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PRESS RELEASE

**CENTER FOR FAMILY CONNECTIONS  
IS AWARDED \$75,000 FROM W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION**

**Cambridge, MA, March 5, 2009**—Center For Family Connections (CFFC) announced today that they awarded a year-long grant of \$75,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The grant will allow CFFC to create a new post adoption training and support for internationally adopted adults, parents of internationally adopted children and professionals. The training will consist of two weekends focusing on providing respite and modeling for parents, as well as giving them an advanced education on various developmental areas of international adoption.

The project will begin with a focus group of parents, professionals and adopted adults all with a connection to international adoption. This group will help determine the format and topics of the new training. CFFC hopes to have program dates and locations announced within the next month.

The goal of the new program is to give specific attention to the developmental needs specific to international adoption. In a world that is continually becoming more integrated, it is important for international adoption to be recognized for all its challenges and joys. CFFC hopes to facilitate conversations among participants and to provide expertise for professionals serving these families, while giving the families tools and strategies to make their families as strong and healthy as they can.

Research states that adopted and foster children are at greater risk for significant problems in adolescence. This is because the normative developmental tasks of adolescence—such as exploring identity and self-esteem—are magnified and complicated for these particular youth. Children who are adopted or living in foster care often feel different from their peers and alone in their experience. These needs are heightened in youth who have been adopted internationally and/or transracially. Race is one more difference that they must process in building their identities during the formative adolescent years. These issues will be discussed with those parents considering international adoption, supported by those parents who have adopted internationally, those adopted internationally themselves, and those working with an internationally adopted population.

It is CFFC's hope that upon the success of this first year of the program, additional funding for a second year will be sought from other sources so that the pilot can be replicated and provided in many settings with support and assistance provided by Center For Family Connections as the lead agency.

CFFC, led by founder and CEO Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao, has over 30 years of cutting-edge experience working with complex families. It was established to serve families and children whose lives are touched by adoption, foster care, divorce, and other complex family issues. It is a nonprofit, educational, and clinical resource center based in Cambridge, MA.

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930. The organization supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children

to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

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