

CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INSTITUTE  
*2012 ANNUAL REPORT*

Did you Know?

**17,800,000** children worldwide have no living parents

**Over half** of foster youth become homeless at some point after they age out

**34%** of children in foster care wait at least two years for a family

***We think these numbers are unacceptable.***

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) educates Members of Congress and decision-makers to raise awareness of the needs of children who do not have a family to call their own. By convening policymakers, issue experts and individuals with direct foster care or adoption experience, CCAI works to ensure that every child benefits from the love and support of a family.

## A Message from the Executive Director

Last week, my five-year-old son, Noah, was playing in the yard with his brother and stumbled on some pavement, skinning his knee. His instant reaction, like almost any child his age, was to come crying to me for comfort. And I, like millions of mothers do every day, scooped him up and deployed the most magical remedy of all--a mother's kiss. Now, ask any doctor whether the best way to heal a recently skinned knee is to cover it in germ-infused saliva, and they will promptly explain the risks associated with this approach. But ask any child who has ever felt the immediate relief that only a parent's kiss can provide, and they will tell you there is no better cure-all.



Why is this?

The relatively complex medical explanation for why a child's brain is wired to both need and receive consistent stimulation from a loving parent can be summed up in three little words: children need families. Brain research clearly shows that children who live in safe, stable and loving families thrive as adults, and children who are deprived of a family will suffer the effects of this deprivation for a lifetime. Despite this certain reality, at this very moment, there are tens of millions of children living outside of a permanent, loving family.

Over the past year, CCAI has worked hard to both encourage governments throughout the world to better understand the problems facing children without families and to engage them in efforts to be part of the solution to this global crisis. We are particularly proud of the role we played in advancing the U.S. Government Action Plan for Children in Adversity, the first ever federal policy to put families first.

This life-altering work would not be possible without the continued support of our Executive and Advisory Boards, our funding partners and countless volunteers. For this, we thank you. Because of you, we are one day closer to a world in which every child knows the healing power of a parent's kiss.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Smith".

# In the News

As part of our work to educate Members of Congress and decision-makers about adoption and foster care issues, CCAI has made a concerted effort to increase media visibility and establish the organization's leadership as child welfare experts.

- ◆ **Roll Call** featured CCAI partner, Sara Start Fund, for its work helping former foster youth transition from their lives in foster care to the professional world.
- ◆ **Washington Post's** *Reliable Source* devoted a half-page spread to the *Angels in Adoption™* gala.
- ◆ **Fox News** interviewed U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and Foster Youth Intern (FYI) R.J. Sloke to raise awareness about the importance of permanency for older foster youth.
- ◆ **NBC4's** Barbara Harrison featured the FYIs in the award-winning "Wednesday's Child" news segment.
- ◆ **CNN** profiled FYI Marchelle Roberts and highlighted how, through her internship, she is working to transform the child welfare system.
- ◆ **The Voice of Russia's** radio program interviewed CCAI Executive Director Kathleen Strottman about the ban on American adoptions of Russian orphans.
- ◆ **Your Adoption Coach with Kelly Ellison** highlighted various *Angels in Adoption™* awardees and interviewed Kathleen about the adoption tax credit.
- ◆ **National Public Radio** included Kathleen on an expert panel to discuss the Russian adoption ban.
- ◆ **Family Life Today's** Dennis Rainey interviewed two former FYIs on a nationwide broadcast.
- ◆ **Award-winning documentary film, *Stuck***, interviewed Kathleen about the barriers families face when adopting internationally.
- ◆ **Washington Times** published an op-ed written by Kathleen about the adoption tax credit.



# Meet R.J.

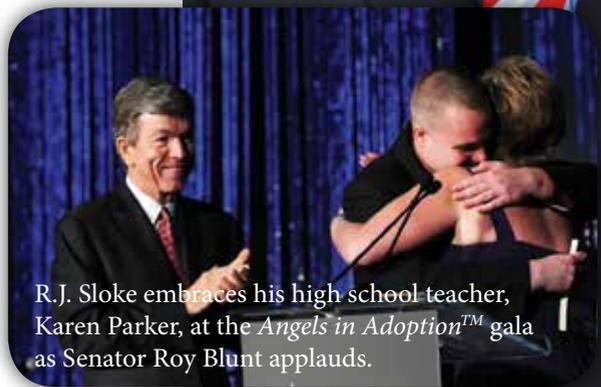
**R.J. Sloke's life story is one of triumph over tragedy and is a testament to the impact that one person can have in the life of a child in foster care. When he entered the foster care system at age 13, R.J. left behind a childhood filled with abuse and neglect—only to replace it with the instability that results from multiple group home placements. R.J. ended up aging out of care when he was 18.**

In the midst of disappointment and turmoil, R.J. met Karen Parker, a teacher who was about to steer his life's path in a completely different direction. At the time, he was repeating the 9th grade for the third time—not because he was earning poor grades but because he had transferred schools so often that his credits had been lost. It wasn't until Ms. Parker took a vested interest in him that R.J. was able to piece together his school credits, graduate from high school, enlist as an Army reservist and attend college.

"For a child who has dwelled in the dark abyss of hopelessness all his life, it only takes one person to save them. It takes one person to restore hope within that youth. It takes one person to let that child know that there is someone out there that genuinely cares about them," R.J. said. "It took me a while to meet that type of person. But when I did, she lit a fire underneath me that led me out of my struggle."

Ms. Parker encouraged R.J. to apply for the Foster Youth Internship (FYI) program, and he became a member of the 2012 class. Not only did he intern with Senator Roy Blunt, but R.J. also developed and presented a policy report at the FYI Congressional Briefing; one of his report recommendations—the A+ Act—became law! After he shared his personal story with Senator Blunt, the senator was inspired to become a lead co-sponsor of the bill, which would ensure that child welfare agencies have access to a youth's academic records. R.J. was asked to share his story—and his success on Capitol Hill—with Fox News, the *Washington Post* and several of his local media outlets.

Speaking about his summer as an FYI, R.J. said, "Never in my life have I had such strong support."



R.J. Sloke embraces his high school teacher, Karen Parker, at the *Angels in Adoption™* gala as Senator Roy Blunt applauds.

# ANGELS IN ADOPTION™



2012 Angel in Adoption™ award recipient Dr. Rachel Fornes and her family

Class of 2012 CCAI Foster Youth Interns



# FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP

"Kevin and I had a wonderful time, and we were so honored to share this time with you and all the Angels. CCAI is an excellent organization and truly understands the work of adoption and the needs of children and families. Your advocacy efforts are so necessary! The award brunch is a special time I will never forget. The gala was amazing and a perfect ending to our visit. All was amazing!"

**Linda Jaeger**  
2012 Angel in Adoption™



In September, CCAI celebrated its 14th annual *Angels in Adoption™* event, where over 140 members of the U.S. Congress honored constituents who have enriched the lives of children without families. These heroes hail from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and represent the wide spectrum of individuals involved in the adoption and foster care process. The Angels travel to Washington, D.C., where they tour the city and participate in three days of activities, including a child advocacy fair and legislative seminar. These activities not only celebrate their hard work and passion for child welfare, but also train them to use their personal experiences to further benefit the lives of children in need of homes. The culminating event of the program is the

*Angels in Adoption™* gala, where CCAI honors individuals who contribute to adoption and foster care on a national level. This year, we had the pleasure of honoring Emmy award-winning actress Katherine Heigl, singer-songwriter Josh Kelley, R&B artist Ne-Yo and PEOPLE Magazine as National *Angels in Adoption™*.



From left to right: Angels in Adoption™ gala; National Angel in Adoption™ awardee and R&B singer, Ne-Yo, signs an autograph for a young fan; Senator Saxby Chambliss presents Eddie Carswell of NewSong Ministry with his Angels in Adoption™ award

This past summer, CCAI hosted 14 current and former foster youth from across the nation who spent ten weeks on Capitol Hill as part of the highly-esteemed Foster Youth Internship (FYI) program. To participate in the program, each intern must be a current college student or graduate and undergo a rigorous application process. The interns work in Congressional offices throughout the summer, as well as spend time researching policy issues affecting foster children across the country. During the program, the interns create a policy report that is presented at a Congressional briefing and released to child welfare advocates across the country. Because of their own unique experiences, these interns are able to offer Members of Congress important new perspectives regarding adoption and foster care issues. Since its inception in 2003, over 130 former foster youth from across the country have produced five legislative reports and have hosted ten Congressional briefings. Over 100 specific policy recommendations have been presented to federal policymakers, and this year, two of the proposals were enacted into federal law!



From left to right: FYIs Tawny Spinelli and Dashun Jackson present their policy recommendations at the FYI Congressional Briefing; 2012 FYI Briana Dovi with Senator Mary Landrieu; FYIs at a retreat at Deep Creek Lake, MD

"CCAI allowed me to taste, touch and live my dreams of being the change I wish to see in the world. In retrospect, I developed natural and meaningful, permanent connections, which is the part of the internship that I could not be more thankful for. I can honestly say that the Foster Youth Internship was life-changing."

**Talitha James**  
2012 Foster Youth Intern

# 20/20 VISION



# 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

*"CCAI is to be commended for their commitment to the highest standards of excellence as they continue to implement their 20/20 Vision Program. I really believe that abused and neglected children throughout the country and the world have more hopeful futures because of the work CCAI is doing."*

**Bethany Haley, Office of Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)**



CCAI traveled to Guatemala with members of Congress and representatives from the U.S. State Department for a 20/20 Vision trip in April. The group met with the President of Guatemala and other leaders to discuss the resolution of the pending cases of prospective U.S. adoptive families, as well as the broader strengthening of Guatemala's child welfare and protection systems. These discussions further developed relations and encouraged dialogue between Guatemala and the U.S. In October, CCAI hosted a congressional staff delegation to Ohio. The delegation met with Director Colbert of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services; toured St. Stephens' Community House; received an overview of the Dave Thomas

Foundation for Adoption's Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program; met with Attorney General Mike DeWine; and met with the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children, Families and the Courts. Congressional staff participants expressed a deeper understanding of federal and state financing of permanency policies and successful child welfare programming.

- ◆ **In January**, CCAI initiated the Adoption Tax Credit Working Group (ATCWG). As the group's secretariat, CCAI helped to lead the adoption tax credit advocacy efforts of 145 adoption-related organizations.
- ◆ **In February**, CCAI supported the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as it hosted a roundtable discussion on intercountry adoptions, focusing on the need for universal accreditation.
- ◆ **In April**, CCAI continued its five-year advocacy for improvements to Guatemala's child welfare and international adoption programs. In addition to traveling with two high-level Congressional delegations to Guatemala, CCAI launched its *Pathways to Permanency* project, a one year information and training exchange program.
- ◆ **In May**, CCAI worked with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) Co-Chair, Representative Karen Bass, and the National Working Group on Foster Care and

- Education to spur the introduction of the "A Plus Act," a bill to allow social workers to access the school records of foster youth.
- ◆ **In June**, several of CCAI's 2012 Foster Youth Interns were featured in a Senate Finance Committee briefing focused on adoption policy, disruption and dissolution.
- ◆ **In October**, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate both issued National Adoption Day Resolutions.
- ◆ **In November**, Senator Mary Landrieu, Kathleen Strottman and a local adoptive family celebrated adoption with the New Orleans Saints at an on-field event prior to their November 25th game.
- ◆ **In December**, Kathleen Strottman was included on a panel of key supporters at the White House launch event for the Action Plan on Children in Adversity.
- ◆ **In December**, CCAI helped found and was asked to serve as a co-chair of the Children

in Adversity Policy Partnership (CAPP), a coalition of U.S.-based advocacy organizations, individuals and experts dedicated to accelerating bold and strategic U.S. policy action concerning children in adversity.

### Key Results

- ◆ **In December**, Senator John Kerry introduced the Foster Youth Higher Education Act as a result of a policy recommendation from an FYI.
- ◆ **On January 3, 2013**, Congress passed the Uninterrupted Scholars Act (Senate version of the APLUS Act) into law. Key Republican sponsor Roy Blunt cites experience with FYI R.J. Sloke as his inspiration for supporting the bill.
- ◆ **On January 2, 2013** the American Taxpayer Relief Act was signed to permanently extend the adoption tax credit.
- ◆ **On January 14, 2013**, Congress signed the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 into law.

*From top to bottom: A candid shot of Guatemalan children taken during a delegational visit; Congressional staff who participated in the delegation to Guatemala; Kathleen Strottman with a child in Guatemala*

## Statement of Financial Position

| <b>Current Assets</b>                   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents               | \$377,250        |
| Accounts receivable                     | \$5,000          |
| Other current assets                    | \$4,349          |
| <b>Total current assets</b>             | <b>\$385,599</b> |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                     |                  |
| Computer/peripherals                    | \$43,736         |
| Furniture                               | \$13,393         |
| Accumulated depreciation                | (\$55,304)       |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>               | <b>\$1,825</b>   |
| <b>Total assets</b>                     | <b>\$388,424</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                      |                  |
| Accounts payable                        | \$445            |
| Other current liabilities               | \$24,452         |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>        | <b>\$24,897</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                       |                  |
| Unrestricted                            | \$226,290        |
| Temporarily restricted                  | \$137,237        |
| Permanently restricted                  | ---              |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                 | <b>\$363,527</b> |
| <b>Total liabilities and net assets</b> | <b>\$388,424</b> |

## Statement of Activities

| Revenues                                   | Unrestricted       | Temporarily Restricted | Total              |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Angels in Adoption                         | \$1,434            | ---                    | \$1,434            |
| Fostering Media Connections                | ---                | \$116,092              | \$116,092          |
| Restricted-other                           | ---                | \$480,600              | \$480,600          |
| Sara Start funds                           | \$32,500           | ---                    | \$32,500           |
| Board member contributions                 | \$110,482          | ---                    | \$110,482          |
| Individual/general donations               | \$36,128           | ---                    | \$36,128           |
| Miscellaneous contributions                | \$1,467            | ---                    | \$1,467            |
| Unrestricted-other                         | \$9,927            | ---                    | \$9,927            |
| Partnerships                               | \$457,481          | ---                    | \$457,481          |
| Net assets released from re-<br>strictions | \$596,692          | (\$596,692)            | ---                |
| <b>Total revenues and support</b>          | <b>\$1,246,111</b> | <b>---</b>             | <b>\$1,246,111</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                            |                    |                        |                    |
| Program services                           | \$1,280,244        | ---                    | \$1,280,244        |
| Management and general                     | \$52,921           | ---                    | \$52,921           |
| Fundraising                                | \$25,627           | ---                    | \$25,627           |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                      | <b>\$1,358,792</b> | <b>---</b>             | <b>\$1,358,792</b> |
| Change in net assets                       | (\$112,681)        | ---                    | (\$112,681)        |
| <b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>       | <b>\$338,971</b>   | <b>\$137,237</b>       | <b>\$476,208</b>   |
| <b>Net assets, end of year</b>             | <b>\$226,290</b>   | <b>\$137,237</b>       | <b>\$363,527</b>   |

CCAI's financial statements are audited by Ferguson's Accounting Services, Inc.  
For a full set of the audited financial statements, please contact [dan@ccainstitute.org](mailto:dan@ccainstitute.org).

## Board of Directors

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Jack Gerard, Chair<br><i>American Petroleum Institute</i> |  |
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| Ralph F. Boyd, Jr.<br><i>Freddie Mac Foundation</i>       | Tracy Schar<br><i>Comstock Homebuilding</i>    |
| Laura Wheat<br><i>Mayor of West Lake, Texas</i>           | Stuart Williams<br><i>People's United Bank</i> |

## Advisory Board

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, Chair (D-LA)<br>Sarah Gesiriech, Vice Chair |                                  |
| Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)                                       | Kerry Marks Hasenbalg            |
| Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)   | Daniel Heimpel                   |
| Elizabeth Black  | Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK)         |
| Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)   | McLane Layton                    |
| Lucas Boyce  | Lisa Martin                      |
| Gov. Sam Brownback (R-KS)  | Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)        |
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| Rob Geen   | Former Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR)  |
| Philip Goldman   | Rita Soronen                     |
|  | Kevin Sullivan                   |

## 2012 CCAI Partners

As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our partners to accomplish our mission. We would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and foundations for supporting us as we work to ensure that every child has received their basic human right to a safe, loving and permanent family.

### Platinum (\$50,000 & above)

American Petroleum Institute • The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Comstock Homebuilding • Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption  
Freddie Mac Foundation

### Gold (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Casey Family Programs • Chevron • Cornerstone Foundation  
Elmer & Sandra Doty • Exxon • Fluor • Ken & Barbara Strotman  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

### Silver (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation • CenterPoint Energy • Disney  
Lindsay & Henry Ellenbogen Charitable Trust • FedEx • Jack & Claudette Gerard  
Amy R. & Philip S. Goldman Foundation  
The J. Willard & Alice S. Marriott Foundation • Mehlman, Vogel, Castagnetti, Inc.  
Occidental Petroleum Corporation • PhRma • Textron

### Bronze (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

America World Adoption • American Academy of Adoption Attorneys  
Bethany Christian Services • David & Katherine Bradley • Buckner International  
Scott & Kerry Hasenbalg • Hershey Corporation • Holt International  
Madeleine Landrieu • Mary Landrieu • Luzerne Foundation  
Marathon Oil • Marathon Petroleum  
Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation • Van Scoyoc Associates

### Friend (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Adams & Reese • American Beverage Association • Jeff & Lisa Brooks  
Center for Adoption Policy • Gladney Center for Adoption  
Independent Petroleum Association of America • KidSave  
Mixed Roots Foundation • Murphy Oil • Anne Reese • Spokeo • Williams Companies

And the judge said to me, “Mary, what do you want from  
life?”” and I said, “I want what everyone wants  
. . . I want a family.”

*-Mary, CCAI Foster Youth Intern*



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