

PRESS RELEASE

CENTER FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS RECEIVES AWARD

Cambridge, MA, September 11, 2008—Center For Family Connections (CFFC) was selected by Voice for Adoption as this year’s recipient of the Drenda Lakin Memorial Award for Continuing Service to Adoptive Families. This award honors a state, nonprofit organization, or individual whose programs provide valuable adoptive family support after adoptions are finalized.

Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao, CEO and Founder of CFFC, received the award at a reception in Washington, D.C. on Monday, September 22, 2008 on behalf of CFFC.

“CFFC is a small but mighty clinic and consultation service as well as a training center. The staff at CFFC works tirelessly for our families and children in adoption and foster care and we appreciate this honor and recognition.” –Dr. Pavao

At a fundamental level, Center For Family Connections’ mission is to help children feel safe, seen, and valued, and to help them adjust to the challenges of being, or having been, moved from one family to another. Many of the children CFFC serves have spent years in countless foster homes, orphanages, residential centers or hospitals. CFFC constructs families, reconstructs families, refurbishes and restores families. The experienced clinicians understand the interactions and needs of complex blended families and provide the skills, tools and talent required to build stronger and healthier family units.

CFFC believes that the need to honor connections is an essential part of family life.

CFFC is an educational and clinical resource center that addresses the developmental, structural, and systemic issues related to adoption, foster care, kinship care, divorce and other complex blended families¹. It was the first and is now one of only a few agencies that provide pre- and post-adoption clinical work, consulting, and training to parents and professionals without the conflicting demands of placing children as well. CFFC serves individuals and families affected by adoption and foster care, as well as the people with whom they are connected.

¹ What do we mean by “complex blended families?”

- Root families *are families where the mother and father who gave birth to the child are also parenting the child together...*
- Complex families *are every other type of family structure...*
- *Complex blended families* are a blending of many families by adoption, fostering, kinship care, remarriage, or alternative reproductive technologies.