

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) congratulated Mark and Tiffani Dhooge on receiving the 2012 Angels in Adoption Award. Hastings nominated the Dhooges for the award, which is given through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) to honor an individual, couple, or organization that has made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of homes.

"It is truly an honor to recognize the important work that Mark and Tiffani are doing in South Florida by nominating them for this year's Angels in Adoption Award," said Hastings. "For the last 30 years, Mark and Tiffani have profoundly impacted the lives of thousands of children and families."

Along with their team at Kids in Distress, Inc., the Dhooges have facilitated over one hundred adoptions and/or permanent guardianships per year and have helped develop model programs for the South Florida community. Additionally, through their own business, Genesis Photography, the Dhooges donate their photography services in the courtroom when a family achieves permanency so that they may document the joy of that moment and their journey together as a family.

"Mark and Tiffani have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of children that extends far beyond their work as child welfare professionals. They are truly 'Angels in Adoption,' and I am proud to congratulate them on this much-deserved honor."

Mark and Tiffani Dhooge join other 2012 Angels in Adoption winners in traveling to Washington, DC, this week, where they will participate in training events, celebrate their achievements, and bring much-needed attention to the fostering and adoption processes.

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.

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