

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CONGRESSMAN CARNAHAN AND SENATOR BOND HONORS
MELANIE SCHEETZ AS AN ANGEL IN ADOPTION™**
To Be Recognized at National Event in Washington, DC

ST. LOUIS, MO – Congressman Rus Carnahan and Senator Kit Bond has nominated Melanie Scheetz, an adoptive mother of two living in University City and the Executive Director of Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition, as a 2007 Angel in Adoption™ for her outstanding advocacy of adoption and foster care issues. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the Angels in Adoption™ program, will honor Melanie, along with more than 180 Angels, at an awards ceremony and gala event in Washington, DC this week.

The Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition has expanded under Melanie's leadership. In 1999, the agency had three employees and a budget of \$120,000. Today, there are 17 employees with a budget of nearly one-million. Most importantly, the services provided to the foster care/adoption community have grown exponentially. The agency's mission is to recruit and support foster/adoptive parents.

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.

"Our goal is to raise awareness of the millions of orphans and foster children in the United States and abroad that are in need of permanent, safe and loving homes, and we congratulate Melanie Scheetz for his role in helping us to achieve this goal," said Deanna Carlson Stacy, CCAI's executive director. *"Thanks to both Congressman Carnahan and Senator Bond, Melanie will receive the recognition she deserves for her tireless effort in the mission of helping these children realize their basic right of a family."*

For more information about CCAI and the Angels in Adoption™ program, visit www.ccainstitute.org. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is a 501©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.

Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (FACC) is a non-profit agency that strives to create permanency in every foster child's life by recruiting and supporting foster/adoptive homes in the St. Louis metropolitan community. Founded in 1989, FACC is the area's largest recruiter. For more information about FACC, visit www.foster-adopt.org.

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To schedule an interview with Melanie Scheetz or an adoptive family, please contact Heather Henke, Director of Public Relations at FACC, via email at heatherhenke@foster-adopt.org, phone at 314.367.8373 or cell 314.799.9292.