



MARE IN THE NEWS

This October marks the 40th anniversary of the Sunday's Child column, a partnership between the Boston Globe and the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange. For the last 2000 plus Sundays, we have profiled children from foster care who need a permanent adoptive family. We are extremely fortunate and grateful to the Boston Globe for the ongoing opportunity to put the faces of these waiting children in front of the public's eye. This partnership has also allowed us to educate the public about the need for adoptive parents, to share information about the process and to create opportunities to connect children to loving, adoptive families. In total, more than 2400 children have been featured – mostly school-aged youth, siblings who want to be placed together, and children with varying degrees of needs. What they all have in common is that they need a permanent family; someone to raise them, teach them and love them forever!

The success of the Sunday's Child column can best be measured by the number of children that have been placed with adoptive families—over 1,400 in total! What is less tangible, but equally as important, is the impact that featuring a child each week, for 40 years, has made. We have countless stories from families who have read the column for years, sparking an interest that eventually turns into action. The Brewster family's story featured in the Globe last year really illustrates the breadth of Sunday's Child's reach and its ultimate,

amazing impact. Danita and Arthur Brewster have 3 biological children and were devoted readers of Sunday's Child for 20 years before seeing the faces of their now adopted daughters Ty-Janee and Mya. They were captivated by the faces of all those children who needed families and especially the two young ladies who needed them. Ty and Mya's photos were that last straw...they needed to pick up the phone. That's what Sunday's Child does, the feature puts a real, human face on a pressing problem that most of us can relate to – having a place to call home and a family to rely upon.

The Globe's commitment to making sure the column appears each week has brought a consistency to the messaging and provided the public with an ongoing reminder of the need. And that need is great – 8,700 children are in foster care here in Massachusetts with over 3,200 of them having a goal of adoption. Of those, MARE works to find families for over 800 children on any given day. And the public has responded, with over 5,000 inquiries from families interested in learning more about a specific child or becoming an adoptive parent in general. Not all families complete the process through adoption, but a great many do. And every child who finds a family touched enough to pick up the phone from the Sunday's Child column is one more child who leaves foster care, a child with a chance to be forever

loved and cared for in a permanent home. We thank the Globe owners and staff for their ongoing, consistent commitment to these children of the Commonwealth. We look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come. questions about the adoption process. MARE is a private, non-profit organization, founded in 1957 to find "a permanent place to call home" for children and teens in foster care, including sibling groups and children who are traditionally harder to place.

Lisa K. Funaro

Executive Director
Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange