

Building Connections... Building Families....



...to find a
permanent place
to call **HOME** for
children & teens in
foster care.

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange - MARE

www.MAREinc.org

45 Franklin Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02110 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) 800-882-1176

Dear Friends,

Despite economic turmoil, the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) spent Fiscal Year 2009 reinvigorating and revamping our approach to our mission – finding adoptive families for children in state foster care who cannot be raised by their birth parents. Last year (7/1/08 – 6/30/09) saw job losses, bankruptcies, home foreclosures, and financial anxiety soar. And those stressors can push already-challenged families past their breaking points.

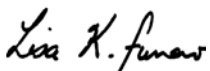
That happened for many youngsters in Massachusetts, as child-abuse and neglect cases handled by the Department of Children & Families increased. MARE saw our caseload grow – we began serving 298 additional children, while we found adoptive families for 157 children. As we write this, we are currently serving 517 children who are waiting for their own “permanent place to call HOME.”

We are proud to report that, despite the financial challenges, we were not content to rest on our 52-year track record of finding adoptive families for more than 5,350 children so far. MARE took tremendous steps to further improve our services – for the children, the potential families, and their social workers. Our reorganization focused on strengthening the connections that can build more adoptive families, with an intensive focus on results. That work is paying off in more effective collaborations and creative approaches to meeting the needs of children and families.

The goal of the reorganization was to focus on the full range of needs of each child while shortening the time any child has to wait to join a permanent, loving family. The highlights of this year’s reorganization are outlined below.

Please, remember that these are OUR children, in the care of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our state taxes fund the services and daily supports they receive, and their needs must compete with the variety of needs throughout the Commonwealth, even as the state budget has faced cuts. But what our children need most of all is you, or your neighbors, or cousins –trained, caring adults who can love and raise our children to their full potential.

We thank you for your support, and encourage you to call 617-54-ADOPT or visit www.MAREinc.org to learn more about adopting a waiting child or ways you can continue to help MARE help our state’s neediest children.



Lisa Funaro
Executive Director



John, Brian & Anthony are still waiting.

Child Services Building Connections Family Support

FY 2009 Highlights

MARE's Child Services Coordinators

- Established their role as primary means of contact and support for social workers
- Began to offer additional specialized services to individual area offices and workers including file mining, emergency matching, and reviewing homestudies.
- Originated more timely updates on children
- Gained more information on the families matched with each child

MARE's Family Support Services Program (First year of program)

- Established a point person within MARE to help families proceed through the adoption process
- Developed a structured family follow-up system
- Developed the “Friend of the Family” mentor program

Administrative Highlights

- Redesigned the MARE family database to collect more information and develop better reports, to proactively track and support families through the adoption process
- Implemented a new accounting system for the business office
- Implemented a new donor management system for the fundraising office

Programmatic Highlights:

- Introduced small, child-specific adoption parties with homestudied families interested in a specific group of children (by age or special needs)
- Introduced Video Snapshots to the list of child specific recruitment tools
- WWK recruiters expanded their roles and services, resulting in a significant number of matches for older children with challenging behaviors
- Launched “Sunday’s Child” features on the BoMoms page of Boston.com.

About the Cover Angel and Krystal

Siblings Angel and Krystal were in MARE’s Heart Gallery, and profiled on the national AdoptUsKids site, where they were the featured sibling group one week. During that week, New Jersey mom Martha had a dream about her family’s future children (infants, she expected), woke up and went on AdoptUsKids, and there were Krystal and Angel! She contacted MARE and the pieces began to fall into place.

Angel & Krystal were reluctant to leave their town, but eager for a family of Latino heritage. They met Martha and Herman, parents of a large Latino family. Many meetings, and daily phone calls followed, with Angel asking “so how soon can we move?” Visits to New Jersey followed, and Angel and Krystal recently moved in. They’ve had teenage bumps along the way, but they are blossoming in their new family - sharing their culture, doing well in school, enjoying friends and life in a bustling, busy family.

MARE’s work to build families is changing lives, and building families, even across state lines!

FY 2009 Supporters

Thanks to YOU, 157 children left foster care last year to grow up in safe, loving families.

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The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, Inc. (MARE) was founded in 1957 to find "a permanent place to call home" for the hardest-to-place children and teens in state foster care. MARE bridges the gap between families looking to adopt and local children in need of adoption. We build safe, stable families for the state's neediest children by giving them (and their need for adoption) the widest possible exposure to the general public while guiding and supporting potential adoptive families throughout the adoption process.

MARE is a 501 (c)3 charitable organization, tax ID #04-2227431.

MARE by the Numbers

Placements..... 157

Average Time Registered w/MARE before placement:

1.3 years (1.4 years in FY 2008)

Caucasian children: 1.12 year (1.27 yrs in FY 2008)

Children of color: 1.44 years (1.56 yrs in FY 2008)

Average Age at time of Placement: 8.2 years

(7.92 years in FY 2008)

Caucasian Children: 8.51 years (7.38 yrs in FY 2008)

Children of Color: 7.99 years (8.57 yrs in FY 2008)

Total number of new child registrations: 298 (355 in FY 08)

Total number of New Homestudied Family Registrations: 105

(120 in FY08, included out of state families. In FY 09, only MA families can register with MARE)

Total number of children Photolisted: 304 (288 in FY 08)

Total number of inquiries to MARE: 12,283

(15,347 in FY 08, included out-of-state families not homestudied making inquiries on specific children)

MARE Staff

(at fiscal year end)

Lisa K. Funaro, Executive Director

Tracy Scatterday, Associate Director

Maurine Albano, Child Services Coordinator, Western Mass.

Nikia Bodden, Child Services Coordinator, Boston/Metro

Ruth Bodian, Family Support Services Director

Lindsey Brynjolfsson, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Springfield

Kristin Erikson, PR & Fundraising Associate

Janice Halpern, Director, PR & Fundraising

Nichole Lawton, Child Services Coordinator, Southeast Mass./Worcester

Deirdre Madden, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Boston

Christine Mitchell, Child Services Coordinator, Northeast / North Central Mass.

Marcia Mousaad, Administrative Assistant

Milton Ortiz, Latino PR & Web Manager

Carolyn Short, Business Manager

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Nancy A. Woodfork, Verizon

Deborah Yamin*, State Street Financial Center

* Adoptive Parent

Financial Statements - FY 2009 (7/1/08 - 6/30/09)

Public Support and Revenue

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of

Children & Families (DCF).....\$520,000

Total Contributions & Grants.....\$694,952

Special Events.....\$ 31,738

Other Revenue.....\$ 24,826

Total Public Support & Revenue.....\$1,271,516

Expenses

Program Services.....\$1,101,261

General & Administrative.....\$173,260

Fundraising.....\$ 58,391

Total Expenses.....\$1,332,912

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets.....(61,396)

Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets.....(42,224)

Change in Net Assets.....(\$102,620)

This statement represents selected financial data. Complete copies of the audited financial statements are available upon request. MARE is audited by Joseph P. Costello, CPA, Braintree MA and is funded in part by the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families.

