



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***A Home for the Holidays***

*Ninth annual TV special to bring attention to children waiting to be adopted*

**(Paramus, NJ) November 30, 2007** – As Americans prepare to celebrate the holidays with their families, more than 1,200 children in New Jersey will not be so fortunate. They are waiting to be adopted. Today in the United States, there are approximately 114,000 foster children who need adoptive families.

To raise awareness and bring attention to their plight, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, the Children's Action Network, and CBS Television will present the ninth annual CBS-TV special, ***A Home for the Holidays***, on Friday, December 21 at 8:00 p.m. ***A Home for the Holidays*** is a nationally televised entertainment program designed to raise awareness about foster care and adoption as well as enhance recruitment efforts nationwide. Its key objective is to promote a positive image of foster care and adoption and the children who wait.

The special will feature inspirational stories of families and waiting children, and performances by top Hollywood actors and musicians and is expected to reach millions of primetime viewers.

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For the fifth year in a row, New Jersey Adoption Research Clearing House (NJ ARCH), a division of Children's Aid and Family Services, will serve as the show's state-wide contact. A toll-free number will be displayed during the show for prospective adoptive parents to call, and those calling from New Jersey will be directed to NJ ARCH. They will also receive an informational packet from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, including information on how to adopt, and public and private agencies that offer adoption services.

Through a grant from Wendy's Wonderful Kids, a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Children's Aid and Family Services has been able to fund one full-time adoption recruiter, who focuses on placing older children for adoption.

“While most people would consider a 9-year-old a young child, in the foster care system, they are considered ‘old’ and their chances of being adopted significantly decrease after this age,” says Rose Zeltser, senior vice president, professional services, Children's Aid and Family Services. “We’re extremely grateful that Wendy’s Wonderful Kids is putting so much effort toward older children adoption recruitment. Last year we received calls from more than 125 New Jersey residents following the airing of *A Home for the Holidays*, and we expect even more inquiries this year.”

Many prospective parents aren't aware they need not be wealthy, own a home or be married in order to adopt; they do need to be loving, nurturing, and interested in sharing their lives with a child. Those who adopt a special needs child are eligible to receive an adoption subsidy, which includes a monthly maintenance payment, medical coverage, and assistance with legal fees for adoption finalization.

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Additionally, Children's Aid and Family Services offers counseling and support programs for adoptive parents and their children. These services help the family prepare for the rewards and challenges of the adoption process. A staff member is only a phone call away, 24 hours a day, seven days per week, 365 days per year.

Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, was adopted as a child and created the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 1992 with the vision that every child deserves a permanent home and loving family. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption focuses on increasing adoption awareness while supporting model adoption service programs that find permanent homes and loving families for foster children who have been freed for adoption. For more information, call 1-800-ASK-DTFTA or visit [www.DaveThomasFoundation.org](http://www.DaveThomasFoundation.org).

NJ ARCH provides adoption advocacy, support, education, information and referral services to birth parents, adoptive and pre-adoptive families throughout New Jersey, as well as to families interested in adopting children and to professionals, family and community members interested in adoption issues.

If you're interested in adopting a child or would like more information, contact Shena Romney at 201-226-0300. You can also visit [www.cafsnj.org](http://www.cafsnj.org) to view photos, biographies and video clips of children seeking adoptive families.

Children's Aid and Family Services is one of the largest regional, nonprofit human services organizations serving northern New Jersey. The agency is fully accredited and has served the community for more than 100 years. Its mission is to preserve, protect and, when needed, provide families. Motivated by compassion for

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vulnerable children, young adults, frail elderly and their families, it provides high-quality and innovative services that meet their social, educational and emotional needs.

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