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**Senator Kirk Honors Garrett and Heather Boehm as an *Angel in Adoption*[™]
To Be Recognized at National Event in Washington, DC**

Barrington, Illinois – September 30, 2013 – Senator Kirk has selected Garrett and Heather Boehm as 2013 *Angels in Adoption*[™] awardees for their outstanding advocacy of Russian adoption in the face of the January 1, 2013, Russian ban on adoption by American families. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the *Angels in Adoption*[™] program, will honor Garrett and Heather at an awards ceremony on October 8 and gala on October 9 in Washington, DC.

Garrett and Heather are being honored for their advocacy on behalf of their family and about 300 other American families caught in the Russian adoption ban. Garrett and Heather met their daughter in Siberia in November 2012 and planned to complete the adoption in early 2013. Then, the adoption ban was enacted, which halted their adoption proceedings. Garrett and Heather petitioned President Obama, two Secretaries of State, Department of State officials, many members of Congress, Russian President Putin, and Russian Embassy officials in Washington D.C. to lift the ban for those that had begun adoption proceedings in Russia. Although those efforts have not yet been successful, their efforts continue. Their daughter, for now, remains in a Russian orphanage.

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. Each year, more than 140 Angels are honored through the *Angels in Adoption*[™] program.

“The *Angels in Adoption*[™] program is unlike any other program in the Nation's Capital. Because of it, almost 2,000 “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 Capitol 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 140 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. This year's honorees are Korie and Willie Robertson of the popular A&E reality show *Duck Dynasty* and internationally acclaimed actress, director and producer Deborra-Lee Furness Jackman. 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, Rhea Perlman and Kristin Chenoweth.

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 to more effectively raise Congressional and public awareness about adoption.

For more information, visit www.ccainstitute.org or www.angelsinadoption.org.

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