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### **Cuomo Family Attends Renaming Ceremony**

(Richmond Hill, NY)— Former New York State Governor Mario Cuomo and his wife Matilda Raffa Cuomo, along with their daughter, Dr. Margaret Cuomo Maier who represented her four siblings, attended the renaming ceremony of one of HeartShare Human Services' preschool programs on Friday, October 17, 2008. Now officially known as The Governor Mario M. and Matilda Raffa Cuomo Family First Step Early Childhood Center, HeartShare is proud to continue a relationship with the Cuomo family that spans more than 20 years.

“What HeartShare and Governor and Mrs. Cuomo commonly share is a very clear understanding of the broadest meaning of the concept of family, and its primary requirement to care for and nurture those in our care,” said HeartShare Board Chairman Ralph A Subbiondo. “This school represents the perfect blending of the HeartShare family and the Cuomo family. So, we are very honored to welcome all of the Cuomos to our family.”

The services offered at HeartShare's Cuomo Center include preschool educational programs for children ages 3 to 5 with developmental delays and disabilities. This may include autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, mental retardation, and more. Universal PreKindergarten is also offered to typically developing 4-year-olds who learn in integrated classes with the children with delays or disabilities. Physical and occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, music therapy, and recreational activities are also offered.

Celebrating its 94th year, HeartShare is a nonprofit organization that assists more than 17,000 New Yorkers. Its wide spectrum of services provides counseling, after-school programs and assistance with foster care and adoption to children and families, supports people affected by HIV/AIDS, and administers energy assistance programs. It also helps individuals with developmental disabilities through numerous programs including education services, adult day programs, residential services, case management, recreation programs, family support services, and health services. For more information, visit [www.heartshare.org](http://www.heartshare.org).

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