

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King today announced that he nominated Gary and Sandy Launderville of Alta for an "Angels in Adoption" award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). The Laundervilles have adopted seven children and provided foster care for 96 children in need over the past 16 years.

“Sheriff Gary and Sandy Launderville have made an extraordinary contribution to children in need for over 16 years,” said King. **“The Laundervilles are shining examples for western Iowa. It gives me great pleasure to honor this remarkable couple that truly deserves the title 'Angels in Adoption.' The Laundervilles are angels in the eyes of their community and in the eyes of the children they have cared for.”**

Background on Laundervilles:

The Laundervilles have opened the doors of their home in Alta, Iowa for over sixteen years. The Laundervilles started their journey by becoming licensed foster parents in 1991. In 1996, the Laundervilles became certified adoptive parents. In addition to providing foster care for 96 children, the Laundervilles have adopted seven children and have four biological children. The Laundervilles have also provided a home for foreign exchange students and are members of the Summit Evangelical Free Church in Alta. They are actively engaged with the adult, youth and children groups at their church.

Gary serves as Sheriff of Buena Vista County. Sandy is a foster parent liaison in eleven northwest Iowa counties. She provides new and existing foster parents with information on adoption. Sandy is also a family team facilitator for Buena Vista and Clay counties. She provides support and resources to help strengthen families. Sandy also leads the foster and adoptive parent support groups in northwest Iowa and teaches classes for new foster and adoptive parents throughout northwest Iowa.

What is the Angel in Adoption Program?

As CCAI's signature public awareness program, ANGELS IN ADOPTION provides Members of Congress an opportunity to honor an individual or entity that has enriched the lives of foster children or orphans. These unsung heroes hail from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and represent the wide spectrum of individuals involved in the adoption and foster care process. Since the program's inception in 1999, over 1300 "Angels" have received this honor.

What is the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI)?

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the millions of orphans around the world in need of permanent, safe and loving homes; and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family.