

For Immediate Release

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CHS Adoptive Family Profiled in National Project

January 6, 2012 - "People often ask what motivated Fred and me to consider adoption, and the truth is I can't pinpoint one thing." Melissa Falcone says that she and her husband Fred always wanted their family to consist of older children that they adopt first, then biological babies later. After going online and viewing the profiles and photographs of waiting children, the Falcones knew that they were meant to be adoptive parents. They are also adamant that adoption was always their first-choice plan.

Fred and Melissa have two twin boys: Chris and Nick who are 14, and another son Anthony who is 1. Chris and Nick were in foster care for many years before the Falcones saw their video and read a brief profile on the Children's Home Society website.



When asked about challenges adopting, Melissa says "I often tell people that adoption isn't much different than pregnancy and childbirth! Both require waiting, waiting, and more waiting. The process, though emotional and stressful at times, was a good experience."

The Falcones believe that if others could meet their amazing family, they would truly understand the importance of adopting children from foster care. "My sons had a horrible childhood and they were in the system for far too long." The encouraging news is that even though Chris and Nick remained in the foster care system for almost 10 years, it wasn't too late for them to have a great life.

In November, the Falcone family was featured in "The Adoptive Family Portrait Project" coordinated by the national adoption advocacy group Voice for Adoption. The Falcone's family portrait and story was displayed in the Washington, D.C. offices of North Carolina Senator Richard Burr as well as included in a national publication promoting the needs of waiting children and adoptive families. The project was an effort to promote legislative support for needed foster care and adoption resources.

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Since 1902, Children's Home Society has been one of North Carolina's leading resources ensuring that every child has a permanent, safe, and loving family. CHS works with public social service agencies and many community partners to help parents create a safe, positive setting for children to grow and thrive, to preserve families, and when necessary, to provide children with a healthy family setting through foster care or adoption. CHS is committed to our vision of being a leader in transforming families and communities so children can thrive. CHS staff and programs serve children and families in 60+ North Carolina counties each year. For more information, please visit www.chsnc.org.