

ADOPTION

HALL OF FAME

About Mary Beth Chapman ***Adoption Hall of Fame Award***

Mary Beth is the Co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Show Hope, an internationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to adoption advocacy and support, as well as a “New York Times” best-selling author and speaker. Since its founding in 2003, more than 8,600 children have come to know the love and permanency of a family through the financial support of Show Hope’s Adoption Aid grants while nearly 140,000 parents, caregivers, and professionals have received practical resources and training through Show Hope’s annual Hope for the Journey Conference. For nearly 15 years, more than 2,700 children received care at multiple Show Hope-supported Care Centers in China, and today, through its newest endeavor, more than 100 families have been recipients of a Show Hope Medical Care grant, with its aim to financially assist families with medical expenses for their children welcomed home through adoption. Mary Beth and her husband, Steven Curtis Chapman, are the parents of six children, including three who joined their family through adoption, and the grandparents of seven.

About Rep. Jackie Walorski ***Friend of Adoption Award (posthumous)***

Rep. Jackie Walorski served as the U.S. representative for Indiana's 2nd congressional district from 2013 until her death on August 2, 2022. A former journalist and nonprofit executive, she moved to Romania in 2000 and founded Impact International, a foundation to provide medical supplies and attention to impoverished children. She was elected first to the Indiana House and then to Congress, where she served on Family, Children, & Human Affairs committee and provided key leadership in advancing bipartisan support for the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act. She is remembered as a champion for vulnerable children and families, advocating for legislation that would break down barriers to adoption because, in her words, “Adoption is truly a blessing for both children and families.”

About Rep. Danny Davis ***Friend of Adoption Award***

Rep. Danny Davis has served as the U.S. representative from Illinois's 7th congressional district since 1996. His previous work as an educator, community organizer, and healthcare administrator has helped inform his longtime focus on child welfare issues. During his career, he has provided support for some of the most significant child welfare legislation of the modern era, including the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, and

more. Most recently, his office worked with Administration officials to see a refundable adoption tax credit added to President Biden's FY23 Budget ("The Green Book").

About Rep. Robert Aderholt

Friend of Adoption Award

As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Adoption, Rep. Robert Aderholt helps to steer Capitol Hill's largest bicameral, bipartisan caucus. He has been a leader in Congress on child welfare since his election in 1996 to represent Alabama's 4th congressional district, and has supported the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act, and many more child welfare bills.

In his role as caucus co-chair, he is a frequent speaker and writer on topics related to adoption and is engaged with the adoption community in his home state of Alabama as well as with national organizations that promote adoption.

About Rep. Ann Kuster

Friend of Adoption Award

Before entering Congress in 2013, Rep. Ann Kuster worked as an adoption attorney for 25 years, providing support and counsel to more than 300 birth mothers and serving as a board member for Child and Family Services of New Hampshire. She has carried that experience into her service as the U.S. representative for New Hampshire's 2nd congressional district. An active member of the Congressional Caucus on Adoption, she has introduced and supported adoption legislation throughout her tenure, including several priority bills this session that NCFCA is championing that will help bring down the cost of domestic adoption for hopeful families while ensuring an ethical footing for U.S. adoption services.

About Celeste Liversidge

Friend of Adoption Award

Celeste Liversidge has been practicing adoption law since 1999 and has handled hundreds of domestic adoption matters. In 2016, Celeste founded TruAdopt Law, a nonprofit law firm in Pasadena where she represents expectant mothers, and co-founded Ethical Family Building (AdoptMatch & AdoptChange), a nonprofit organization promoting ethical adoption through education, transparency, and advocacy. Both in her home state of California and throughout the country, Celeste has been a leading advocate for legislative and regulatory changes that will combat unlicensed adoption brokers and deceptive adoption advertising practices.