

Join *Center For Family Connections*, along with the Evan B. Donaldson Institute, to continue building a worldwide *conversation* about the Extended Family of Adoption and creating understanding and change through dialogue.



ADOPTION CONNECTIONS TRAINING INSTITUTE: ONEWORLD NEIGHBORHOOD (ACTION)

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POST ADOPTION
PRACTICE

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2011
HOTEL MARLOWE, CAMBRIDGE, MA, USA

The goal at Center For Family Connections (CFFC) is to serve individuals and families touched by adoption, foster care, kinship, guardianship, as well as other complex blended family constructions, and to serve the people and professionals with whom they are connected, by offering clinical treatment, consultation, training, education, and advocacy.

Critical to CFFC's philosophy is the understanding that adoption (both legal and emotional adoption: by placement in a foster family or any other significant life-altering family connection) is not an isolated event. It is a life-long process and an intergenerational journey. As such, each member in the family changes and certain developmental transitions occur that need to be addressed.

The goal of 2007 ACTION conference was to have a conversation about what we are doing well, what we can share, what we can do better for the families, and most of all, the children in adoption. In 2009 our goal was to think about a seamless continuum for children in care through to their return to birthfamily, kinship care, or into their permanent families by adoption and guardianship. In order to know what to do at the beginning, we need to study the endings. The issues post adoption should inform the practice that happens at the front of the line. In 2011 our goal is to look at the issues of race, gender, class and individual and family identity in the post adoption extended family (including birth and adoptive family) whether the adoption is open or closed.

Through this conference, CFFC is creating a distance-learning institute for dissemination and best practices worldwide. The conference in 2009 went extremely well! Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao, Founder and CEO of CFFC, said, "Of the four conferences we have run to celebrate and expand the international Community of Adoption and the Post Adoption Services it provides, this February's ACTION conference ranks highest in evaluation and excitement!" Attendees were particularly moved by premier screenings of Barb Lee's film *Adopted* and Sherry Fine's film *Forever Families: Seven Stories of Single Parent Adoption*.

In 2003, After Adoption in the UK and CFFC in the US collaborated in an attempt to expand the worldwide community of adoption. Although adoption entails different policies and procedures in every country, post-adoption issues are universal—they cut across language, race, culture, religion, and ethnicity. It is our common ground and common community of caring about post-adoption issues that brought us together for the *Best of Both Worlds* international conference in February 2003 in Dublin, Ireland.

In 2005, CFFC undertook to present a follow-up conference alone. This was also held in Dublin, Ireland, and this event marked the launch of the Adoption Connections Training Institute: OneWorld Network (ACTION). ACTION proposes an international collaboration among many grass roots organizations and agencies. The purpose of ACTION is not to argue about what is right and wrong with the way adoptions are done (although that can be easily argued), but to work together to provide the best possible training, treatment services, and psychoeducational tools for families and children and for the professional who work with them worldwide. It is our hope to develop a network that will exchange ideas, knowledge, models, and resources to provide the best possible services for all members of the extended Family of Adoption. **This year we are pleased to announce the involvement of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in promoting and hosting the 2011 ACTION conference!** For more information on their organization, visit www.adoptioninstitute.org.

We hope you will join us for what is guaranteed to be another wonderful conference in February 2011!



ACTION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



EXAMPLES for presentation/paper/workshop session topics:

- Standards and practice of post adoption services: what steps have countries made to serve people after adoption?
- Challenges to creating openness not only domestic, but in international and/or transracial adoption
- Birthparents and the need for services before, during and after adoption
- Identity formation in an open versus closed adoption and how to support children and teens in this process
- Kinship Care and the needs of family after an adoption and role change
- Group Work
- Maintaining or creating more openness between foster care families and adoptive families in order to extend the past into the present for a child who has had many families
- Looking at how the adoptive family (including birth and adoptive) was perceived in the past and how we want to see it in the future
- Trauma and Attachment
- Enhancing connections among siblings when one child is adopted and biological siblings remain with birth parents or stay in foster care
- Issues of race, class, ethnicity, religion and culture in adoption
- Adoption in a GLBT context (e.g., whether the individual is adopted by a gay/lesbian parent or whether the biological parents may be GLBT, or whether the adopted person identifies as GLBT)
- Issues of search and reunion in both open and eventually open adoptions (domestic and international)
- Nature vs. nurture in the adopted self identity and in that of the extended family
- How contact between birth and adoptive families may change over time and how professionals hurt or help
- The different needs for both infant adoptions and older child adoptions
- Treatment and assessment issues with birth families, adopted people, and adoptive families
- Openness of parents to diversity and multiculturalism in the context of transracial and transnational adoption-what can we do to create a better dialogue
- Visitation
- How the complex identity development of the family impacts the individual
- Innovations in clinical practice, social work, and post adoption practice
- Wishes, hopes, action plans and visions for the future of post adoption services
- Other

We are seeking panel presentations, papers, performances and workshops.

Guidelines on Time Allotted for different formats:

Panel Presentations: 10 to 15 minutes

Papers/Presentations: 20 to 30 minutes

Workshops: 60 minutes

Submit proposal electronically **NO LATER THAN** and July 16, 2010 to pamelad@kinnect.org.

