

**CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON
ADOPTION INSTITUTE**

ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

Virtual Gala



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021
23RD ANNUAL PROGRAM**

Gala Program

Welcome

Kate McLean, Executive Director

Message from the Board of Directors Chair

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu

2021 National Angels in Adoption® Award

Hoda Kotb

Message from the Adoption Caucus Bipartisan Leadership

Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Roy Blunt, Representative Adam Smith, and Representative Robert Aderholt

2021 National Angels in Adoption® Award

Tatyana McFadden

2021 Angels in Adoption® Honoree Recognition

2021 National Angels in Adoption® Award

Jenny and Dave Marrs

"Fostering the Future" Announcement

Joyce Rogers

Message from 2021 Congressional Foster Youth Intern

Hailey D'Elia

Thank You to Our Partners

Closing

Kate McLean

Welcome Message from CCAI

As we celebrate the 23rd year of the Angels in Adoption® Leadership Program and Gala, CCAI is proud to work alongside the Adoption Caucus on this annual public awareness program to recognize the extraordinary work and impact of our Angel honorees on behalf of children in need of safe and nurturing families. For over two decades, the Angels program has connected the powerful commitment of leaders in Congress to the extraordinary leadership and impact of so many individuals across the country on behalf of adoption and foster care.

This year, there are nearly 75 incredible Angels in Adoption® from 40 states, 78 participating Members of Congress, and three National Angels. Our Angels are adoptees, former foster youth, foster parents, adoptive parents, judges, social workers, scholars, lawyers, volunteers, nonprofit leaders, and fierce advocates – all champions in their communities across the United States. CCAI is honored to help give a platform to these champions on Capitol Hill.

We have sincere gratitude for the leadership from our Board of Directors and Advisory Council as well as support from faithful partners. We give special thanks to: American Council of Life Insurers, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Arnold & Porter, BEB, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Carlson Family Foundation, Casey Family Programs, Comcast NBCUniversal, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, General Motors, Retail Orphan Initiative, Rita M. Lewis.

Thank you for joining us for tonight's event! We look forward to celebrating this special night with you.

In community,



Kate McLean
Executive Director



Taylor Draddy
Senior Director of Policy

2021 Partners

Director Partners

(\$75,000+)

Arnold & Porter
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Signature Partners

(\$50,000 - \$74,999)

Carlson Family Foundation

Champion Partners

(\$30,000 - \$49,999)

General Motors
Rita M. Lewis

Leader Partners

(\$25,000 - \$29,999)

American Council of Life Insurers
The Annie E. Casey Foundation
BEB
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Casey Family Programs
Comcast NBCUniversal
Retail Orphan Initiative

Gold Partners

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

American Retirement Association
ConocoPhillips
Laborers' International Union of North America
The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation
The Paul and Teri Singer Family Foundation
Susan B. Hirschmann
Susan K. Neely
Williams & Jensen

Silver Partners

(\$7,500 - \$9,999)

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Bronze Partners

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

Academy of Adoption & Assisted
Reproduction Attorneys
American Beverage Association
American Petroleum Institute
Amgen
Amy and Phillip Goldman
Binti
The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers
Cox Enterprises
Holt International
Insured Retirement Institute
Invariant
Jane and Greg Castanias
Joyce and Don Meyer
Kelly and Geoffrey Gage
Mary Landrieu and Frank Snellings
MassMutual
NCTA
New York Life
News Media Alliance
NextEra Energy
Pacific Life
Renee and Brian Luwis
Sara and Joel Fagen
The Russell Group
Unum

Friend Partners

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

David C. Bartlett
Gary LaBranche
Gift of Adoption
Kim Carver
Larry Turner and Ricky Chapman
Lindsey Markus
Lisa and Jeffrey Brooks
Mark Solomon
National Council for Adoption
National Football League
PepsiCo
Principal Financial Group

Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus Members

117th Congress

U.S. Senate Co-Chairs: Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

U.S. House Co-Chairs: Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Adam Smith (D-WA)

Alabama

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R)*
Rep. Barry Moore (R)

Alaska

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)

Arizona

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D)
Rep. Raul Grijalva (D)
Rep. David Schweikert (R)
Rep. Andy Biggs (R)

Arkansas

Sen. John Boozman (R)
Sen. Tom Cotton (R)
Rep. Bruce Westerman (R)
Rep. French Hill (R)

California

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D)
Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán (D)
Rep. Karen Bass (D)
Rep. Ami Bera (D)
Rep. Julia Brownley (D)
Rep. Ken Calvert (R)
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D)
Rep. Jared Huffman (D)
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D)
Rep. Doris Matsui (D)
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D)
Rep. Adam Schiff (D)
Rep. Brad Sherman (D)
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D)
Rep. Tony Cardenas (D)

Colorado

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R)
Rep. Joe Neguse (D)

Connecticut

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D)
Rep. Jim Himes (D)

Delaware

Sen. Christopher Coons (D)
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D)

District of Columbia

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D)

Florida

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R)
Rep. John Rutherford (R)

Georgia

Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R)
Rep. David Scott (D)

Idaho

Sen. James Risch (R)

Illinois

Sen. Richard Durbin (D)
Rep. Danny Davis (D)

Indiana

Sen. Mike Braun (R)
Rep. Andre Carson (D)

Iowa

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R)

Kansas

Sen. Jerry Moran (R)
Rep. Sharice Davids (D)

Kentucky

Rep. James Comer (R)

Louisiana

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R)
Sen. John Kennedy (R)
Rep. Garret Graves (R)
Rep. Mike Johnson (R)
Rep. Steve Scalise (R)

Maine

Sen. Susan Collins (R)
Sen. Angus King, Jr. (I)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D)

Maryland

Sen. Ben Cardin (D)
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D)

Massachusetts

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D)
Rep. Seth Moulton (D)

Michigan

Sen. Gary Peters (D)
Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D)
Rep. Bill Huizenga (R)
Rep. Dan Kildee (D)
Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence (D)
Rep. John Moolenaar (R)
Rep. Fred Upton (R)
Rep. Tim Walberg (R)
Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D)

Caucus Members

(continued)

Minnesota

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D)*
Sen. Tina Smith (D)
Rep. Dean Phillips (D)
Rep. Pete Steuber (R)
Rep. Tom Emmer (R)
Rep. Angie Craig (D)
Rep. Betty McCollum (D)

Mississippi

Sen. Roger F. Wicker (R)
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)
Rep. Trent Kelly (R)

Missouri

Sen. Roy Blunt (R)*
Sen. Josh Hawley (R)
Rep. Ann Wagner (R)
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D)
Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R)
Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R)
Rep. Jason Smith (R)
Rep. Sam Graves (R)

Montana

Sen. Steve Daines (R)

Nebraska

Rep. Don Bacon (R)

Nevada

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D)

New Hampshire

Sen. Maggie Hassan (D)
Rep. Ann McLane Kuster (D)

New Jersey

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D)
Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D)
Rep. Christopher Smith (R)
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D)

New York

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D)
Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D)
Rep. Sean Maloney (D)
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D)

North Carolina

Sen. Richard Burr (R)
Sen. Thom Tillis (R)
Rep. Greg Murphy (D)
Rep. David Rouzer (R)

North Dakota

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R)

Ohio

Rep. Dave Joyce (R)
Rep. Steve Stivers (R)
Rep. Joyce Beatty (D)

Oklahoma

Sen. James Inhofe (R)
Sen. James Lankford (R)
Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R)
Rep. Tom Cole (R)
Rep. Stephanie Bice (R)

Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden (D)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D)
Rep. Peter DeFazio (D)
Rep. Kurt Schrader (D)

Pennsylvania

Sen. Robert Casey, Jr. (D)
Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)
Rep. Mike Doyle (D)
Rep. Mike Kelly (R)
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R)
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R)

Rhode Island

Rep. James Langevin (D)

South Carolina

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R)
Rep. Joe Wilson (R)
Rep. Ralph Norman (R)

South Dakota

Sen. John Thune (R)
Sen. Mike Rounds (R)
Rep. Dusty Johnson (R)

Tennessee

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R)
Rep. Jim Cooper (D)

Texas

Rep. Kevin Brady (R)
Rep. John Carter (R)
Rep. Joaquin Castro (D)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D)
Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D)
Rep. Kay Granger (R)
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D)

Utah

Rep. Blake Moore (R)

Vermont

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D)

Virginia

Sen. Mark Warner (D)
Rep. Rob Wittman (R)
Rep. Ben Cline (R)

Washington

Sen. Patty Murray (D)
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)
Rep. Adam Smith (D)*
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)

West Virginia

Sen. Joe Manchin, III (D)

Wisconsin

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D)
Rep. Mike Gallagher (R)
Rep. Ron Kind (D)
Rep. Glenn Grothman (R)
Rep. Mark Pocan (D)
Rep. Bryan Steil (R)

2021 National Angels in Adoption Honoree

Hoda Kotb

Co-Anchor, NBC News' TODAY; Co-Host, TODAY with Hoda & Jenna



Hoda Kotb is the co-anchor of NBC News' TODAY and co-host of TODAY with Hoda & Jenna. Kotb joined TODAY as a co-host of the fourth hour in 2008, alongside Kathie Lee Gifford. Kathie Lee & Hoda was hailed as "appointment television" by Entertainment Weekly, "uproarious and irresistible" by People, and "TODAY's happy hour" by USA Today.

Since joining NBC News in 1998, Kotb has served as a correspondent for Dateline NBC. She has covered a wide variety of domestic and international stories across all NBC News platforms as well as numerous human-interest stories and

features. She covered the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a story personal to Kotb who lived in New Orleans for six years. Additionally, she reported on the war in Iraq, the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza, and the War on Terror in Afghanistan. Kotb was a part of the network's extensive coverage of the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, 2012 Summer Olympics in London, 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, and 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

A New York Times bestselling author, Kotb has written six books: *You Are My Happy; I've Loved You Since Forever; Where We Belong; Ten Years Later: Six People Who Faced Adversity and Transformed Their Lives; Hoda: How I Survived War Zones, Bad Hair, Cancer and Kathie Lee; I Really Needed This Today*. Kotb is 12-year breast cancer survivor and is involved in several initiatives to raise awareness about the disease.

Kotb was recognized with a 2019 Emmy Award for Outstanding Informative Talk Show Host for her work on TODAY with Kathie Lee and Hoda. In 2010, 2011, and 2012, Kotb was awarded Daytime Emmys as part of TODAY's recognition as the best morning news program. In 2016, she received a Gracie Award for Outstanding Host in Entertainment/Information for her radio show, The Hoda Show on SiriusXM. In 2015, she was honored with a Gracie Award for Outstanding Host in News/Non-fiction and a Webby Award for her 'Truly Brave' music video, which focuses on pediatric cancer. Kotb received additional Gracie Awards in 2008 and 2003, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University award in 2008, a Peabody Award in 2006 for her "Dateline NBC" report, "The Education of Ms. Groves," and a 2002 Edward R. Murrow Award.

Kotb graduated from Virginia Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism. She resides in New York City with her two daughters, Haley Joy and Hope Catherine, and her boyfriend Joel Schiffman.

2021 National Angels in Adoption Honoree

Tatyana McFadden

*Russian Adoptee, Elite Athlete: 20-time Paralympian &
25 Major Marathon Victories, Emmy Award winner*



Tatyana McFadden is considered the fastest woman in the world. She has 20 Paralympic medals, 25 World Major Marathon wins including four consecutive Grand Slams (first place in Boston, Chicago, NYC, and London marathons in the same year) and has broken five world records in track and field.

There are very few athletes in history who have achieved so much under such unique circumstances. Born with spina bifida, Tatyana McFadden spent the first six years of her life in a Russian orphanage with virtually nothing, not even a wheelchair. Paralyzed from the waist down, and with no other

way to move, she learned to walk on her hands to keep up with the other children. Little did she know that the powerful arms and hands she began to develop as a small child would someday carry her around the globe as one of the world's greatest athletes.

In 1993, Tatyana was adopted and her parents brought her to the United States and gave her a new start on life. In the USA, Tatyana enrolled in sports programs as a way to build her strength. Tatyana tried many sports but from the start she fell in love with wheelchair racing - a sport in which her powerful arms immediately brought success.

In 2004, at the age of 15, Tatyana made her Paralympic debut in Athens. She was the youngest member of Team USA and returned from Greece with a silver and bronze medal and a hunger to become the best. Since, she has participated in the Paralympic Games of 2008 in Beijing, 2012 in London, 2016 in Rio, and 2021 in Tokyo.

In 2020, she worked both in front of and behind the camera as a producer and star of "Rising Phoenix", the Netflix original drama that tells the story of the Paralympic Movement through the lives of nine Paralympic athletes. The film was released in August 2020 to critical acclaim.

Tatyana has received her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Illinois as well as her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies at U of I. Tatyana is actively involved in advancing the rights of people with disabilities. McFadden's efforts are credited for the passage of the Maryland Fitness and Athletics Equity for Students with Disabilities Act, requiring schools to give students with disabilities the opportunity to compete in interscholastic athletics, as well as federal legislation that ensures students with disabilities across the USA have equal access.

2021 National Angels in Adoption Honoree

Jenny and Dave Marrs

HGTV's Fixer to Fabulous home renovation duo



Home renovators Dave and Jenny Marrs bring old houses back to life in HGTV's Fixer to Fabulous. With a little love and a lot of talent, the husband-wife duo restores timeworn homes into contemporary living spaces in their hometown of Bentonville, Arkansas. Together since 2004, they built around thirty homes a year and run Marrs Developing, a company that specializes in the renovation and restoration of historic homes in the Northwest Arkansas area.

Dave is an expert craftsman, builder, general contractor, and all-around handyman while Jenny is a designer and the creative backbone of their renovations. They live in a rescued and

restored farm house with their five little kiddos – twin boys, two daughters, and a toddler: Nathan, Ben, Sylvie, Charlotte, and Luke. Jenny and Dave are passionate about orphan care, family preservation, and adoption. They adopted their daughter Sylvie from the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2014. The Marrs family waited over 600 days to meet Sylvie due to a Congolese government shutdown. After a trip to Congo to visit the U.S. embassy, Sylvie was able to fly to the United States to meet her forever family after two long years.

The Marrs family also started a blueberry farm, The Berry Farm, in Northwest Arkansas. At its simplest, the u-pick farm and its event barn allows local families to enjoy the experience of filling their own buckets with fresh, local berries and holding events in the gorgeous newly-renovated event venue. However, the real mission of The Berry Farm is a domino effect rippling from Northwest Arkansas to Zimbabwe, where profits support vocational training, farming skills and food for orphaned children.



CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INSTITUTE'S

ANGELS IN ADOPTION

Virtual Gala

2021 Angels in Adoption Honorees

A Better Way Inc. (California)

A Family For Every Child (Oregon)

Abbey Dohm (Kansas)

Adalay Wilson (Virginia)

Aldea Children and Family Services (California)

Amanda and John Mark Creamer (Montana)

Amy and Jeremy Janzen (Nebraska)

Angela Gomes (Rhode Island)

The Baby Fold (Illinois)

Barbara and Frank Johnson (Washington)

Boys Farm Inc. (South Carolina)

Bridget and Jason Bennett (South Dakota)

Bridget and Peter Morningstar (Maine)

Caley and Jonathan Neely Family (Kentucky)

Carol and Jon Mielke (North Dakota)

Carol and Roy Shotts (Missouri)

Carole Kinlow (Nebraska)

Catherine Nagl (Nebraska)

Cecelia and Mike Battle (Maryland)

Christina Bach (Mississippi)

Community Care Alliance (Rhode Island)

Crystal and Bryan Venable (Nebraska)

Dawn Adams (Alaska)

DeJuna and Brent McDonald (Oklahoma)

Donna and Kevin Cotton (Kentucky)

Elizabeth Carper (Louisiana)

Elizabeth Neary (Wisconsin)

2021 Angels in Adoption Honorees

(continued)

Elizabeth Terhune Occhipinti (New Jersey)

Emily and Chris Norton (Iowa)

Eva Ford (California)

Friends of Children (Massachusetts)

Foster Together (Missouri)

Glen Mangold (Illinois)

Graham Kidder (Vermont)

Hoang Murphy (Minnesota)

Jami and Curt Cook (Missouri)

Jane Jensen Saint (Nevada)

Jennifer and Jay Martin Family (Missouri)

Jess and Robby Followell (Mississippi)

Jessica and Brandon Satterfield (South Carolina)

Jessica Marra (Florida)

Judge David Matlock (Louisiana)

Julie Casimiro (Rhode Island)

Kayxandra and David Koonce (Oklahoma)

Kristine Altwies (Hawaii)

Lauren and Charles Wade Family (New Hampshire)

Lindsey and Joshua Redfern Family (Utah)

Linzie and Ray Mullins Family (Tennessee)

Lions Meadows of Hope (Oklahoma)

Lisa and Wesley Rager Family (Georgia)

Marcel Rivas (Florida)

Marjorie Nielsen (Louisiana)

Matthew Peiffer (Indiana)

2021 Angels in Adoption Honorees

(continued)

Melanie Borges (Rhode Island)

Melissa and Daneen Cline (Pennsylvania)

Melvin Roy (Virginia)

Nicole and Scott Klingler (Idaho)

Robert Carter III (Ohio)

Ruth Tincher Kelly (Ohio)

Ryan Young (Arizona)

Sandra and Chad Lee Family (South Dakota)

Sarah and Terry Reyelts Family (South Dakota)

Senator T'wina Nobles (Washington)

Sonia and Patrick True (Washington)

St. Elizabeth Foundation (Louisiana)

Steven Sarisohn (New York)

Steven Sunday (Utah)

Susan and Jim Wood (Tennessee)

Transitions Children's Services (California)

Voices for Children (Maryland)

Board of Directors

Mary Landrieu, Chair



Senator Mary Landrieu served in the United States Senate for three terms, first elected in 1996. As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee – and then, ultimately, as Chair of that Committee – she passed several important pieces of legislation; most notably the landmark Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA); the Israel American Energy Alliance; and the RESTORE Act – the single largest federal investment in the Gulf Coast in U.S. history.

She also served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Appropriations Committee, and chaired the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. In her role as Chair of the Small Business Committee, she was the lead sponsor of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, which helped to create and retain over 650,000 American jobs.

During her time in the Senate, Landrieu was known for her bipartisan approach to addressing national challenges and for her passionate advocacy for her home state of Louisiana, particularly in the aftermaths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Prior to serving in the U.S. Senate, she served in the Louisiana State Legislature from 1979 – 1987. For eight years, she successfully championed causes related to women and children, flood protection, and education reform. In 1987, she was elected State Treasurer and served with distinction for two terms. Strong fiscal management, pension fund diversification, debt limitation, and the creation of the first-ever municipal investment fund (now valued at over \$2 billion) are some of her noteworthy accomplishments.

Senator Landrieu serves on the Board of Directors of CenturyLink, the second largest US communications provider to global enterprise customers. In the non-profit space, she serves on the boards of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools; Resources for the Future; and chairs the Board of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (which represents over 175 Members of Congress who work in a bipartisan fashion, supporting and finding families for orphan children here in the US and around the world).

She graduated from Louisiana State University and is married to Frank Snellings, an attorney and real estate broker in Washington, DC. They have two grown children and one grandchild.

Board of Directors

Susan K. Neely, Vice Chair



Susan K. Neely is the president and CEO of the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI), the nation's leading trade association dedicated to providing products and services that contribute to Americans' financial and retirement security. As president and CEO, Neely drives public policy and advocacy on behalf of ACLI's member companies that represent 95 percent of industry assets and serve 90 million families.

Neely has long been recognized as a leading voice in public policy and advocacy in Washington, D.C. She served as special assistant to President George W. Bush and helped create the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and later became the first DHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Neely was a senior executive at the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA), where she designed award-winning national advocacy programs and initiatives, like HIAA's ground-breaking Harry & Louise campaign.

Most recently, she led the American Beverage Association (ABA) for 13 years as president and CEO. Under her leadership, ABA instituted first-of-their-kind initiatives with President Clinton's Global Initiative and First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign. These partnerships decreased calories from beverages sold in schools by 90 percent, put transparent calorie labels on millions of beverage containers, and reduced sugar consumed from beverages in the American diet.

Neely has been named Trade Association CEO of the year by two different national organizations. She is a past chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Association Committee of 100 of the largest trade associations and the American Society of Association Executives.

A native of Iowa, Neely holds an undergraduate degree in journalism and French civilization from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in public administration from Drake University. She is the mother of two children, Eve and Ben.

Board of Directors

Brian H. Graff, Treasurer



Brian H. Graff, Esq., is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Retirement Association, the umbrella organization for the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA), the ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries (ACOPA), the National Association of Plan Advisors (NAPA), the National Tax-deferred Savings Association (NTSA), and the Plan Sponsor Council of America (PSCA). Graff oversees the American Retirement Association's operations, and working with the

Board of Directors, charts the strategic direction for the organization. Graff also serves as the Executive Director of ASPPA and NAPA. The American Retirement Association is a national organization of more than 25,000 retirement plan professionals who provide advisory and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering tens of millions of American workers. In addition to representing the interests of its members before Congress and federal regulatory agencies on a combined basis, the American Retirement Association annually conducts more than a dozen industry conferences, and annually administers more than 5,000 examinations leading to various industry-related professional credentials.

Graff actively speaks on behalf of the retirement plan system and has been quoted in The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and interviewed by various television outlets. He has testified on retirement policy issues before Congress and various federal regulators on numerous occasions.

An attorney (District of Columbia) and certified public accountant (New York-inactive), Graff was formerly Legislation Counsel to the U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Taxation where he provided policy and technical analysis relating to employee benefits, health care and Social Security to members of Congress. While working for Congress, Graff participated in the development of legislation, including the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Graff was associated with the Washington, DC, law firm, The Groom Law Group, which specializes in employee benefits. Graff received his doctoral degree in law, cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia.

Board of Directors

Susan B. Hirschmann, Secretary



Susan B. Hirschmann is Chairman of the Board and CEO of Williams & Jensen, having served as a Principal in the firm since 2002. Williams & Jensen is consistently ranked as one of the top lobby firms and is proud to be one of Washington, D.C.'s oldest independent lobbying firms.

Hailed as one of D.C.'s premier lobbyists, Susan has a reputation for effective advocacy and creative strategies. She has helped clients achieve success on issues ranging

from health care and taxation to financial services, transportation, education, and appropriations. Whether it was working with a client to secure tax permanency for 529 education savings accounts, which was the first Bush Era tax cut to be made permanent; running the coalition to pass Medicare Part D; securing a rare Jones Act Waiver; or securing funding for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) after it had been removed from the President's budget; Susan's ability to win on tough issues is why her clients believe that there is no one better at "snatching victory out of the jaws of defeat."

Additionally, Susan brings a breadth of expertise in third-party coalition building and grassroots organizing. Her experience in state, local, and national youth politics and her years spent working for a national activist women's organization gave her the background to found Integrated Legislative Strategies – an organization which pairs grassroots programs with legislative strategy, and where she oversees dozens of field staff across the country and works to build successful coalitions.

Prior to joining Williams & Jensen, Susan was Chief of Staff to the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives. During her time working for House Leadership, she worked with Congress and the White House to develop and execute strategy on major trade, health care, and tax issues. This experience gave her an intimate understanding of and ability to advise clients on the intricacy of the inner workings of the Hill.

Susan has been recognized for her achievements in D.C. She has been named her one of D.C.'s top lobbyists, one of the most powerful women in Washington, and one of the top 100 most highly regarded staffers on Capitol Hill. She is also a strong voice on behalf of women, having served as one of three U.S. delegates to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women in 2005, and having written an essay for Harvard University's John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics' book: *Skirting Tradition: Women in Politics Speak to the Next Generation*, while serving as a visiting fellow.

Board of Directors

Kim Carver



Kim Carver is the Senior Vice President of Government Relations at Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Company in New Orleans, Louisiana. In that role, Kim handles all relationships and efforts with federal, state and local elected officials on behalf of the bank. Additionally, he manages the human resources and corporate training departments and represents the bank with numerous economic development and community organizations.

Kim holds a bachelor's in Biological & Environmental Engineering from the Louisiana State University and completed his Masters of Business Administration from the University of New Orleans. He holds certificates from the Graduate School of Banking at LSU and LSU Continuing Education Department in Human Resource Management. Kim is a fellow of the Institute of Politics at Loyola University in New Orleans and the Early Childhood Policy Leadership Institute at Tulane University Medical School.

Kim is a fierce advocate in the field of foster care and adoption. Through his personal journey through foster care and adoption, Kim joined several friends in starting CrossroadsNOLA – a faith based non-profit organization that recruits, supports and develops high quality/high caliber foster families for the 5,000+ Louisiana children in care. He partnered with New Orleans based culinary phenomenon District Donuts Sliders & Brew to launch a food truck – the District Streatcar – to raise public awareness about the plight of children in foster care in Louisiana, to give the public a lower barrier of entry to be involved in solving the problem & to generate a revenue stream for the work of recruiting foster families as 100% of the profits from the food truck support the work of CrossroadsNOLA.

Along with Dean of the Loyola School of Law in New Orleans Madeleine Landrieu, state Senator Ronnie Johns, Speaker Pro Tem Walt Leger, Kim founded the Louisiana Institute of Children in Families – an organization to support the work of a foster and adoption caucus within the Louisiana Legislature. He serves on the Advisory Board for Secretary Marketa Walters of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services.

Kim and his wife Kristyn Smith Carver, PhD live in Mandeville with their three daughters Ellie, Caroline, and Suzie. All adopted, and the youngest from foster care, Kim's daughters are his inspiration for dedicating his time and resources towards improving the outcomes for children in care in Louisiana.

Board of Directors

Kelly Gage



Kelly is an accomplished public speaker, educator, advisor, and philanthropist, with nearly 20 years of experience with foundations and NGOs dealing with human trafficking, public media, arts and culture, education, and community development. She is passionate about fighting exploitation in women and children. Prior to joining Nomi Network, Kelly served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Apparel, Merchandising and Design at St. Catherine University.

Kelly holds a doctorate in apparel studies from the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel at the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in Art History from the University of St. Thomas and a bachelor's degree in economics from Northwestern University. She has also sat on the boards of the World Childhood Foundation, an organization that combats the sexual exploitation of women and children, and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Aside from being an analytical thinker and an impeccable dresser, Kelly is the proud mom of two sets of twins.

Kelly shows excellent relationship building and management skills throughout professional, academic, and social circles and utilizes her vast experience mentoring, coaching, and serving as a valuable resource to colleagues, students and graduates. Kelly's particular areas of international expertise are Brazil, Cambodia, and India. Her areas of specialization include Afro Brazilian slave dress, major gifts development, relationship building, development of grant-making programs, and Portuguese. Kelly was a board member at the Carlson Family Foundation between 1197 to 2003 as well.

Board of Directors

Sarah Gesiriech



Sarah Gesiriech is Principal for 127 Global Strategies, a public policy and government relations consultancy which advances innovative public policy, programs, and advocacy for nonprofits, foundations, corporations, and faith-based organizations both domestically and globally with a primary focus on domestic and global child and family protection, global women's initiatives, inclusive development, and diversity and inclusion.

Most recently she served as the U.S. Government Special Advisor on Children in Adversity, where she led a response on the part of the U.S. Government to the world's most vulnerable children. She also served as Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau where she provided leadership for the Agency's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Inclusive Development Hubs, while also serving as the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Sarah has more than 25 years of experience in improving the lives of children, youth, and families, both domestically and globally. Sarah served in the highest executive branch offices and the U.S. Congress, including USAID, the White House where she was a member of the Domestic Policy Council, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education, and as a senior adviser to U.S. Senator Charles Grassley.

In addition to her public service experiences, she has extensive knowledge in government relations and foundations having served as Executive Director of the Faith to Action Initiative, Director of Federal Relations for Casey Family Programs, senior staff on the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, and as Associate Director for Grants/Communications at the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Board of Directors

Rita M. Lewis



Rita M. Lewis is a senior strategist and independent government relations consultant with more than 35 years of experience in managing numerous successful coalitions, issue advocacy, and public affairs campaigns on behalf of Fortune 500 companies as well as national organizations and trade associations. She is President of RML Strategies, a boutique Washington, D.C. consulting firm she started in 2018. Previously, Lewis served a decade as Senior Vice President of NCTA, the Internet and Television Association. During her tenure, she directed congressional relations for some of the industry's most significant technology and telecommunications policy issues. She also pioneered NCTA's efforts to increase education and personal outreach to every Member of Congress and their staff.

Immediately prior to joining NCTA, Lewis was a Partner and the senior Senate Democratic lobbyist for The Washington Group, where she focused on a broad range of issues including telecommunications, transportation, real estate, and health care. In addition to serving in several positions for former U.S. Senate Minority and Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), her experience includes roles as Deputy Executive Director and Political Director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and Director of Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Department of Education.

In 2000, Lewis adopted her daughter, Maria, from Guatemala, and she continues to provide support and information to families considering adoption.

Board of Directors

Joyce Rogers



Joyce Rogers is a senior executive with legal, public policy, government affairs, and political experience. Joyce has a strong track record of legislative and regulatory successes.

Currently, Joyce is the Vice President of US Policy and Public Affairs at Pfizer. She leads Pfizer's US Policy and Public Affairs teams. Previously, Joyce was the Chief Government Affairs Officer for Advocate Aurora Health (AAH). Joyce led AAH's federal and state advocacy. AAH is the 10th largest not-for-profit integrated health care system in the United States and a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience, and value based care.

Before joining AAH, Joyce served as the senior vice president of government affairs at AARP. Joyce led AARP's federal and state advocacy. In this role, she worked with elected officials, patient advocacy groups, private sector companies and industry associations. Joyce was a partner at Williams & Jensen, a Washington, DC-based law firm and represented Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, non-profits, and small businesses. Prior to Williams & Jensen, Joyce was an associate at Verner Liipfert. Early in her career, she worked for two Members of Congress, including House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer. Throughout her career, Joyce has worked on presidential, gubernatorial, congressional and local campaigns. Joyce serves on the Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) Board of Directors and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange Board of Directors.

Joyce is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School and admitted to the District of Columbia and State of Maryland Bar Associations. Joyce has certificates from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth's Executive Management Program, Leadership and Strategic Impact Program; Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, AARP Agile Leadership Program; and Executive Leadership Council's Institute for Leadership & Research, Strengthening the Pipeline Program.

Board of Directors

Rick Spielman



Rick Spielman enters his 9th season as General Manager of the club and 15th overall with the Vikings in 2020, the 30th season he has worked in the NFL. The Vikings have won four (4) NFC North titles and have made the playoffs five (5) times in the past eleven seasons.

Spielman joined the Vikings as Vice President of Player Personnel on May 30, 2006 and directed scouting, free agency and draft preparations for the club before taking on General Manager duties in 2012. Spielman has climbed the ranks of NFL personnel departments with Detroit, Chicago, and Miami prior to joining the Vikings. Spielman's tenure with all three franchises has been highlighted by drafting impact players throughout the seven rounds and making key trades and free agency acquisitions. Spielman's teams have won seven divisional titles and advanced to the playoffs eleven times. For the 2017 season, Spielman was named NFL Executive of the Year by Pro Football Weekly.

Spielman has a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois and a master's from Ohio State. He and his wife, Michele, have been active with children's charities. The couple has adopted six children: Juan, Luis, Ronnie, J.D., Omie and Whitney.

Board of Directors

Russell Sullivan



Russell Sullivan provides strategic counsel, offering comprehensive solutions from an administrative, regulatory and legislative perspective on client's most complex matters. He brings a unique perspective to a wide variety of issues for a broad range of industries, including tax, healthcare, energy, pensions, transportation, education, trade and economic development, as well as matters involving the nonprofit and for-benefit enterprise sectors.

In addition to providing strategic legal counsel, Russ advises clients on business planning and public affairs. Russ joined the Senate Finance Committee staff in 1999 before rising to staff director in 2004, a role in which he served until he retired in 2013. From that position, he saw some of the most important and complex issues within the business community come before the committee. Along with advising former committee chair Sen. Max Baucus, Russ also helped devise and implement strategies on the 2001 tax cuts, the JOBS Act of 2004, the Medicare Modernization Act of 2004, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and the Affordable Care Act of 2009.

Russ has served as legal or designated guardian for 22 teenagers over the past two decades.

CCAI Programs

Through the **CONGRESSIONAL RESOURCE PROGRAM**, CCAI serves as a key educational resource for policymakers. Throughout the year, we advise Members of Congress and their staff, provide them with newsletters and policy reports, and host briefings and congressional roundtables that allow experts to communicate with key leaders on Capitol Hill and in the Administration. These efforts facilitate knowledge and dialogue amongst the leaders who desire to improve outcomes for child welfare and adoption policy, and as a result, they are able to effect real legislative change. Since its founding, CCAI's educational efforts have helped produce over 100 pieces of child welfare and adoption-related legislation.

CCAI's signature public awareness program, the **ANGELS IN ADOPTION®** Leadership Program and Gala, honors a wide spectrum of individuals, families, and organizations making extraordinary contributions to adoption, foster care, permanency, and child welfare. Once selected, Angel honorees participate in a virtual leadership program to participate in Hill Day meetings with federal policymakers, receive advocacy and educational training, meet with fellow advocates, and receive recognition at a gala held in their honor. These exceptional honorees represent the wide spectrum of individuals involved in child welfare who are making a difference. Since the program's inception in 1999, more than 2,900 Angels have received this honor.

The **FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM®** provides talented young adults who have spent their formative years in U.S. foster care the opportunity to intern in a congressional office on Capitol Hill. Throughout the program, CCAI also coordinates retreats, advocacy training, networking lunches, and meetings with policymakers and child welfare experts. The Foster Youth Interns also research policy recommendations based on their experiences in foster care and present their policy proposals to the U.S. Congress and White House. Many of these policy recommendations have been passed into law. Moreover, the Foster Youth Interns leave Washington, D.C. with experience and skills that continue to bolster their careers and provide a foundation for them to become lifelong advocates for youth in foster care.

The **20/20 VISION** is a public-private partnership delegation model designed to build relationships and increase positive dialogue among Members of Congress, foreign and domestic government officials, and private sector leaders to share information and improve adoption and child welfare policy and practice around the globe. The 20/20 Vision Program facilitates ongoing communication, education and fact-finding trips between government entities both domestically and internationally. CCAI also hosts foreign leaders and dignitaries from around the globe in the nation's capital and coordinates meetings with congressional leadership.



**CCAI would like to thank
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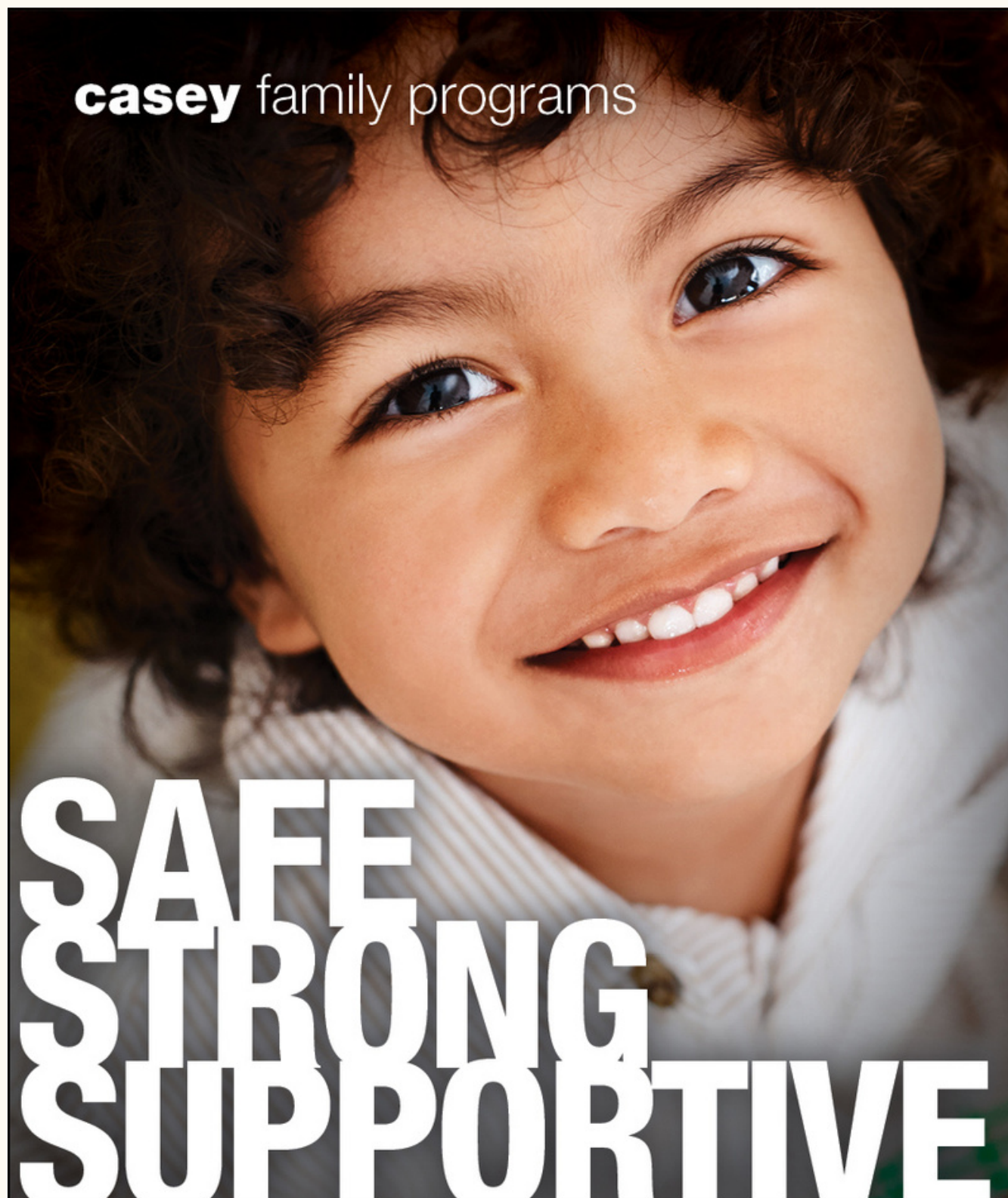
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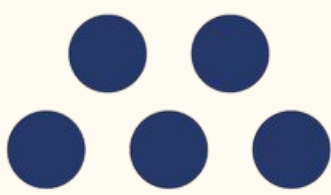
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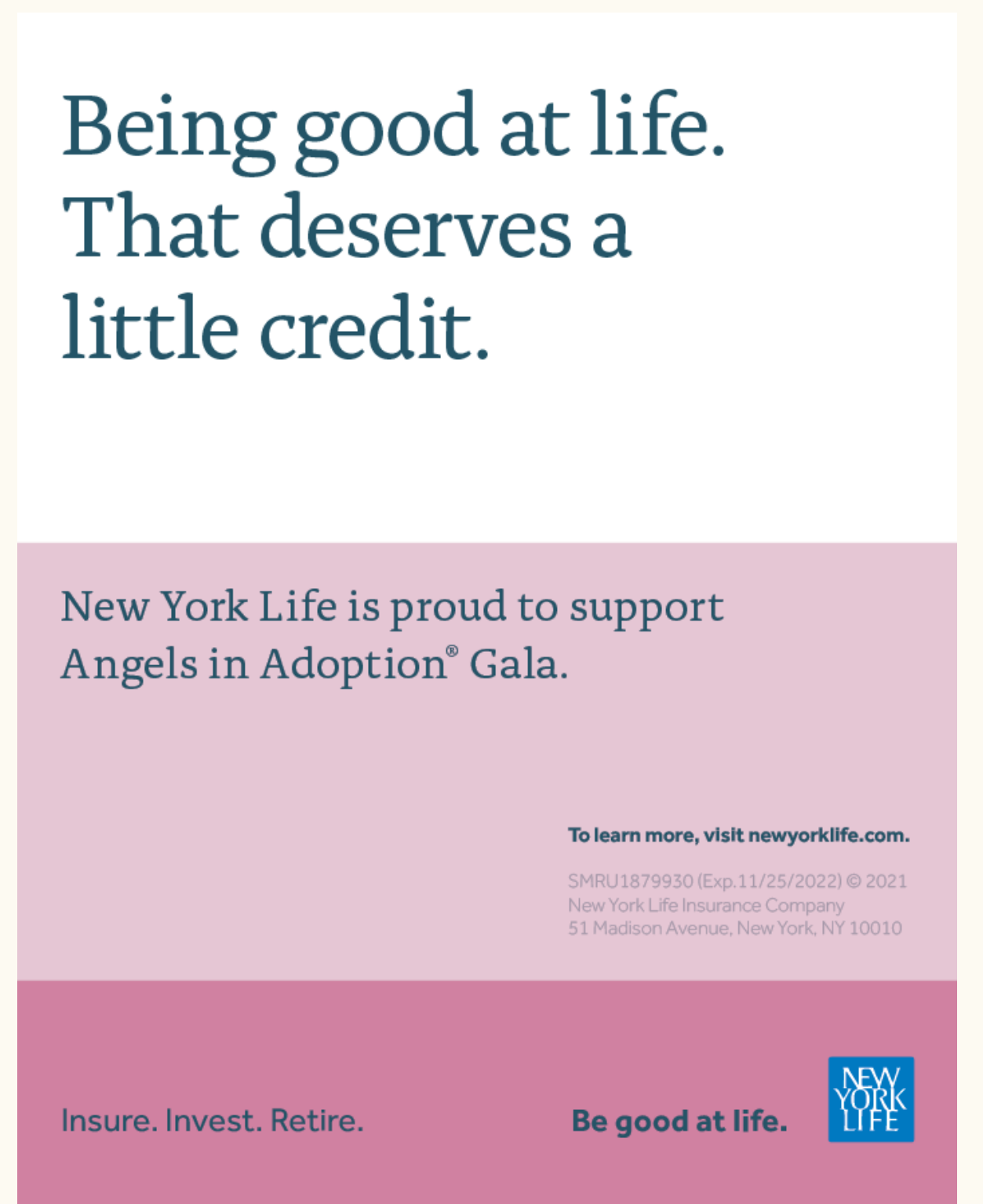
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