



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Congressman Dave Reichert Honors Friends of Youth as an *Angel in Adoption*[™] To Be Recognized at National Event in Washington, DC

Redmond, WA – Congressman Dave Reichert has selected Friends of Youth as a 2010 *Angel in Adoption*[™] for their outstanding advocacy of foster care issues. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the *Angels in Adoption*[™] program, will honor Friends of Youth, along with more than 190 Angels, at an awards ceremony and gala event in Washington, DC, October 6, 2010.

Friends of Youth is being honored for its compassion and commitment to Puget Sound foster children. All of the foster children Friends of Youth serves have been in the state child welfare system, but require additional assistance. These youth face a variety of issues, including sexual or physical aggressiveness, mental health struggles and substance abuse. Friends of Youth's therapeutic foster care program helps meet the physical, emotional and social needs of youth struggling with significant childhood trauma.

The *Angels in Adoption*[™] program is CCAI's signature public awareness campaign 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.

"Friends of Youth is delighted to have been selected as an *Angel in Adoption*. This exciting recognition celebrates our dedicated team of foster care parents, case managers, social workers and caring staff, who together help make a positive impact each day on our region's most vulnerable youth," said Joan Campbell, President and CEO for Friends of Youth.

"The Angels in Adoption program is unlike any other program in the Nation's Capitol. Because of it, over 1600 "Angels" have come to share with Washington their adoption experience and left with a renewed excitement of all that adoption makes possible," said Kathleen Strotzman. "I learned one simple lesson from my time on the hill, knowledge is power. Angels in Adoption is meant to give Members of Congress the knowledge they need to use the power they have toward making the dream of a family a reality for every child."

In addition to the more than 190 local angels from around the country, several National *Angels* will also be recognized at the ceremony and gala for their dedication and commitment nationally and internationally to child welfare on a grand scale. Former “National Angels” include First Lady Laura Bush, Patti LaBelle, Jane Seymour, Muhammad Ali, the late Dave Thomas, Steven Curtis Chapman, Bruce Willis, Alonzo Mourning, and Marcus Samuelsson.

About Friends of Youth:

Friends of Youth is a not for profit agency dedicated to supporting youth and their families in King and Snohomish counties. Friends of Youth provides a broad range of services to improve its clients’ emotional stability and self-sufficiency, including homeless shelters, transitional housing, outreach, mental health counseling, and substance abuse prevention and treatment. For more information, visit www.friendsofyouth.org, or phone (425) 869-6490.

About the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute:

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (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’s goal is the elimination of the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family.

CCAI was created in 2001 by the active co-chairs of the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) to more effectively raise Congressional and public awareness about the issue of 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 they rely on the generous support of foundations, corporations, and individuals to accomplish their mission. For more information visit <http://www.ccainstitute.org/>

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