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## **Sharon Photographer a Leading Fundraiser in Walk for Adoption** **Terry Louison Helps Local Children Find Permanent Families**

Sharon resident Terry Louison is taking steps to help children in state foster care find loving adoptive families. The professional photographer has signed up for the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange's Walk for Adoption on Sunday, May 22, and has already raised \$1000 to help.

Louison is a long-time supporter of MARE, volunteering her photography talents for MARE's Heart Gallery exhibit which travels the state to educate the public about the local children in need of adoption. Louison has taken portraits of a number of children in foster care, capturing their personalities as a way to draw families to consider adoption from foster care.

Terry Louison Photography will also volunteer at the Walk for Adoption to take keepsake portraits of walkers and teams, as another way to raise funds for the cause.

Jordan's Furniture, which features permanent Heart Gallery displays in all four stores, hosts ***A Walk Home: the Walk for Adoption*** on Sunday morning, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Jordan's Furniture's Taunton facility.

The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) organizes the Walk for Adoption to raise funds and friends for its work to recruit adoptive parents for children and teens in state foster care. Over 2,000 local children are currently growing up in temporary foster care while waiting for permanent, safe, loving homes. MARE's programs to find potential adoptive families include Wednesday's Child on WBZ TV, children's profiles in newspapers statewide, and the Heart Gallery portrait exhibit displayed in libraries, stores, and shopping malls. Through these public programs and behind the scenes work, MARE has helped more than 5,600 children leave foster care for permanent families over the past 53 years.

**WCVB's Anchor Bob Halloran, NECN's Eileen Curran, and their adopted daughter will be walking.** Adopting Grace was "the best thing I've done in my entire life," Curran says. "When you adopt a child, some people will say that you "rescued" that child. Truth is the child rescues you."

The Walk for Adoption is a fun-filled celebration of adoption, featuring a family-friendly 5K walk (indoor/outdoor) as well as arts and crafts activities, entertainment, prizes and refreshments. Adam Pertman, author of the newly released *Adoption Nation*, will be on hand for book signings. Walk participants can register online at [www.firstgiving.com/MARE](http://www.firstgiving.com/MARE) or contact MARE for registration forms. Prizes will be awarded for top fundraising individuals and teams. Adoption agencies, families, and businesses are all fielding teams for the Walk.

MARE's Walk for Adoption is sponsored by Jordan's Furniture, StoneTurn Group, LLP, Rodman & Rodman, P.C., Webster One Source, Hannaford Supermarkets, Charles River Apparel, and New England Sealcoating Co., Inc.

For more information on *A Walk Home*, MARE's Walk for Adoption, or to learn about adoption from foster care, contact MARE at 800-882-1176, 617-54-ADOPT, or visit [www.MAREinc.org](http://www.MAREinc.org).

MARE is a private, non-profit organization, working since 1957 to find a "permanent 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.

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[www.MAREinc.org](http://www.MAREinc.org)

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