



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Charleston West Virginia to Host Walk Me Home Fundraiser for Foster Care**

*Charleston, WV — May 23, 2009* — West Virginia will participate in the nationwide fundraiser called “Walk Me Home ... to the place I belong” on May 23rd at the WV POWER PARK to honor foster families in America. The five-kilometer Walk is sponsored by the National Foster Parent Association, the WV Recruitment and Retention Collaborative and Mission, WV and is one of more than 100 Walks held throughout the country.

“Mission WV is very excited to participate in Walk Me Home,” said Event Chair Kelly Thompson. “More than 500,000 children are in foster care and they desperately need our help and support, as do the loving adults who care for these children.”

To participate in the event, Walkers must collect at least \$30 in donations. Walkers can participate as individuals or on teams. While Walk Me Home is a nationwide event with more than 25 states participating, 70 percent of the funds raised in WV will remain here to benefit local foster families. Currently, more than 3,500 children are in foster care in West Virginia.

“This event is not only a fundraiser; it is about awareness of foster care issues and challenges. We’d like to get more people interested in being foster parents so all children can walk home to a place they belong,” Thompson said.

Anyone interested in participating or volunteering can get more information at [www.Walkmehome.org](http://www.Walkmehome.org) or by calling Mission WV at 866-CALL-MWV

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