



Contacts: Nichole Lawton, nicholel@mareinc.org
Janice Halpern, janiceh@mareinc.org
617-542-3678

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2007

Adoption Party to Find Permanent Homes for Children in Foster Care

BOSTON, MA—April 19, 2007—The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) invites adults considering adoption through foster care to attend the annual **Southeastern Mass. Adoption Party, Saturday, May 19, 2007 at LaSalette Shrine, Route 118, Attleboro, MA.** The Adoption Party, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., is free and wheelchair accessible.

Anyone interested in adoption, from beginners to experienced adoptive parents, is welcome to attend. The Adoption Party is an informational event at which adults (18+), single, married, or partnered, homeowners or renters, of nearly any income level, can learn more about adopting a child or sibling group from foster care. Participants will have the chance to meet social workers and many of the children they hope to place in loving, permanent homes. Information will be available on specific waiting children. Participants can also learn about the adoption process and support resources available, as well as financial subsidies which may be available for children adopted from foster care.

The Adoption Party provides a fun and casual atmosphere, with family-friendly activities, including outdoor games (weather permitting) and arts and crafts projects. *Leroy the Balloon King* and *Sparkles, Face Painter Extraordinaire*, provide children's entertainment. Families may enjoy the complimentary barbecue lunch or bring their own picnic lunch.

In Massachusetts, 3000 foster children have the goal of adoption, and more than 600 of these children have not been matched with families. Nationwide, roughly 118,000 children in foster care wait in need of adoption. School-aged children, sibling groups, children of color and children with special needs tend to wait the longest for families. MARE's Adoption Parties provide a relaxed setting where waiting children and adults hoping to build their families can meet.

To RSVP for the Adoption Party or learn more about foster care adoption, contact MARE at 1-800-882-1176, 617-54-ADOPT or visit the Events page at www.mareinc.org.

MARE is a private, non-profit charity, working since 1957 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.

###

If you would like more information about this topic or to arrange for a story featuring children in foster care or local adoptive families, please contact Nichole Lawton at 617-542-3678 or email nicholel@mareinc.org.

visit our Website at www.mareinc.org
45 Franklin Street, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110-1301
MAIN # (617) 54-ADOPT or (617) 542-3678 • MA ONLY (800) 882-1176 • FAX (617) 542-1006 • TTY (617) 542-7772