



Fulfilling the Promise of Every Child

Press Release

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Contact:
Kelly Wiggins
Marketing Communications Manager
Children's Home Society of Washington
206-695-3234, kellyw@chs-wa.org

Congressman Jim McDermott Honors Seattle Non-Profit VP as an *Angel in Adoption*[™] *To Be Recognized at National Event in Washington, DC*

Seattle, WA – Congressman Jim McDermott has selected Randy Perin of Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) as a 2009 *Angel in Adoption*[™] for his outstanding work in adoption and foster care. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the *Angels in Adoption*[™] program, will honor Randy, along with more than 190 Angels, at an awards ceremony and gala event in Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.

For three decades, Randy Perin has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Washington's children and families. After earning his Masters of Social Work from the University of Washington in 1979, Randy began his career working with children and families in residential treatment environments. What has followed is a distinguished career at Children's Home Society of Washington that has positively impacted the lives of tens of thousands of children and families through foster care and adoption.

In 1986, Randy led the creation CHSW's Adoption Resource Center (ARC). Under his leadership, the center provided services to prospective adoptive parents, adoptees of all ages, birth parents, adoptive parents, and other agencies involved with adoption. The ARC was instrumental in getting legislation passed that supported search and reunion, as well as the needs of adoptive/birth parents and children and adults who had been adopted. Additionally, the center became a guiding force in the adoption community, bringing together members of the state's adoption triad and adoption professionals to form the Washington State Adoption Council. This powerful coalition was later responsible for breaking down barriers and forging new and impactful relationships among the adoption community. Because of his leadership, Randy received the University of Washington School of Social Work's distinguished alumnus award in 1991 for outstanding work in adoption and foster care.

Throughout the past two decades, Randy has worked to build strong programs that ensure that every child in Washington has a permanent and loving home. In 1994, he led an initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation focused on systemic reform of Washington's foster care system. He also served on numerous committees and worked with various community groups focused on improving adoption and foster care. In his current role as CHSW's Vice President of Operations, Randy ensures that all foster care and adoption services meet best practice standards. His strong leadership continues to be a galvanizing force in Washington's adoption community.

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 in the United States and abroad.

"The Angels in Adoption program is unlike any other program in the Nation's Capitol. Because of it, over 1,400 '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, Executive Director of CCAI. "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 190 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 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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Founded in 1896, Children's Home Society of Washington is the largest statewide children's organization dedicated to providing exceptional and innovative services to children and families. CHSW supports over 39,000 children and families each year through early learning, adoption, out-of-home care, family support, child and family counseling, and advocacy programs. To learn more, visit www.childrenshomesociety.org or call 1-800-456-3339.