



Mellon

PRESS RELEASE

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ATTENTION CALENDAR & FEATURES EDITORS/ASSIGNMENT DESK:

LGBTQ Adoptive and Foster Parenting Informational Meetings

The Home for Little Wanderers, with a grant from The Mellon Financial Corporation, and the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) will be co-hosting two informational events for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) families to learn more about foster care and adoption.

All are invited to attend these informal events to learn from professionals about the process of becoming foster/adoptive parents; hear LGBTQ foster/adoptive parents relate their experiences; and have questions answered face to face, including:

- Can I be honest about my sexual orientation/gender identity during the foster/adoptive process?
- Will I go through the same process as straight people do?
- What kinds of support will I need/receive as a LGBTQ foster/adoptive parent?

Tuesday, March 13, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Jordan's Furniture, Reading
50 Walker's Brook Drive, Reading, MA

Wednesday, March 21, 2007
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
The Home for Little Wanderers
780 American Legion Highway, Roslindale, MA

In Massachusetts, 3000 children have the goal of adoption, and more than 600 children have not been matched with families. Nationwide, there are about 118,000 children in foster care in need of adoption. School-aged children, sibling groups, children of color and children with special needs tend to wait the longest for families.

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MARE is a private, non-profit organization that exists to find a "place to call HOME" for CHILDREN in foster care, including sibling groups and children who are traditionally harder to place. We do this by recruiting, educating, supporting and advocating for FAMILIES throughout the adoption process. For more information, visit www.mareinc.org.

The Home for Little Wanderers is the nation's oldest and New England's largest, private, non-profit child and family service agency, providing services to thousands of children and their families through 20 programs each year. The mission of The Home is to ensure the healthy emotional, mental, and social development of children at risk, their families, and communities through an integrated system of prevention, advocacy, research, and a continuum of direct services. The Home is dedicated to welcoming LGBTQ people by providing high quality services for youth who identify as LGBTQ at Waltham House, one of The Home's residential programs, additionally The Home runs one of Boston's only parent support groups specifically for LGBTQ adoptive parents. For more information, visit www.thehome.org. The Home is "Where hope lives."

The Mellon Financial Corporation with more than 2,600 employees in the region, Mellon New England represents the Boston-based businesses of Mellon Financial Corporation, including its asset management, private wealth management, and asset-servicing units. Through its charitable giving program, Mellon New England plays an active role making our communities better places to live and work. Since 1997, the program has invested more than \$23 million in support of nearly 250 Boston-area community groups.