

**Contact:**  
**Kerri White**  
[Kerri.White@dcyf.ri.gov](mailto:Kerri.White@dcyf.ri.gov)  
(401) 528-3889

## **DCYF Social Caseworker Bridget Kinsella Receives Angels in Adoption® Award**

*Recognized at National Event in Washington, D.C.*

**Providence, R.I. [November 2, 2017]** – Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families’ (DCYF) Social Caseworker II Bridget Kinsella has been honored as a 2017 Angels in Adoption® awardee for her outstanding advocacy on adoption and foster care issues. Kinsella, a resident of Newport, was nominated by Congressman David Cicilline.

The Angels in Adoption Program honors a spectrum of individuals and organizations making extraordinary contributions to adoption, permanency and child welfare. Each year, the awardees travel to Washington DC, to both celebrate their hard work and dedication to the issues, and to participate in special events designed to engage them in using their personal experience to effect change on behalf of children in need of families. Other awardees from Rhode Island included Susan Fink, Marlene Williams, and The Village for Rhode Island Foster and Adoptive Families.

Kinsella received the Angels in Adoption® award for her work on behalf of children in state care. One of her recent cases included a sibling group of eight children, all under the age of eight. She worked diligently to identify three families who would adopt the children, and asked each of them to commit to keeping the siblings connected for a lifetime. Earlier this year, all eight children were legally adopted by their families on the same day.

“None of this would have been possible without the devotion, knowledge, and commitment displayed by Bridget Kinsella. She is truly worthy of receiving the honor of being recognized as a Congressional Angel in Adoption®,” said Kinsella’s Regional Director Paula Fontaine. Fontaine also described Kinsella as a worker who has been dedicated to facilitating and supporting many adoptions over the years and that she continues to work persistently every day to help ensure youth aging out of the DCYF system are in permanent families.

“We are all very proud that Bridget was honored by the Angels in Adoption® Program and that she had the opportunity to share her experiences as a DCYF Social Caseworker with policymakers in Washington,” said DCYF Director Trista Piccola, “Our staff are amazing advocates for the children and families they serve.”

The Angels in Adoption® Program is the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute’s (CCAI) signature public awareness event and provides an opportunity for all members of the U.S. Congress to honor the good work of their constituents who have enriched the lives of foster children in the United States. This year, more than 120 “Angels” were honored through the Angels in Adoption® Program.

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For the attached photo, pictured L to R: Maya Colantuono, Elaine Gabellieri, Bridget Kinsella, Congressman David Cicilline, Susan Fink, and Kelley Fluette.