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National Council For Adoption Presents 2011 National Adoption Conference,
“Age to Engage for Adoption”

Members of the Media Will Receive Complimentary Admission

June 22, 2011 – Alexandria, VA – On July 6-9, 2011, the National Council For Adoption will host its annual National Adoption Conference, bringing together government officials, policymakers, child welfare advocates, and leaders in the adoption community to discuss the current state of adoption and ways in which it can be strengthened to better serve children and families. The theme of this year’s conference, “Age to Engage for Adoption,” emphasizes the immediate need for principled adoption advocacy as well as the value of collaboration among key stakeholders. Members of the press may attend any or all of the conference sessions free of charge, as guests of NCFA.

“As the authoritative voice for adoption, a crucial part of NCFA’s mission is to engage our members, other advocacy organizations, adoption officials from around the world, members of the media, and all those who share our commitment to the many thousands of children in need of families of their own,” says NCFA president and CEO Chuck Johnson. “To make a difference in the lives of these children – to provide them with the love, safety, and permanency they deserve – we must work together to protect the rights of birthparents, educate prospective foster and adoptive parents, provide all members of the adoption triad with the support they need to succeed, and promote policies and practices that will strengthen adoption both here and abroad.”

The 2011 National Adoption Conference will include in-depth presentations by government leaders and professionals from within the adoption community, including some of the best-known researchers and most experienced agency directors working in adoption today. Keynote addresses, breakout sessions, and expert panels will give all conference attendees a clear picture of intercountry, domestic, and foster care adoption.

Topics for presentation and discussion include:

- Current trends in and challenges to intercountry adoption, presented by officials from the U.S. Department of State Office of Children’s Issues, including a presentation by Ambassador and Special Adviser Susan Jacobs
- Intercountry adoption updates from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America
- The Obama administration’s plans to promote adoption and other child welfare issues
- Current socialization practices in transracial and transcultural adoption
- How to leverage public-private partnerships to improve outcomes for children in foster care
- Adoption disruption and how to prevent it
- Children who are victims of trauma and how to help meet their special needs
- How to engage and better support prospective birthparents
- How to help infertility patients explore and understand adoption

In addition, Marshall Williams of the Gladney Center for Adoption will be inducted into NCFA’s Adoption Hall of Fame. 2011 Friend of Adoption Awards will be presented to the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the Christian Alliance for Orphans.

This year’s National Adoption Conference will be held at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center just outside of Washington, DC. Contact Adria Anderson at 703-299-6633 or aanderson@adoptioncouncil.org for registration information, press credentials, and further conference details.

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Founded in 1980, the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) is an adoption advocacy nonprofit that promotes a positive culture of adoption through education, research, and legislative action. Through its core areas of focus—infant adoption, adoption out of foster care, and intercountry adoption—NCFA serves children, birthparents, adoptive families, adoption agencies, U.S. and foreign governments, policymakers, media, and the general public as the authoritative voice for adoption.

More information is available on our website, www.adoptioncouncil.org.