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For Immediate Release

## **MARE Celebrates 50 Years of Finding Families for Children in Foster Care**

Boston, MA – October 15, 2007 – Over the past 50 years, more than 5000 children in the Massachusetts foster care system have found safe and supportive adoptive homes thanks to the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, Inc. (MARE).

On **Sunday, November 4, 2007**, MARE will reflect on its past accomplishments as well as future goals at **“The Best is Yet to Come” Golden Anniversary Celebration** from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at **Jordan’s Furniture in Reading**. More than 200 adoptive families, adoption advocates, supporters, and business and political leaders are expected to attend to celebrate MARE’s work for children in need of homes.

**Rockland resident and Wakefield native Rosemary McAuliffe**, MARE’s executive director from 1967 to 1974, will be honored at the event for her work in championing the cause of children in foster care. During her tenure, she initiated programs such as the Photolisting® system, a book containing biographical descriptions and photographs of children who are registered with MARE and waiting for adoption. Updated monthly, MARE’s Photolisting® publication is available in nearly 400 public libraries and social services agencies throughout the state. MARE’s Photolisting® was the first of its kind in the nation and is registered with the Library of Congress.

“We are delighted to take this opportunity to recognize Rosemary’s innovative leadership,” said MARE’s Executive Director Lisa Funaro. “For 40 of our first 50 years, she served as executive director and then board member. Rosemary developed programs now utilized by Adoption Exchanges nationwide.”

As to why she decided to revamp the way adoption agencies reached out to prospective parents, McAuliffe said: “I didn’t feel these children had enough exposure [when I first arrived at MARE]. It was important to me that people knew these children better. And through these photos, we went from placing 10 children a year to a 100 children a year. I felt this program was one of the best things I could have done for youngsters in foster care.”

Throughout the years, MARE has expanded on McAuliffe’s vision of showcasing waiting children by introducing the “Sunday’s Child” feature in the *Boston Sunday Globe*, a weekly column running since 1974. Similar features now appear in 15 newspapers across the state, including five Spanish language papers. In 1981, MARE partnered with *WBZ-TV4* to create “Wednesday’s Child,” a weekly television segment hosted by news anchor Jack Williams, featuring profiles of MARE’s waiting children. From these child-specific profiles to Adoption Parties to the Information Referral Line and Website, MARE has been the connecting link between children waiting for adoption and prospective adoptive parents from all walks of life, including married couples, and single or partnered adults.

MARE’s Golden Anniversary Celebration will include a performance by **Auburn resident Glenn Stewart**, a country-western recording artist. Stewart will perform his original song **“Forever Home”** from his self-titled CD. With moving lyrics – “You’re so young and seen so much ... Your heart’s been broken a thousand times” – “Forever Home” was a natural byproduct of Stewart’s experience in adopting his first of three children with MARE’s help. The song serves as a promise to Stewart’s children that they will never be without a home again.

MARE's anniversary celebration is sponsored by Jordan's Furniture, Lexus of Greenwich, State Street Corporation, Grey Goose Vodka, Community Newspaper Company, Dickinson Development Corp., Sovereign Bank, StoneTurn Group LLP, Citizen's Bank Foundation, and Arbella Insurance. The celebration will also feature hors d'oeuvres and buffet dinner catered by The Plated Gourmet, auctions, and the signature Grey Goose "MARE-tini." The evening will be hosted by Jordan's Furniture's famed pitch-man Eliot Tatelman.

In Massachusetts, there are over **10,000** children in foster care at any given time. Of these children, approximately **2,500** have "adoption" as their case goal. MARE focuses on recruiting adoptive families for the harder-to-place children in foster, including school age children 6 – 16 years old, children of color of all ages, sibling groups, and children with emotional, physical and intellectual challenges. MARE was founded in 1957 to find "a place to call HOME" for children in foster care.

For more information about MARE's *The Best is Yet to Come* Golden Anniversary Celebration, please contact the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, Inc. at 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org).

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*The media can provide a valuable public service to waiting children by covering "The Best is Yet to Come" Golden Anniversary Celebration and by featuring stories about adoption from foster care. Please contact MARE for more information about the celebration, the adoption process and specific waiting children and adoptive families in your area.*