



Rodney Alexander / Louisiana's 5th District
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

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Contact: Jenni Terry
202/225-8490

Alexander Nominates Monroe Women For *Angel in Adoption* Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, has nominated Christi Jones and Sandy Pratt, both of Monroe, La., as a 2008 *Angel in Adoption* for their outstanding advocacy of adoption or foster care issues.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the *Angels in Adoption* program, will honor the two women, along with more than 180 Angels, at an awards ceremony and gala event in Washington, DC, September 16, 2008.

“The love and dedication Christi and Sandy have shown over the years through their work with the CASA program in Monroe is truly inspirational, and it is remarkable to think about all the children who have been blessed with good homes thanks to their efforts,” Alexander said.

Jones and Pratt co-created the “Heart Gallery,” a mobile display of children in need of families that has helped countless children in the area find homes.

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.

This year, CCAI is celebrating their 10th Anniversary of honoring ordinary people doing extraordinary things! Over the last 10 years, CCAI has highlighted the work of more than 1300 people making a lasting difference in the life of a child.

“The Angels in Adoption program is unlike any other program in the Nation’s Capitol. Because of it, over 1300 “Angels” have come to share with Washington their adoption experience and left with a renewed excitement of all that adoption makes possible,” said Kathleen Strottman. “I learned one simple lesson from my time on the hill, knowledge is power. Angels in Adoption is meant to give Members of Congress the knowledge they need to use the power they have toward making the dream of a family a reality for every child.”

In addition to the more than 180 local angels from around the country, several National *Angels* will also be recognized at the ceremony and gala for their dedication and commitment nationally and internationally to child welfare on a grand scale. Former “National Angels” include First Lady Laura Bush, Patti LaBelle, Jane Seymour, Muhammad Ali, the late Dave Thomas, Steven Curtis Chapman, Bruce Willis, Alonzo Mourning, and Marcus Samuelsson.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is a 501(c)3 nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of orphans and foster children in the United States and the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes through adoption. CCAI’s goal is the elimination of the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family.

CCAI was created in 2001 by the active co-chairs of the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) to more effectively raise Congressional and public awareness about the issue of adoption.

The Angels in Adoption program was established in 1999 as a Congressional press conference to honor outstanding individuals. Since then, the program has developed into a yearlong public awareness campaign culminating in an extraordinary awards gala and celebration in Washington, D.C.

The *Angels in Adoption* program is made possible through the generous support of Diamond and Founding Sponsor, the Freddie Mac Foundation, and Platinum Sponsor, SuperValu, Inc.

CCAI does not receive any government funding and they rely on the generous support of foundations, corporations, and individuals to accomplish their mission. For more information visit <http://www.ccainstitute.org/>.

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