



DONALD J. CORBETT ADOPTION AGENCY

For Immediate Release:
October 24, 2018

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“Orphan Train” Author is Keynote Speaker for Children Awaiting Parents/ Donald J Corbett Adoption Agency’s Heart Gallery Luncheon

Christina Baker Kline discusses historic Orphan Train children and the parallels between them and today’s foster youth waiting for forever homes

Rochester, NY—In time for **National Adoption Month**, a little-known part of American history and its recent documenter take the stage for the 2018 Children Awaiting Parents/Donald J Corbett Adoption Agency’s (CAP/Corbett) **Heart Gallery Luncheon** on Tuesday, **November 27** from **12 noon to 1:30 pm** at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Keynote speaker is **Christina Baker Kline**, author of the New York Times bestseller, *Orphan Train*. Inspired by real events, Kline’s novel personalizes the experiences of some of the 200,000 orphaned, abandoned, and homeless children transported through the Children’s Aid Society from East Coast American cities to train depots throughout the Midwest. The children were hoping to be taken into a loving home and family. The results were often mixed.

“We are thrilled to have Christina Baker Kline as our keynote. There are distinct parallels between the inner turmoil and emotional impact felt by Orphan Train children and the loneliness and uncertainty that foster youth currently experience while they wait for their forever family,” said CAP/Corbett Executive Director Lauri McKnight.

CAP/Corbett never turns away any family interested in adopting a child. The fundraiser assists prospective parents afford the adoption process and helps create or expand a family, as well as provides programs and services that recruit, train, and support foster and adoptive parents.

Luncheon tickets are \$75/person, \$45/students, teachers, and seniors, or \$750/table or \$1000/table sponsorship, and can be purchased online at <https://bit.ly/2JcLWPL> or by calling (585) 232-5110. Ticket purchase **deadline is November 21**, and sponsorships are available and welcome.

The luncheon also will feature a first-ever **Founders' Award** presented to adoptive parents and adoption mentors **Peggy and David Soule**. Peggy and David were founders of CAP Book Inc.; Peggy became the first executive director until her retirement in 2000.

During the event, attendees will be able to view an "After the Ride" display depicting variations on how the Orphan Train children lived once they found a new home.

Additional National Adoption Month November events include: a **Heart Gallery Reception and Teen Panel** at The Strong National Museum of Play (November 2) with a portrait display of children waiting for their forever families through November, and an **Orphan Train book discussion** at Writers & Books (Wednesday, November 14).

Kline noted that she gets letters from readers of *Orphan Train* who can't believe America ever sent children on trains across the country. "I always say that while the circumstances may be different, many children in foster care today have the same mix of feelings as the children on those long-ago trains: hope, dread, a sense of abandonment." Kline added, "I hope my novel inspires empathy, kindness and social action."

CAP/Corbett is grateful for these generous sponsors: Feminists Choosing Life of NY, Cascio Malone Family Fund, Park Grove Realty, MRB Group, DiMarco Group, Jesse Lucas/ Riverside Productions, St. Ann's Home, MGM Associates of Rochester, Wegmans Food Markets, McQuaid Jesuit, Cobblestone Capital Advisors, KeyBank, RP Lefrois Builders Inc., and other individuals.

NOTE: Photos and interviews with Christina Baker Kline are available on request.

CALENDAR:

What: Heart Gallery Luncheon fundraiser for Children Awaiting Parents/Donald J Corbett Adoption Agency

Who: Keynote Speaker, *Orphan Train* Author Christina Baker Kline

When: Tuesday, November 27, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

Where: Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 East Main Street, Rochester, NY

Visit: <https://childrenawaitingparents.org/>

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Children Awaiting Parents is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding adoptive families for those children in foster care who wait the longest. Over the last 46 years, it has helped bring together more than 6,000 children and families.