the community. The Village, as it’s fondly known, offers support groups for kinship and professional foster parents, hosts social events for families, and works with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families to recruit and train prospective families. In addition to helping families navigate the state’s complicated child welfare system, the Village provides important front-line support for new and existing resource parents. Efforts such as its “Donation closet”—where children’s clothing, baby supplies, and equipment are available to new and existing parents—aim at preparing parents and ensuring that all resource families have the tools that they need for a successful transition into adoption or foster care.

The *Angels in Adoption*® Program is CCAI’s signature public awareness event and provides an opportunity for all members of the U.S. Congress to honor the good work of their constituents who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans in the United States and abroad. This year, more than 120 “Angels” are being honored through the *Angels in Adoption*® Program.

“The *Angels in Adoption®* Program is a unique annual opportunity in the nation’s Capital to shine a well-deserved spotlight on the power of adoption and the unspoken heroes who have made the dream of a family a reality for children. Since the program’s inception, over 2,600 Angels have come to Washington to share their firsthand adoption experiences with Members of Congress, highlighting its joys, as well as the barriers encountered in the process,” said Becky Weichhand, Executive Director at CCAI. “Members of Congress are then able to use their new experiential understanding of these issues to create policy improvements that better support these children and the families that open their hearts and homes to them.”

In addition to the more than 120 Angels from around the country, National *Angels in Adoption*® honorees will be recognized at the gala for their dedication and commitment nationally and internationally to child welfare on a grand scale. This year’s National *Angels in Adoption*® honorees are Scott and Tracie Hamilton. Former National Angels include Shonda Rhimes, First Lady Laura Bush, Patti LaBelle, Jane Seymour, Muhammad Ali, the late Dave Thomas, Steven Curtis Chapman, Bruce Willis, Alonzo Mourning, Rhea Perlman and Kristin Chenoweth.

CCAI is a 501(c)3 nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of orphans and foster children in the United States and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe and loving homes through adoption.

CCAI was created in 2001 by the active co-chairs of the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption, one of Congress’ premiere caucuses. The goal of the caucus is to eliminate policy barriers that hinder children from realizing their basic right of a family and more effectively raise Congressional and public awareness about adoption.

The *Angels in Adoption*® Program was established in 1999 as a Congressional press conference to honor outstanding individuals. Since then, the program has developed into a yearlong public awareness campaign, culminating in an extraordinary awards gala and celebration in Washington, D.C.

CCAI does not receive any government funding and relies on the generous support of foundations, corporations, and individuals to accomplish this mission. For more information, visit www.ccainstitute.org.

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