News Release

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For Immediate Release:

The Adoption Exchange Marks National Adoption Month with 28th Annual Fantasy Ball; Honors Former Denverites Andrea and Rich Montoni

AURORA, CO—The Adoption Exchange celebrates National Adoption Month with its 28th Annual Fantasy Ball, Saturday evening, Nov. 21, at the Donald R. Seawell Grand Ballroom at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The event, which begins at 6 p.m., will honor former Denver residents Andrea and Rich Montoni for Philanthropic and Community Service.

Mrs. Montoni, a former PR executive, was the founding director of The Denver Post’s Ride the Rockies Bike Tour. Mr. Montoni is CEO of Washington, D.C.-based MAXIMUS, which is a leading operator of government-sponsored health and human services programs worldwide.

According to Dan Lawrence, senior vice president of development and marketing for The Adoption Exchange, the Montoni’s have been ardent supporters of The Adoption Exchange for more than 30 years. “Mr. Montoni was our second board chair and was responsible for implementing much of the governance structure that is still in place today,” says Lawrence.

Some 104,000 foster children nationally and more than 280 foster children in Colorado are eligible and waiting to be adopted. The Adoption Exchange believes that all children deserve to grow up in safe and permanent families.

Each year, tens of thousands of children turn 18 or 21 and leave the system without families. The typical child who has been freed for adoption is 8 years old, moves three or more times in foster care, may have been separated from siblings, and will wait five years or more to be adopted.

National Adoption Awareness Month, celebrated annually since 1990, works to increase the number of families willing to consider foster care adoption and celebrates the unique joys of creating families through adoption from foster care.

The Fantasy Ball is sponsored by Regal Entertainment Group, Presenting Sponsor, The Salah Foundation, CHOICE Sponsor and MAXIMUS, Wednesday’s Child Sponsor. This year’s Fantasy Ball is co-chaired by: Joe and Margie Adams, and Ed and Kacy Adams.

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For Fantasy Ball ticket and seating information visit [www.adoptex.org/fantasyball](http://www.adoptex.org/fantasyball) or call 303-755-4756.

The Adoption Exchange was founded in Colorado in 1983 by concerned social workers and child advocates who recognized the need to find adoptive families for children not living with their birth families. The organization has grown considerably over the years and now impacts national trends in child welfare, while helping to connect children with adoptive families in eight member states. The Adoption Exchange provides training and knowledge to permanency planning professionals and foster and adoptive families and serves all fifty states and U.S. tribes and territories. For more information about the programs and services of The Adoption Exchange, go to [www.adoptex.org](http://www.adoptex.org) or call (303) 755-4756.

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