ANNUAL REPORT
2016
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fifteen years ago, the Members of Congress and staff who worked to create the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) were inspired by a brilliant idea—to give voice to the children, youth and families being impacted by child welfare policy on Capitol Hill, and to give Members of Congress access to these experts and their real-life experiences so every child can know the love and support of a family.

It is an incredible privilege to steward that idea as CCAI’s five core programs continue to impact new Members of Congress, congressional staffers, and far beyond Capitol Hill. In this Annual Report, we share CCAI’s 2016 accomplishments, historic highlights and program growth over the years since our inception.

I hope you enjoy reading about the newest addition to the line of congressional champions in our CCA Co-Chairs, as well as learning from Kasey, Mitsu, Angelique and Jason—all Foster Youth Intern alumni—about how the program prepared them for their current careers. We also share the Rowes’ Angels in Adoption® experience, and how it inspired their family to do even more great work! And we are thrilled to spotlight Kellie, Eugenia, Sharon and Greg and the many ways they support our mission.

It is overwhelming to think of the investments over the past fifteen years from each of our CCAI staff, Board and Advisory Council members, donors, congressional champions and staffers, and our program alumni and volunteers. Together we have shared in building the vision of giving children, youth and families access to the halls of the United States Congress. In 2016, CCAI continued to be the trusted resource Capitol Hill depends on because of this grand collaboration.

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report in celebration of CCAI’s fifteenth anniversary, and I invite you to share it with others who will join us in the vision for the next fifteen years and beyond.

Becky Weichhand
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IMPACT ON CAPITOL HILL

In 1985, a committed group of Members of Congress discovered they had a common goal — to live in a world where every child had a permanent, safe, and loving family to call their own. They also found that their shared commitment to eliminating the barriers that hinder children from realizing this basic right to a family was one that transcended party lines and geographical borders. Dedicated to making a difference, these members united to form the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) caucus.

In 1998, the current CCA caucus leaders hired a full-time fellow, Kerry Marks Hasenbalg, to work in the U.S. Senate to carry out the important work of the CCA.

In 2001, after identifying the need for more support of the caucus’ goals and growth, the four CCA co-chairs worked with Kerry and their staff to create CCAI. Since that time, CCAI has proudly stewarded the programs handed over to us from the CCA and has added and enhanced several more programs and initiatives all designed to engage and educate Members of Congress and their staff about the real needs of children, youth and families in child welfare.

CCAI AS A CATALYST ON CAPITOL HILL

Knowledge is powerful. CCAI’s programs are designed to provide Members of Congress and policymakers the knowledge they need to use the power they have to make a difference on behalf of children in need of a loving family.
Year round, the Congressional Resource Program is CCAI’s primary means of educating federal policymakers on information critical to adoption and child welfare policy—both domestic and international. We serve as a resource to the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, the largest bi-cameral, bi-partisan caucus in the U.S. Congress.

Just a few of the highlights from 2016 include:

- The Congressional Coalition on Adoption grew by 52 members, reaching a total of 174 members and resulting in more Members of Congress using their collective voice to protect children.
- CCAI welcomed a new Congressional Coalition on Adoption Co-Chair: U.S. Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI), a strong advocate for children.
- CCAI worked with countless congressional offices to provide information on child welfare and adoption legislation, including significant reform bills like the *Family First Prevention Services Act*, *Vulnerable Children and Families Act* and *Adoptee Citizenship Act*.
- In partnership with the U.S. Senate Caucus on Foster Youth and Fostering Media Connections, CCAI hosted the widely attended National Foster Care Month congressional briefing: Recruiting Top-Notch Caregivers and Foster Parents as a Pathway to Permanency.
- CCAI presented on the ABCs of Advocating to Congress at various annual conferences.
- CCAI partnered with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to host regular congressional briefings on intercountry adoption.
“The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute is an incredible resource for Members of Congress and staff to engage on issues of child welfare, adoption and the foster care system. Events through their Congressional Resource Program, Angels in Adoption® Program, and Foster Youth Internship Program® create spaces for key stakeholders to participate in productive policy discussions, provide legislative analysis, and advocate for some of our country’s most vulnerable children.”

– U.S. Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI)
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Co-Chair
With over 400,000 children and youth currently in U.S. foster care, the most important element of the Foster Youth Internship Program® is providing opportunities for Members of Congress to hear the firsthand experiences of current and former foster youth. Through generous investors, CCAI’s sponsor-an-intern model allows us to bring 12 extraordinary young professionals—all of whom have experienced foster care—to Washington, D.C., for a nine-week internship. Our holistic program provides a prestigious congressional internship placement in some of the most influential offices and committees on Capitol Hill, as well as housing, transportation and therapeutic services.

The program gives former foster youth a voice and platform on Capitol Hill—through their congressional internships and through their published policy reports, which are presented at a congressional briefing to both the U.S. Congress and the White House. This year’s interns also discussed their policy ideas with Members of Congress, including U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), U.S. Senator Corey Booker (D-NJ), Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX), U.S. Representative Karen Bass (D-CA), and Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA).

The Foster Youth Internship Program® is a powerful way to recognize foster youth and has a lasting impact on our nation’s foster care policies.
I am starting my second year of law school at the Florida International University College of Law. The experiences, connections, and publication of my policy report during the FYI Program added a degree of legitimacy to my advocacy for child welfare reform that is unavailable by any other internship opportunities. Since the program’s end, I have been contacted by and collaborated on projects with other organizations interested in the research that was published in my policy report.

Shortly after my FYI Program internship ended, I began working in Senator Debbie Stabenow’s office as a staff assistant. A year and a half after that, I became a legislative correspondent for Senator Sherrod Brown. Honestly, if I did not take part in the FYI Program, I am not sure I would have ended up where I am right now. I applied to this internship immediately after I graduated from undergrad, and I am beyond grateful that I took that chance. The program has opened doors for me that I didn’t know existed.

For more than three years I have worked at The Alliance for Children’s Rights NextStep Program as an Administrative Legal Assistant. The NextStep Program assists 16–24 year olds with legal and transition issues. It was the FYI Program that helped me understand what I wanted to do in life, which is work to improve the foster care system. The program also helped me develop skills such as researching, writing reports, and conducting presentations, all of which are skills I regularly use in my career.

EMPOWERING DREAMS
What started as a congressional awards ceremony in 1999 has now grown into a three-day national leadership development program featuring dynamic speakers, insightful panel discussions with child welfare experts and policymakers, and great networking opportunities.

The 2016 Angels in Adoption® Program honored 130 individuals, families, and organizations united in one vision to see every child in a loving family. With 112,000 children waiting to be adopted in the U.S. foster care system and at least eight million orphans worldwide, the Angels in Adoption® Program exists to honor those who have stepped forward to make a difference in the lives of children in need of a family. The program includes a tour of our nation’s capital, a congressional breakfast and luncheon, a legislative seminar, and a Hill Day with nearly 70 meetings with congressional offices. On the final evening, 700 people gathered at the Angels in Adoption® Gala to celebrate these 130 hometown heroes and to honor the NFL’s Minnesota Vikings and musician Jimmy Wayne for their incredible efforts to promote adoption. Previous national honorees Dr. Jennifer Arnold and Bill Klein of TLC’s *The Little Couple* returned to emcee the evening. The program also featured U.S. Senators Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and U.S. Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI), as well as a musical performance by the Grammy Award-winning Jars of Clay.
THE ROWE FAMILY’S ANGELS IN ADOPTION® JOURNEY

“Receiving this recognition was unquestionably the highest honor we’ve had in our foster and adoption journey. We were quite humbled to sit among so many people who also make sacrifices and contributions.” - Jim and Becky Rowe

DAY 01

ADOPTION ADVOCACY FAIR, WASHINGTON, D.C., BUS TOUR, AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Rowe Family attends the Advocacy Fair to network with 16 national and regional organizations. Next, they experience Washington, D.C., through a guided bus tour and U.S. Capitol tour with fellow Angel honorees. The day ends with an ice cream social and lots of fun for the kids.

DAY 02

CONGRESSIONAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCHEON

Honorees like the Rowes are recognized at either a U.S. Senate Breakfast or U.S. Representative Luncheon. Members of Congress congratulate each Angel honoree for their adoption and foster care work, and each honoree receive a signature Angels in Adoption® pin, certificate and letter signed by their Member of Congress.

DAY 03

HILL DAY

Today the Rowe Family has the opportunity to meet with three Members of Congress, including U.S. Senator Deb Fischer from their home state, Nebraska. During Hill Day, the Rowes are able to share their experiences directly with federal legislators. These meetings are as memorable for the Members of Congress as they are for the honorees.

GALA

Thanks to generous CCAI donors, the Rowes are given complimentary tickets to attend the signature Angels in Adoption® Gala. The Gala is one of Washington, D.C.’s most inspiring events this is an unforgettable evening that celebrates the work of the Rowes and all the Angels honorees.

SINCE ANGELS IN ADOPTION®

The Rowe’s credit the 2016 Angels in Adoption® events for inspiring them to do even more to share their story and to reach out to as many children in need as possible. They began a local donation drive to collect clothes, backpacks and bags to distribute to children in the Omaha foster care system. A few months later, they adopted three siblings and continue to be foster parents.
April 2001
CCAi is incorporated.

September 2001
The Angels in Adoption® Program grew from a successful press conference to incorporate the first Angels in Adoption® Gala.

January 2002
The inaugural 20/20 Vision Program Congressional Delegation to China met with President Jiang Zemin to preserve the intercountry adoption program between the two nations.

November 2002
CCAi joined the National Adoption Day Coalition.

May 2003
The Foster Youth Internship Program® is established and brings the voices of young people who experienced foster care to the halls of the U.S. Congress.

June 2003
Along with several partners, CCAi brought an experiential Foster Care Maze to the U.S. Capitol complex. Members of Congress walked through the maze and were met at the end by alumni of foster care and invited to sign an Adoption Pledge. Some are still serving and talking about their pledge.

August 2008
Our Foster Youth Interns collectively wrote the first Foster Youth Internship Program® Report. The report is published and released nationally and presented to the U.S. Congress in a formal briefing.
May 2010
In response to the earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and left Haiti’s child welfare system in a state of emergency, CCAI convened Haitian, U.S. and international experts to collaborate on how to best rebuild Haiti’s child welfare infrastructure.

November 2010
CCAII’s The Way Forward Project culminated in a Summit on Family Care with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Over two years, the project convened 45 international family care experts in both the U.S. and Ethiopia to provide recommendations on family care policy, practice and funding in the published The Way Forward Project Report.

November 2011
CCAII’s The Way Forward Project culminated in a Summit on Family Care with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Over two years, the project convened 45 international family care experts in both the U.S. and Ethiopia to provide recommendations on family care policy, practice and funding in the published The Way Forward Project Report.

May 2013
CCAII hosted 13 Guatemalan judicial and child welfare leaders on a three-city professional development tour in the U.S. to share best practices in policy and programming on family care for Guatemala’s children.

March 2014
CCAII convened 145 adoption advocacy organizations nationwide into a working group in support of adoption affordability and the adoption tax credit and serves as secretariat.

July 2014
The Foster Youth Interns brief the White House Domestic Policy Council on their federal policy recommendations to reform domestic foster care for the first time.

2016 & Beyond
Over the past 15 years CCAII has made great strides. These highlights are just the tip of the iceberg. Together, with advocates and families from across the country, we will continue to engage and educate Members of Congress to promote adoption and the importance of family in the years to come.
20/20 VISION PROGRAM

Congressional Delegation to Haiti

CCAI’s 20/20 Vision Program is a congressional delegation program designed to provide a high-impact, intensive child welfare training for influencers. Based on a public-private partnership model for Members of Congress, foreign and domestic government officials and private-sector leaders, CCAI’s delegations allow these leaders to meet experts, study systems of care, visit best-practice programs and identify gaps in capacity—all in order to better serve children in need of families.

In the summer of 2016, CCAI returned to Haiti on a 20/20 Vision Program Delegation led by Congressional Coalition on Adoption Co-Chair, U.S. Representative Trent Franks (R-AZ). Participants included U.S. Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL), Assistant Secretary of State Michele Bond, CCAI Board of Director Susan Neely and Advisory Council Member Jelani Freeman. Medical and best-practice expertise were provided to the delegates by Dr. Dana Johnson (University of Minnesota), Georgette Mulheir (Lumos Foundation) and Bethany Christian Services.

The delegation met with officials from Haiti’s Institute of Social Welfare and Research, the U.S. Embassy, USAID, and UNICEF to identify needs and opportunities for collaboration. Our goal was to better understand the needs of Haitian children who are not in families and also the solutions offered through programs, systems and policies that support family care for these children. The delegation trip was an unforgettable experience and has motivated delegation members to hold discussions, since returning to the U.S., about ways to strengthen Haiti’s vulnerable children and families.
Why is the CCAI 20/20 Vision Program important?
The CCAI 20/20 Vision Program creates powerful opportunities to learn about problems and solutions to children’s welfare in the developing world and inside the U.S. CCAI’s Congressional Delegations are notorious on Capitol Hill as the best-in-class; convening policymakers and international experts to hear, see and feel what’s really working to help children in need of families.

What did you learn from traveling to Haiti with the CCAI 20/20 Vision Program delegation trip?
I learned that there is no one-size-fits-all way to help children find a loving family. On the trip to Haiti, we saw firsthand how adoption, foster care and family reunification were all effective strategies, depending on the circumstances of the child. Job training programs to help parents learn employable skills are also keeping families together and preventing poverty-related orphanage entry.

How did the delegation help to reinforce your belief that every child deserves a loving family?
Even in the midst of breathtaking poverty and devastation, the children are the hope and promise for a better future, and permanent family care is the optimal setting where children thrive.
Since 2000, National Adoption Day is a celebration of foster care adoption across all 50 states. What began in one Los Angeles courtroom to address a backlog of adoption cases has developed into 4,665 adoptions in 407 cities across the nation in 2016. CCAI’s role continues to be enlisting the support of Members of Congress and Governors to promote the importance of a loving family. In recent years, CCAI’s national engagement has expanded to include various celebrities and NFL teams dedicated to raising awareness about foster care and adoption on this special day.

In 2016, over 80 elected officials wrote op-eds, gave floor speeches, issued press releases and posted on social media, and both the Minnesota Vikings and Detroit Lions promoted foster care adoption on-field during their November 20th home games. Judge Winkler of Ohio opened his courtroom and filmed the story of National Adoption Day inside, in a video released by CCAI. This year’s outpouring of support for National Adoption Day and for the estimated 65,000 children and youth who have left foster care and joined permanent families on National Adoption Day is worthy of great celebration.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY MAKES A SPLASH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Thousands of kids across the country are searching for a forever family. Join me in spreading the joys of adoption on #NatlAdoptionDay.

Twitter: @Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)

Happy #natladoptionday & thank you to the many ND families who open their hearts and homes to kids. #adoptiongives

Twitter: @Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)

There are more than 100,000 children in U.S. foster care available for adoption. #NationalAdoptionDay

Twitter: @Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX)

I was blessed to grow up in a home with foster siblings. This National Adoption Day, consider opening up your home and your heart. Thanks to Adoption Rhode Island and all of the advocates who are committed to finding forever homes for all children in need! #NatiAdoptionDay

Facebook: Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI)

Adoption creates a forever family. Help me raise awareness for children in Michigan, who are in need of a loving family on National Adoption Day, November 19! Visit nationaladoptionday.org to learn how you can support this effort.

Facebook: Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Susan Hirschmann  Williams & Jensen, PLLC
Susan Neely  American Beverage Association
Willie and Korie Robertson  Duck Commander
Russ Sullivan  McGuireWoods LLP
Laura Wheat  Mayor, Town of Westlake, TX

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Ben Cardin  U.S. Senator (D-MD)
Chuck Grassley  U.S. Senator (R-IA)
Jim Inhofe  U.S. Senator (R-OK)
Amy Klobuchar  U.S. Senator (D-MN)
Karen Bass  U.S. Representative (D-CA)
Jim Cooper  U.S. Representative (D-TN)
Trent Franks  U.S. Representative (R-AZ)
Brenda L. Lawrence  U.S. Representative (D-MI)
Elizabeth Black  Center for the Support of Families, Inc.
Lucas Boyce  Lucas Boyce Holdings Inc.
Sam Brownback  Governor of Kansas
Lindsay Ellenbogen  George Washington University
Jelani Freeman  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Kelly Gage  St. Catherine University
Chip Gardiner  International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers
Rob Geen  Annie E. Casey Foundation
Philip Goldman  Maestral International
Daniel Heimpel  Fostering Media Connections
Mary Landrieu  Former U.S. Senator, Van Ness Feldman
McLane Layton  Equality for Adopted Children
Lisa Martin  The Paul Singer Foundation
Jedd Medefind  Christian Alliance for Orphans
Tracy Wilson Mourning  Honey Shine Mentoring Program
Gary Newton  Independent Consultant and former U.S. Government Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, USAID
Deborah Pryce  Ice Miller Whiteboard LLC
Victoria Rowell  Rowell Foster Children’s Positive Plan
Rita Soronen  Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Kevin Sullivan  Kevin Sullivan Communications, Inc.
As the board at Retail Orphan Initiative saw the Foster Youth Internship Program more, and as we met alumni like Demetrius and Angelique, we began to truly understand the impact this program makes not only on policy, but literally changing these young people’s lives. That turned it to a “must do” investment in terms of sponsoring a Foster Youth Intern.

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, IHL GROUP; CCAI PAUL SINGER AWARD HONOREE & FOSTER YOUTH INTERN SPONSOR

Greg Buzek

I was asked to support CCAI by an old friend, but have always been impressed by the tremendous work of the organization and its unfailing support of vulnerable children. A&P has a longstanding commitment to pro bono work, and our whole team has been honored to support CCAI as lobbyists and lawyers. CCAI is truly the little engine that could—the depth and scope of the organization’s programs is nothing short of spectacular, and the impact CCAI has on young lives is profound.

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO, A SECOND CHANCE; FYI PROGRAM KEYNOTE SPEAKER & DONOR

Dr. Sharon McDaniels

CCAI provides an opportunity for young adults to “dream big” and “turn their lemons into lemonade.” Melding policy with real life stories has been a remarkable way for Congress to understand the implications of their actions or inactions that impact the 400,000+ young people who make up foster care in this country. Having been a foster child myself, I have been blessed with a platform where I can not only “pay it forward,” but also, speak on behalf of those who are yet finding their voices. What an incredible opportunity!

TRANSFORMING LIVES
THANKS TO YOU...

CCAII’s accomplishments in 2016 and the past fifteen years are a testament to the power of your support and our shared vision of a world where every child knows the love and support of a family. Your contributions empower and elevate the voices of youth, families and advocates who are daily making a difference in child welfare and adoption. Thank you for your generosity!

- **65,000** Children have found their forever family on National Adoption Day.
- **16** Delegation trips have provided a way for Members of Congress to promote the importance of permanency.
- **2,500** Angels in Adoption® honorees have shared their stories with Members of Congress and congressional staff.
- **193** Foster Youth Interns have left their mark on Capitol Hill.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
# 2016 Financial Statement

## Statement of Financial Position

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<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily</th>
<th>Total</th>
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## Statement of Activities

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| **Total Expenses**                 | $1,192,043   |             | $1,192,043 |

| Change in Net Assets               | $47,653      | $125,000    | $172,653 |

| Net Assets, Beginning of Year      | $36,651      | $15,000     | $51,651 |
| Net Assets, End of Year            | $84,304      | $140,000    | $224,304 |

*This report is a summary of the financial statements incorporated in the annual audit report issued by Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell, P.C. for the year ended December 31, 2016. The complete financial statements and notes are available upon request from CCAI. Please contact info@ccainstitute.org to receive the full set of audited financial statements.*
OUR PARTNERS

CCAI is honored to recognize our 2016 Partners for strengthening and supporting our vision of a family for every child. The personal and financial commitment of these individuals, businesses and organizations throughout 2016 made a meaningful difference in CCAI’s programs and positively impacted the lives of many adoptees, foster youth, adoptive families and advocates.

PLATINUM ($50,000 & ABOVE)

GOLD ($25,000 & ABOVE)

SILVER ($10,000 & ABOVE)

BRONZE ($5,000 & ABOVE)

FRIEND ($1,000 & ABOVE)