

Kerry Marks Hasenbalg spends most of her time caring for her family and homeschooling her children, but she's busier than you may think. She is the founding executive director of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), a nonprofit organization that works to raise awareness about the needs of children without families and to remove policy barriers that hinder children from knowing the love and support a family provides.

In 2009, Kerry received the Congressional Angel In Adoption award, and in September 2011, she was officially recognized in the U.S. Congressional Record for her service to orphans through her work with the congressional adoption caucus, improving foster care and adoption-related policies and practices and for her role in CCAI.

Under Kerry's leadership, CCAI was instrumental in lifting the quota on the adoption of Chinese orphans as a result of a lengthy meeting with former Chinese president Jiang Zemin. Also, as a result of one of Kerry's congressional trips to the war-torn region of northern Uganda where thousands of children had been abducted by the LRA, more congressional members began supporting measures to aid the child victims and stop the terrorizing of these little ones in that region.

Reuniting a Rwandese orphan from the genocide with her parents and a lost Sudanese boy with his after more than 10 years of separation were the most rewarding experiences of Kerry's work in the field of orphan care.

Kerry has also worked with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to create the Congressional Foster Youth Internship (FYI) Program, which makes it possible for former foster youth to intern in D.C. for members of Congress during the summer.

Her husband, Scott, is the founding director of Show Hope, an organization created by recording artist

Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife MaryBeth that helps remove the barriers to adoptions by giving financial grants to families which can't afford it and by providing care for orphans with medical special needs. Kerry also volunteers time supporting the work of Show Hope. A graduate of Danville High School, she majored in Russian and international relations at Bucknell University, graduating magna cum laude.

She then attended Calvary Chapel Bible College and worked as a Christian missionary in Russia.

Kerry is often asked to speak on the topics of grief and loss, adoption and orphan care, and various teachings from the Bible. She also teaches women's Bible studies in her home.

The family includes son Cole and daughters Maya and Leah, and at press time, one on the way.

"The Lord has exchanged ashes for beauty, brokenness for wholeness, and mourning for joy in my life and in the lives of many whom I have come to know," she says.

The one word that best describes Central Pennsylvania?

"Home."

Photo by The Picture Place



Kerry Marks
Hasenbalg, 40
Danville

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