FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Courtenay Sprunger
406.270.2949
Courtenay@bigskypublicrelations.com

Child Bridge honored by legislators for private sector efforts to address Montana’s child welfare crisis
Montana non-profit to receive Congressional Coalition on Adoption’s “Angel in Adoption” designation in September

BIGFORK, Mont. (Sept. 6, 2016)—As Montana seeks to serve a record number of children in the state’s foster care system, a private sector organization is making substantial impact in improving outcomes for children and the foster families who step up to care for them. Child Bridge, founded just six years ago, recently landed in the national spotlight for its efforts in this arena.

In September, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption will officially recognize Child Bridge, a Montana-based non-profit that recruits and supports foster and adoptive families, as an Angel in Adoption. Selected for the designation by both Senator Jon Tester and Representative Ryan Zinke, Child Bridge will be honored in a ceremony September 21 in Washington D.C. Although Montana individuals have been honored in the past, this will mark the first time the Angel in Adoption designation has ever been awarded to an organization in Montana.

“I can’t think of an organization more deserving of this award than Child Bridge,” Senator Tester said. “Their mission is to connect children in need with new families, and there’s not a more noble pursuit than that.”

Founded in Bigfork by Steve and Mary Bryan, Child Bridge has quickly expanded beyond the couple to an organization serving families in 21 communities throughout Montana. Today, Child Bridge is comprised of a 12-person team with locations in the Flathead Valley, Missoula and Billings. With the ambitious vision of “A family for every child,” the organization hopes to continue serving more families and children by adding locations in five additional Montana cities in the next three years.
Governor Bullock congratulates Child Bridge founders, Steve and Mary Bryan, for their private-sector leadership in serving Montana’s children in need.

Cofounder and Executive Director, Steve Bryan shares, “Child Bridge is about building bridges for children who have been the victims of abuse and neglect, and the families who care for them. Bridges to a family, whether the child’s need is temporary or permanent. Bridges to services, supports and community. Bridges to stability, healing and transformation. Our team is honored to receive this award. But our greatest desire is that this recognition will shine new light on the needs of the most vulnerable in our state, and that the impact created will change lives here and now, and generationally as well.”

In six short years, Child Bridge has celebrated 38 adoptions, supports over a hundred foster families and provides monthly foster/adoptive resource groups that have served thousands of adults and children statewide.

Governor Bullock also applauded Child Bridge, “Protecting Montana’s most vulnerable citizens – our children – is a responsibility we all share. As
governor, I see every day how public-private partnerships between the state and committed Montana advocates like Child Bridge make a world of difference in the lives of kids across our state. They truly are ‘Angels in Adoption.’"

**About Child Bridge**

Bridging the gap between churches, communities and government, Child Bridge finds and supports foster and adoptive families for Montana children in need. They seek to build awareness of the need for foster and adoptive families for Montana children via churches across the state. Child Bridge serves as a customer service focused liaison with foster families through every step of their journey; guiding them to training and licensing partners, offering ongoing trauma-informed education, and assisting them at all stages of their foster care or adoptive walk. Child Bridge currently serves children, families and churches across the state of Montana.

Child Bridge is a private nonprofit (501c3), funded solely by donations from individuals, private family foundations and churches. For more information, visit [www.childbridgemontana.org](http://www.childbridgemontana.org).

**About The Congressional Coalition on Adoption**

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCAI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the millions of children 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 to a family. CCAI provides Members of Congress and policy makers the knowledge they need to use the power they have to make a difference on behalf of children in need of a loving family.

CCAI’s Angels in Adoption™ Program honors a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations making extraordinary contributions to adoption, permanency and child welfare. Each year, the Angels in Adoption™ awardees travel to Washington, D.C., to both celebrate their hard work and dedication to the issues and participate in special events designed to engage them in using their personal experience to effect change on behalf of children in need of families. CCAI also honors a select number of National Angels in Adoption™ whose contributions have had a national impact."

###