Moran Honors Great Bend Couple as "Angels in Adoption"

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran recently nominated Dr. John and Lori Simmons of Great Bend to receive the 2010 “Angels in Adoption” award for their advocacy for adoption and compassion for orphans in Ethiopia. The Angels in Adoption program highlights the good work of those who strive to improve the lives of children through adoption and foster care.

“John and Lori’s efforts to care for orphans in Ethiopia prove that one family can make a lasting difference in the lives of others,” said Moran. “John and Lori adopted two young girls from Ethiopia, and have worked tirelessly to care for many more Ethiopian orphans and involve the Great Bend community in that mission. Their efforts have galvanized their community around a common goal and have shown that when individuals work together, there is no limit to what they can accomplish. The Simmons’ compassion will change the lives of hundreds of orphaned children forever.”

In 2008, John and Lori Simmons traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to adopt their daughters, Faven and Diborah. But their compassion reached beyond these two children, to hundreds of orphans in Ethiopia. Before their trip, the Simmons spearheaded a fundraising effort to feed and clothe children at two orphanages in Addis Ababa. They surpassed their goal of raising $10,000 for the orphanages and then raised another $10,000 to provide Ethiopian orphans the opportunity to study at Barton Community College (BCC) in Great Bend, where John teaches. One young man the Simmons helped, Kenean, is currently attending BCC and is scheduled to graduate this fall. After graduation, he plans to attend Wichita State University, where another Great Bend family will sponsor his education.

John and Lori not only impacted the lives of Faven, Diborah and Kenean, but also helped bring together the community of Great Bend to care for the needs of orphans living half a world away. Through adoption and their ongoing work with Ethiopian orphans, John and Lori hope to give children not only a family, but a future.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) will honor the Simmons during a ceremony in Washington, D.C this week.

Moran is a member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

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