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U.S. Representative Suzan DelBene, Paul Gosar, Chris Stewart and U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch Celebrates Children's House International and Jeanne Petersen as Angels in Adoption® To Be Recognized at National Event in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Representatives Suzan DelBene, Paul Gosar and Chris Stewart and U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch will celebrate Children's House International and Chief Financial Officer, Jeanne Petersen, as 2017 Angels in Adoption® awardees for their outstanding advocacy of adoption issues. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the Angels in Adoption® Program, will honor CHI and Jeanne Petersen at an awards ceremony on September 26 and gala on September 27 in Washington, D.C.

CHI's offices in Washington State and Utah are being honored for their work in International Adoption for over 42 years. In that time, CHI has worked in over 30 countries and gained licenses in six states. Since 1975, CHI has helped over 2,500 children come home to their forever families.

Jeanne Petersen is being honored for her commitment and heart for children and adoption. For most of her teen and adult life in one way or another she has been affecting children's lives in positive and profound ways, either through child advocacy, being a child care provider, foster parent, adopting her own children and even in her position at CHI as Chief Financial Officer. Jeanne has been involved in the International Adoption field for over 16 years. Her work at CHI goes above and beyond her bookkeeping duties to ensure that CHI can continue to bring children home and provide humanitarian aid worldwide.

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 Korie and Willie Robertson, Shonda Rhimes, Deborra-Lee Furness Jackman, 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.ccaainstitute.org.