



A Walk Home – MARE’s Walk for Adoption

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange’s (MARE)

Fact Sheet

WHAT: *A Walk Home* is a fundraising and public awareness event for the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE), the non-profit organization which has been finding adoptive parents for children in foster care since 1957. This family-friendly celebration of adoption features a non-competitive 5K walk, entertainment, refreshments, and prizes.

WHEN: **Sunday, May 22, 2011**
Check-in- 9:00 am; Walk followed by Party- 9:30 – 12:00 noon
Indoors or Outdoors (weather permitting)

WHERE: **Jordan’s Furniture Headquarters, 450 Revolutionary Drive, E. Taunton, MA 02718**

SPONSORS: The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE), Jordan’s Furniture, StoneTurn Group, Webster One Source, Rodman & Rodman, P.C., Charles River Apparel, Hannaford Supermarket, New England Sealcoating Co., Inc.

WHO: Jordan’s Furniture CEO Eliot Tatelman will be leading the walk, along with WCVB anchor Bob Halloran, his wife Eileen Curran of NECN and adopted daughter, Grace.

- Author Adam Pertman will sign copies of his book Adoption Nation.
- 300+ Walkers, including families, friends, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, social workers, and volunteers all supporting every child’s wish: a loving permanent home.
- Friends of all types of adoption, from international to private adoption, are coming together to help local special needs children gain the security of an adoptive family.

HOW: Participants can register online at www.firstgiving.com/MARE or by mail. Participants can raise funds to support foster care adoption by creating a fundraising page and then recruiting friends to sponsor them.

- Fee to Register: \$15 per person (T-shirt included), FREE for children 12 and under (T-shirt: \$5), and FREE for Virtual Walkers (those who cannot attend the walk).
- Special prizes for top fundraisers.

WHY: Celebrate adoption AND help a local child find a home.

In Massachusetts, 600 children and teens have no one to raise them in a safe and permanent home

- They are waiting for adoption.
- 2/3 of the youth waiting for adoption are children of color, 60% are male.
- School-aged children, sibling groups, children of color of all ages, and those with intellectual, physical, and emotional difficulties tend to wait the longest for families.

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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. MARE uses well-known programs, including Wednesday’s Child on WBZ TV and Sunday’s Child in the Boston Globe, to “put a face” on the children who are waiting for adoption, and urge adults to begin the adoption process. **Every child deserves a loving, permanent home.**

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www.MAREinc.org

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