

## MEDIA CONTACT

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### National Council For Adoption Announces 2023 Honorees

Alexandria, VA (October 23, 2023) – National Council For Adoption (NCFA) is pleased to announce **Mary Beth Chapman**, founder of the Tennessee based, internationally recognized non-profit adoption support organization, **Show Hope**, as the 2023 inductee to the Adoption Hall of Fame. This award is given to recognize those who exhibit outstanding dedication, service and sacrifice to the cause of adoption and those who have positively impacted the practice of adoption. 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.

During National Adoption Month in November, NCFA will also recognize its Friend of Adoption awardees. These include the late **Rep. Jackie Walorski** (R-IN), who will be honored posthumously for her commitment to adoption, with **Rep. Brad Wenstrup** (R-OH) accepting the award on behalf of Rep. Walorski's family. NCFA will also honor **Rep. Danny Davis** (D-IL), **Rep. Robert Aderholt** (R-AL), **Rep. Ann Kuster** (D-NH), and California-based attorney **Celeste Liversidge** as Friends of Adoption.

"With over half of all adoptive parents identifying the cost of adoption as a barrier to their family's adoption journey, this year's Hall of Fame event will put the spotlight on adoption affordability," said Dr. Ryan Hanlon, NCFA president and CEO.

"Whether they're promoting policy that will help bring down the cost to families or providing support that offsets the cost, each of our honorees is helping us move toward a world in which finances aren't a barrier to adoption, so that more vulnerable children have the chance to thrive in forever families," Hanlon said.

Honorees will be recognized and celebrated at a ceremony and reception on Tuesday, November 14th on Capitol Hill. Each year since 1982, NCFA has recognized those who have made significant contributions to building a culture that supports all members of the adoption community.

The [roll of past honorees](#) includes presidents and members of Congress, business and philanthropic leaders, child welfare professionals, and others who have made significant contributions to strengthening adoption to provide every child with a loving, permanent family.

Partnering with NCFA to make this special evening possible are Gold sponsors Lifeline Children's Services and Both Hands Foundation; Silver sponsors The Russell Group, Fox Rothschild, Both Ends Believing, and the Center for Adoption Support and Education; and Bronze sponsors Cradle of Hope Adoption Center and America's Christian Credit Union.

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## **ABOUT NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION**

Founded in 1980, NCFA is a leading authoritative voice for adoption and is passionately committed to the belief that every child deserves to thrive in a nurturing permanent family. NCFA's nonprofit work promotes a culture of adoption through education, research, advocacy and collaboration that aims to serve children, expectant parents, birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and adoption professionals. [www.adoptioncouncil.org](http://www.adoptioncouncil.org)

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

National Council For Adoption is proud to announce the induction of Mary Beth Chapman into the Adoption Hall of Fame. 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.