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**THE NEW YORK FOUNDLING TO MARK 140th YEAR WITH
NATIONWIDE “HOMECOMING” DRIVE TO LOCATE AND BRING
TOGETHER ADOPTEES, FORMER FOSTER CHILDREN AND
THOSE WHO CARED FOR THEM**

***Historic child welfare agency plans “homecoming” event and builds online
community at www.nyfoundling.org***

(New York, NY – November 11, 2008) – Thousands of adoptees, former foster children and those who cared for them, divided by generations and scattered across the country, will have a unique opportunity to come together as The New York Foundling, one of America’s oldest and largest child welfare agencies, organizes a “homecoming” for all those connected with The Foundling’s 140 year history.

Founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1869, The Foundling has launched its 140th year of service by asking that anyone with a story of connection to the agency share those pieces of their lives at www.nyfoundling.org. The goal is to build a “virtual family room” - an online network of connection where history will come alive through the stories of people The Foundling has helped to save - a place where they can forge new relationships with countless others who share the same past – a history that links back to The Foundling.

Next year’s “homecoming” in New York and the virtual community of Foundling alumni being created in advance of that event, will be part of The Foundling’s 140th anniversary celebration. From its early days, when desperate mothers left their babies in a bassinette outside the front door of what was then called The Foundling Asylum, to the era of the “Orphan Trains,” when children traveled by train to the future homes of their adoptive families – The New York Foundling, which was also previously called The Foundling Hospital, has evolved into a major child welfare provider with a diverse range of services and has lived up to its simple motto: **“Abandon No One.”**

“This homecoming is more than merely a plan to unite people physically in one place – although that is an important part of it,” said Bill Baccaglioni, The Foundling’s Executive Director. “We are also creating an online community, where people who have been connected personally or through their families to The Foundling over the years can join with others and share their common experiences.”

Information about the homecoming and the online community can be found at www.nyfoundling.org. All those who visit the site will have the opportunity to share their stories of connection publicly through a wide variety of online content that The Foundling will help to produce.

On October 9 - 12, 2009, The Foundling is planning a weekend in New York City where alumni will trace the agency's history firsthand through its astounding collection of archival materials, experience The Foundling as it is today - a broadly expanded network of social services programs, and forge relationships with each other that can continue to grow through The Foundling's online communities.

The Foundling is also inviting doctors and nurses trained through its programs, volunteers, relatives of foundlings, and anyone else with a New York Foundling story to share, to visit www.nyfoundling.org/.

About The New York Foundling

Founded as a home for abandoned children, The New York Foundling has been saving children, preserving families and building communities since 1869. The agency helps children, youth and adults in need through advocacy and through preventive and in-care services that help each individual reach his or her potential. In the tradition of openness and compassion of its sponsors, the Sisters of Charity, the agency touches the lives of more than 13,000 people each year in the New York City area and in Puerto Rico as it upholds its guiding principle: **Abandon No One.** www.nyfoundling.org/.

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