



# MARE IN THE NEWS

## “The Adoption Option” Jordan’s Furniture Provides a Resource For Families and Children Alike

(Reading, MA) – A Sunday morning filled with the laughter of children at play. That was the prevailing atmosphere at the 2016 “Adoption Option” hosted by Jordan’s Furniture in Reading, MA on Sunday. Over 200 families met with social workers, experienced families and volunteers to learn more about the adoption process. Other families, further along in the process had an opportunity to meet waiting children in a fun and exciting atmosphere.

Jordan’s Furniture hosts the event annually in collaboration with the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) and the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF) to help find permanent families for children in state foster care. Adults and families who are interested in learning more about adoption are invited to this free informational event.

“I met so many wonderful families and kids on Sunday morning,” said Eliot Tatelman, President/CEO of Jordan’s Furniture. “But more importantly, I saw connections.” Tatelman continues “There was a lot of communication and there was a lot of energy that I just know will end up creating matches between loving families and children looking for permanent homes. There is nothing



Eliot Tatelman, President and CEO of Jordan’s Furniture, speaking with a family at the Adoption Option

better!”

There was an overwhelming turnout from families who were excited to learn about the adoption process as part of the morning presentation. Prospective adoptive parents, who have already begun the adoption process, were able to meet Massachusetts’s waiting children and their social workers in an informal setting. They also were able to speak with experienced adoptive families and enjoy family entertainment, games,

refreshments, and activities designed to encourage interaction with waiting children.

“We were so pleased with the turnout”, said MARE’s Executive Director Lisa Funaro. “We so greatly appreciate the interest in adoption from families and value our strong partnership with Jordan’s Furniture. Together we have helped to match over 350 waiting children with their forever families.”

In Massachusetts, nearly 2,800 children currently in foster care have the goal of adoption, and more than 800 of those children have no relative or other potential adopter. Nationwide, there are over 107,000 children in foster care in need of adoption. Older, school-aged children, sibling groups, children of color and/or children with special needs tend to wait the longest for families.

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Prospective adoptive parents can be almost any age (21+); single, partnered, married, LGBTQ-identified; homeowners or renters; experienced parents or new to parenting. Families of

various income levels can adopt, as long as they have a stable source of income to support a child. There are no fees to adopt a child from foster care. Financial subsidies may be available, and children adopted from foster care are eligible for a tuition-waiver at Massachusetts state colleges and universities.

For more information, or to register to attend The Adoption Option at Jordan’s Furniture, please visit [www.MAREinc.org](http://www.MAREinc.org) or call MARE at 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678).

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.

Jordan’s Furniture is a nationally known six-store furniture retailer. Their innovative combination of entertainment and shopping has turned a local furniture store into a major retailer, drawing customers from all over New England. Philanthropy is a large part of the Jordan’s business philosophy. During their 18-year partnership with MARE, Jordan’s has generously hosted and financed many information meetings and recruitment events. As a direct result of Jordan’s support, more than 350 children have found adoptive homes.