



JOHN G. ROWLAND
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
06106

March 10, 2003

The Children First Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 2722
Danbury, Connecticut 06813-2722


Dear Friends:

On behalf of the State of Connecticut, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the Children First Foundation's annual fundraiser in Ridgefield, Connecticut on March 16, 2003 to benefit the Children of Hope Safe-Haven Program.

Since Connecticut's adoption of Safe Haven legislation, Connecticut's Department of Children and Families in partnership with community organizations such as the Children First Foundation and the Children of Hope has made great progress in protecting women and saving newborns. I applaud the Children First Foundation and the Children of Hope for their generous contributions in promoting and supporting adoption as a positive choice for a crisis pregnancy. Largely due to the success of Safe Haven programs, community organizations and the dedicated staff at the Department of Children and Families, the State of Connecticut continues to be a strong leader in addressing the needs of our children.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the many dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this wonderful event and to offer my sincerest gratitude. It is with regret that I am unable to attend; however, please know that you have my best wishes for a memorable occasion.

Sincerely,


JOHN G. ROWLAND
Governor