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CONTACT: Joy S. Goldstein, Executive Director, LCSW, ACSW
Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc.
P: (914) 939-1180 E: adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org

Westchester Families Donate Time and Merchandise to Less Fortunate Children

Rye Brook March 18, 2009 Joy and Michael Goldstein, who have dedicated their lives to delivering happiness to parents worldwide interested in adopting, spread happiness recently to children in Aruba when they hand delivered \$ 3,000.00 worth of donated books, DVD's, Frisbees, and a color printer/scanner. During financially difficult times, local families and staff members stepped up and purchased these requested items to help children in greater need. Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc. and the Law Firm of Michael S. Goldstein, located in Rye Brook, New York arranged to visit two orphanages/children's homes on the Dutch island of Aruba.

Joy and Michael along with their three sons visited with Casa Cuna and Imeldahof Children's Homes to personally bring these items. Last year when the Goldstein's visited the same orphanages they donated teddy bears and chocolates. Aruba, one of the smaller Dutch ABC islands, has many drug exposed babies living and growing up in what are considered "Children's Homes" without the likelihood of ever finding their "forever home". There are very few in-country adoptions and no out of country adoptions from Aruba. Most, if not all of the children in these group homes will remain until they are asked to leave at the young age of 18, when they are expected to learn the difficult responsibility of living on their own. Although while living within the homes they are nurtured and taken care of by loving staff, sadly, many will end up back on the streets or incarcerated.

The Goldstein boys and some friends they met in Aruba while on Spring break, spent time teaching some of the older Aruban children the art of ultimate Frisbee. They returned to offer their time gardening at the Imeldahof Children's Home when they learned that the maintenance man who was injured was in desperate need of help. To quote one of the Goldstein boys, "As an adoptee, I can say that this part of our vacation was so much more worthwhile than sitting on the beach. The kids loved hanging with us and, even though they speak Papamiento and very little English, we understood each other enough to help put smiles on their faces".

If you are interested in learning how to help other children in need and/or visit an orphanage and donate your time when you are on vacation in an international country please visit FFTA's website at www.ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org or contact FFTA directly at # 914-939-1180.

About Forever Families Through Adoption: *FFTA is a New York and Connecticut-authorized, 501(c)3, not-for-profit, adoption placement agency and resource center founded on the belief that every child has the right to grow up in a loving, nurturing, secure, and forever home. Joy Goldstein is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who counsels birth and adoptive parents and frequently lectures on adoption topics. Michael is an attorney and social worker and assists his clients with adoptions both domestically and internationally. After more than 25 years and over 2,500 successful placements, the Goldstein's founded FFTA in 2007.*