

## 6th Annual 'A Home For The Holidays

Written by Robert ID596

Monday, 20 December 2004 12:42 -

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Actor, musician and comedian Jamie Foxx ("Collateral," "Ray"), who was adopted, hosts and performs on the sixth annual A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, a new entertainment special to be broadcast Wednesday, Dec. 22 (8:00-9:00 PM, ET/PT) on the CBS Television Network. Rod Stewart, hip hop's Black Eyed Peas, Ashlee Simpson, Train, Kenny G., Chaka Khan and Jamie Foxx perform and Jamie Lee Curtis, Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo and Bruce Willis present inspirational stories about adoption.

Following the success of the past five annual shows, this year's special continues to tell moving stories about adoption to raise awareness of this important social issue. The inspirational stories of these American families are enhanced by performances from some of today's most popular performers. Rod Stewart performs "What A Wonderful World" from his album Stardust ... The Great American Songbook: Volume III, in addition to a special duet with Jamie Foxx; Black Eyed Peas perform "Let's Get It Started" and "Where is The Love?" from their album Elephunk; Ashlee Simpson performs her smash hit "Pieces of Me" from her album Autobiography; Train performs "Calling All Angels" from their album Alive at Last; Kenny G. and the legendary Chaka Khan perform the duet "Beautiful" from Kenny's album At Last ...

The Duets Album and Jamie Foxx performs "Heaven," an original song that he wrote.

Several pre-taped story segments are presented by celebrities who either have had their own adoption experiences or are involved with children's issues. The stories highlight many exceptional American children and families involved in this rewarding process.

-- The Wilkins Family: Valinda Wilkins, a hospital research coordinator,

knew that she wanted to have children some day. Although she

initially had concerns about raising a child on her own, she decided

to inquire about adoption. In 1997, she attended an adoption festival

where she met 3-year-old Ravin, who had lived in foster homes since

birth. After Ravin turned six, Valinda decided to adopt again. She

thought she would adopt a single child until she saw Vyctoria and

Angelina. Placed in foster care as toddlers, the future for 7-year-

old Vyctoria and her 6-year-old sister Angelina grew more uncertain.

"I felt drawn to Vyctoria and Angelina because their eyes reflected

such loneliness," said Valinda. When the girls' adoption was

finalized in 2000, Valinda knew they would never have to feel alone

again.

-- The Zito Family: Dave and Brenda Zito were married in 1994 and had

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their first daughter, Chloe, two years later. On her third birthday,

Chloe told her parents that she wished for a "sister to love like you

love me." The couple had been trying to get pregnant again, without

success. After learning how many foster children need a permanent

loving home, the Zitos decided to adopt. In 2000, Chloe's Christmas

wish came true when the Zitos adopted 4-year-old Mary and her 3-year-

old sister, Erica. "I knew beyond a doubt that we had done the right

thing," said Brenda. Today, Chloe, Mary and Erica are as close as can

be.

-- The Marris Family: Five-year-old Cassandra was separated from her

younger brothers, Albert and Anthony, as they were shuffled through

foster care for several years. In 2001, she was reunited with her

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brothers in a new foster home, but their journey was not over. In

December 2003, Cassandra and her brothers appeared on the fifth annual

"A Home for the Holidays" special, and married couple Thomas and

Virginia Marris were watching. The couple immediately left a message

for their social worker. In January 2004, Virginia and Thomas

received the good news that they were to be the proud parents of

Kassandra, Albert and Anthony. "Our house is full of such wonderful

laughter, such amazing love," says Virginia.

-- Children Waiting: There are more than one half million children

currently in foster care in the United States. This segment brings

the numbers to life by creating an intimate portrait of children who

need permanent loving families.

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The special is presented in association with The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Children's Action Network. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption was established in 1992 by Wendy's restaurant founder Dave Thomas, who was adopted. It is dedicated to increasing the awareness of the more than 150,000 children in North America's foster care system who have been freed for adoption.

Wendy's Restaurants is a program sponsor.

The Children's Action Network was founded in 1990 by leaders in the entertainment industry to harness the power of the entertainment media on behalf of children. The special is a part of CAN's National Adoption Campaign to raise awareness of the joys of adopting and to find homes for the children who are waiting.

A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS is produced by Triage Entertainment and Goldsmith

Entertainment, in association with the Children's Action Network and the Dave

Thomas Foundation. Karen Mack, Stu Schreiber, Stephen Kroopnick and Marilyn

Seabury are the executive producers; Kimberly Steer is the supervising

producer. Michael Simon directed the special, which was written by Eugene

Pack.