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Joe Valentine with his moms, Doreen (left) and Deborah.

GROWING UP WITH TWO MOMS: THE STORY OF A PROFESSIONAL PITCHER

Philadelphia – January 2006 He’s a major league player with two moms to cheer him on.

Joe Valentine, a relief pitcher for the Houston Astros (formerly with the Cincinnati Reds), is the first public sports figure to ‘come out’ about having lesbian mothers and the first professional baseball player to broach the topic of homosexuality. Valentine has become a role model to youth with gay and lesbian parents throughout the country, and will make his first public appearance celebrating his family in Philadelphia on Saturday, **February 4th at a benefit appearance for the Philadelphia-based youth camp Mountain Meadow.**

Growing Up With Two Moms: The Story of a Professional Picher, will take place **from 3 to 5 p.m. at Calvary United Methodist Church, at 801 S. 48th Street.**

Although Valentine says he has faced very little discrimination based on his family background, he knows it isn’t that easy for everyone. “I wanted to share my story for all the other kids out there,” Valentine told Mountain Meadow’s Executive Director, Carolyn Thompson. “I want to make it easier for kids growing up in families like mine. I don’t know how they find me, but I get emails from kids all the time who have two moms or two dads. I write everyone back. That’s why I ‘came out’ publicly about having two moms.”

Growing Up With Two Moms: The Story of a Professional Picher is co-sponsored by eight gay and lesbian family and sports organizations: Mountain Meadow, Delaware Valley Legacy Fund, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere, Philadelphia Family Pride, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay), Gay Community Night at the Phillies, Outsports.com, and Team Philadelphia, a program of the William Way Community Center.

Mountain Meadow is a progressive and diverse community that offers children of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other nontraditional families and their allies, regardless of income, programming dedicated to recognizing and challenging different forms of oppression and intolerance.

Mountain Meadow will dedicate one of their athletic fields to Valentine during his special appearance.

For more details about the event, please visit:

http://www.mountainmeadow.org/valentine_postcard.pdf

To buy tickets, please visit: <http://www.mountainmeadow.org/ticketorderform.pdf>.

All checks and credit card payments for sponsorship and tickets should be made out to the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund.

The Delaware Valley Legacy Fund’s (DVLF) mission is to increase philanthropy and grantmaking to support needs of the LGBTQ and straight-allied communities. Housed in The Philadelphia Foundation, DVLF has helped leverage resources for over 60 LGBTQ-serving organizations.

