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CONTACT: Kelly Young, 317.423.2990, kelly@baiscommunications.com

Statewide Agency Recognized by Senator Lugar as an Angel in Adoption

INDIANAPOLIS – U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar has selected The Villages as a 2007 Angels in Adoption for the organization's commitment to Hoosier children and their advocacy work in foster care and adoption services. This signature program of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) provides all members of the U.S. Congress the opportunity to honor the good work of their constituents who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans. Senator Mary Landrieu, Louisiana, (who is an adoptive parent herself) chaired the Coalition and praised Senator Lugar for his selection of The Villages.

"The Villages is one of the top child and family service agencies in the country, and their work on behalf of foster and adopted children makes a significant difference in many lives," said Senator Lugar.

The Villages is among the "unsung heroes" chosen from all 50 states and the District of Columbia – all of whom attended the Angels in Adoption awards ceremony and gala in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. There they were recognized for their leadership, commitment and passion for children.

The Villages has a thirty-year history of facilitating the adoption of children who have been abused or neglected, placing and supporting them in adoptive "forever families". In 2007, The Villages will enrich the lives of nearly 100 of these special children.

"What an honor this is for The Villages to be recognized among so many other 'angels' who all care so deeply about children," said Sharon Pierce, president and CEO, The Villages. "However, the true angels are the children themselves – the ones who have risen above the challenges in their lives to succeed in life. They are the inspiration for the work we are so blessed to do each day."

About CCAI

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute is a nonprofit, 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 to eliminate the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family. For more information about the Angels in Adoption program visit: www.ccainstitute.org

About The Villages

The Villages is Indiana's largest not-for-profit child and family services agency, serving more than 1,200 children and their families each day. The vision of The Villages is that every child will flourish in a healthy, nurturing, self-sufficient family. For more information about The Villages visit: www.villageskids.org

Adoption Staff Team

Congratulations to The Villages' Adoption Staff Team -- the angels who help make a difference in the lives of Indiana's children and families:

Region 1

Jara Dillingham
Deb Brewer

Region 2

Heather Barrett

Region 3

Melody Hoover
David Reed
Diane Jackson
Kathy Stagg
Lynn Schubert
Karlene Edgemon

Region 4

Jennifer Hatfield
Tracey Pitts
Carolyn Barr
Vicki LeMire
Sylvia Sebert

Region 5

Lani Elliot
John Garner
AJ Broxon
Verlin Rice

Region 5E

Amy Dayton

Region 6

Kim Holmes
Kristin Peto

State Staff

Jill Budnick
Alfreda Singleton-Smith
Richard Skirvin
Joy Jones

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