

For Immediate Release:

Children Awaiting Parents/Donald J Corbett Adoption Agency Presents an Orphan Train Immersive Experience

An interactive re-enactment explores the loneliness and uncertainty felt by today's foster children and immigrant minors

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Disrupting children's lives for a perceived greater good isn't new. Long before today's controversial separations at the Mexican border, the Children's Aid Society transported many New York City orphaned, abandoned and homeless children to train depots throughout the Midwest hoping to place them in good families.

At the New York Museum of Transportation (6393 East River Road in West Henrietta), nonprofit [Children Awaiting Parents/Donald J Corbett Adoption Agency](#) (CAP/Corbett) will drive awareness of children living in foster care through a re-enactment of an orphan train ride on Saturday October 27, 2018 at 11 am. Upon arrival, attendees will receive a card describing the circumstances of a child who actually rode the Orphan Train. After a brief introduction, participants take a 14-minute ride around the museum's track as two improvisers acting as chaperones treat them like orphans. When participants disembark, improvisers portraying the Midwesterners will inspect, judge and decide whether a rider is worthy of adoption.

The goal is to let participants step into the shoes of displaced children who have little control over what happens to them. While the external circumstances of the Orphan Train children are different, the inner turmoil and emotional impact are similar to the feelings of the immigrant children taken at the border and older foster care children waiting to find permanent homes.

Christina Baker Kline, author of the best-selling *Orphan Train* said, "My novel is a window into a historical moment when people made desperate choices because they had no better options. When you look at what's happening now, you realize that the time of the orphan trains wasn't as different from today as we might want to believe. I hope my novel inspires empathy, kindness and social action."

"This event provides the opportunity for participants to imagine the journey experienced by the children served by CAP/Corbett," said therapist Lori Newland, who will lead a discussion at the conclusion of the re-enactment. "My role is to support participants in meaningful reflection on how they are touched by the experience."

Parents, adults interested in adoption as well as supporters of children's causes will find this a captivating way to spend a Saturday morning. It's also a chance to meet CAP/Corbett's new executive director Lauri McKnight. People can reserve their place on the train at 585-232-5110 or info@capbook.org. Reservations are not required, but seats are limited.

This immersive theatrical experience kicks off a series of CAP/Corbett events promoting National Adoption Month. It is inspired by the featured guest speaker at CAP/Corbett's 2018 Heart Gallery Luncheon Christina Baker Kline discussing her bestseller *Orphan Train*. The fundraiser, happening on Tuesday November 27th at the Riverside Convention Center, will include an "After the Ride" display,

showing variations on how the orphan train children lived once they found a new home. Ms. Kline is available for interviews and guest speaking opportunities.

Throughout November, Rochester's new Amtrak station located at 320 Central Avenue and The National Museum of Play located at 1 Manhattan Square will both display portraits of children waiting for their forever family. On November 2 at 6:15 pm, CAP/Corbett will host a Heart Gallery Reception and Teen Panel at The National Museum of Play.

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About Children Awaiting Parents

Children Awaiting Parents, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding adoptive families for those children in foster care who wait the longest, has helped bring together more than 6,000 children and families over the last 46 years. Tickets to this year's Heart Gallery Luncheon are available at landing page.

About The New York Museum of Transportation

Since 1973, the New York Museum of Transportation has preserved our area's transportation heritage with a collection that includes interurban trolley cars, buses, horse drawn vehicles and a large model railroad. Unique in New York State, electric trolley rides are offered on the museum's railroad line. The volunteer-run museum is open Sundays from 11 to 5. Weekday group visits can be arranged by appointment. www.nytmuseum.org