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2011 National Adoption Conference Concludes

Christian Alliance for Orphans, White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and Marshall Williams are Award Recipients

July 22, 2011 – Alexandria, VA – From July 6-9, 2011, the National Council For Adoption (NCFA) held its annual National Adoption Conference, in partnership with RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in Maryland. The theme of this year’s conference, “Age to Engage for Adoption,” enabled participants to engage with other adoption agencies, advocacy organizations, government officials, policymakers, and members of the media in order to address the needs of children, birthparents, and adoptive families.

“As we face decreases in the number of domestic and intercountry adoptions and a foster care system in desperate need of reform, it is more important than ever that we collaborate to address the challenges facing adoption,” said Chuck Johnson, president and CEO of NCFA. “This task is too great for us not to work together. The wellbeing of countless children depends on our collective advocacy.”

At this year’s conference, Marshall Williams, recently retired vice president of the Gladney Center for Adoption, was inducted into NCFA’s Adoption Hall of Fame, and NCFA’s Friend of Adoption Awards were presented to the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the Christian Alliance for Orphans. The Christian Alliance for Orphans, representing over a hundred Christian organizations and churches, works to equip its nationwide network with the information, education, and support necessary to serve orphaned children through adoption, foster care, and global orphan ministries.

“NCFA has the privilege, year after year, of recognizing some of the most dedicated and experienced individuals and organizations working on behalf of children and families. Our Adoption Hall of Fame and Friend of Adoption Awards honor those whose work and advocacy inspire all of us in the adoption community,” said Chuck Johnson.

Leading adoption researchers, government representatives, and agency professionals were in attendance at this year’s conference to present and moderate sessions covering a wide range of issues in adoption, including the current state of intercountry adoption, transracial and transcultural adoption, adoption out of foster care, medical issues related to adopted children, media relations and social networking tools, adoption financing options, and post-adoption resources and support.
“Providing continuing education, expert research and analysis, and professional support to our member agencies and the greater adoption community through our annual National Adoption Conference is one of NCFA’s primary responsibilities, and we take great pride in it,” said Johnson. “We are very gratified that, this year, many participants made a point of telling us this was our best conference ever.”

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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.