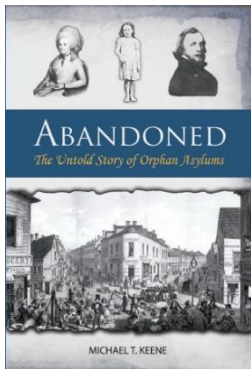


Prominent Local Author Donates Book Proceeds to Holy Childhood

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -February 20, 2014. In an effort to help Holy Childhood achieve its core vision to provide state-of-the-art education, programs and employment services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, New York-based author Michael Keene will donate a portion of his new book's proceeds to Holy Childhood. *Abandoned: The Untold Story of Orphan Asylums* (www.Ad-Hoc-Productions.com) delves into the "age of orphan asylums" in mid-nineteenth century New York.

"I have followed the work of Holy Childhood for more than 20 years. In that time, I have gotten to know many members of the Holy Childhood staff and learn of its invaluable contributions to our community," Mr. Keene said. "I am honored that *Abandoned* has been accepted as a vehicle for charitable contributions, allowing me to support an inspiring organization and deliver a powerful and important message."



Abandoned presents eye-opening, true-to-life tales of the Five Points area of New York City and the desperation of a million Irish immigrants who hoped to find better conditions in New York after leaving behind the famine they experience in their homeland in 1848. Unfortunately, after arriving in Lower Manhattan, they found squalor, gang violence and disease.

Within a few years, the area was home to 30,000 orphaned and homeless children, who roamed New York City and resorted to petty crime, begging, and selling newspapers for a nickel a piece. Most slept in alleyways, cellar and sewers, ultimately joining violent gangs for protection. As a result of this crisis, the Age of Orphan Asylums began, culminating in one of the most improbable and audacious episodes in American history. Known as the Orphan Train Movement, everyday heroes endeavored to rescue and liberate these children from the streets or uncaring institutions.

"Michael Keene's book is a well researched, informative history of the orphan asylums that housed thousands of destitute children during the 1800s ... *Abandoned* is a valuable resource," according to Donna Nordmark, author of *Beyond The Orphan Train*.

Holy Childhood is a non-denominational, non-profit agency, which serves more than 200 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in its school program (ages 5-21) and in its employment services programs, which serve people from age 21 through retirement. Services include individualized education, vocational training and diagnostic and treatment services.

To contact Michael Keene for interviews, presentations or book signings, visit www.Ad-Hoc-Productions.com, call 800.648.8909, or email misterkeene@cs.com.

For more information about Holy Childhood visit www.holychildhood.org or call 585.359.3710
To order *Abandoned*, contact Laurie Otto, Public Relations Manager 585.359.3710 ext. 144