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Forever Families Through Adoption Joyfully Make Their First Baby Announcements

Two same-sex Dutch couples begin their "forever families" with the help of local adoption experts' new agency

Rye Brook, August 24th, 2007. Joy and Michael Goldstein, the founders of Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc. (FFTA), a newly authorized New York and Connecticut not-for-profit adoption placement agency, are pleased to announce the successful placements of their first two infants.

Baby girls Bo Marie and Shontee both found homes in the Netherlands with same-sex couples anxious to begin their families. Both babies were born in late June, but medical issues kept each of them from going home with their new families until just a couple of weeks ago.

"Everyone is doing so well!" enthused Joy Goldstein, FFTA's Executive Director. "Michael and I have been truly blessed by the long and strong relationships we have formed with both the Dutch Ministry of Justice and the ever-expanding group of families in the Netherlands who have worked with us to build their forever families."

The Goldstein's unusual expertise in 'reverse commute adoptions,' in which an American baby is placed with an adopting family overseas, began more than 10 years ago, when a Dutch family, living temporarily in New York City while assigned to the UN, contacted Michael to help them adopt a baby. Their successful experience led them to spread the word on their return to the Netherlands. Now there are dozens of "Goldsteiner" families, as they call themselves, throughout the country, raising more than 65 adopted children. There is even an annual "Goldsteiner Day" celebration, organized by the families each June. Last year, forty adopting families came to the picnic to reintroduce their growing children to Joy and Michael who were in attendance.

"Joy and I have dedicated our lives to helping birth parents, adoptive parents and, of course, children," explained Michael. "And while most of the babies we help place are healthy, Caucasian infants, we have a particular fondness for hard to place children, including those that have been drug or alcohol exposed, or who are black or bi-racial. A 'reverse commute adoption' is often the best – and many times the only – alternative for these babies."

"Both Bo and Shontee are products of very difficult situations, and we know that each is likely to require the kinds of extra support in the future that the Dutch system provides," Michael added. That support includes not only free medical care and services, but a culture that turns a blind eye to racial differences.

And, of course, the support of other "Goldsteiners." "What started out as an informal support group has turned into a real community of adoptive parents and children who rely on each other for not only support, but love and friendship," said Odette, one of the picnic's organizers. "My husband and I feel that we owe the Goldstein's, not just for our forever family, but for many of our forever friendships, as well."

About Forever Families Through Adoption: *FFTA is a New York and Connecticut-authorized, not-for-profit, adoption placement agency founded on the belief that every child has the right to grow up in a loving, nurturing, secure, and forever home. Joy Goldstein is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who counsels birth and adoptive parents and frequently lectures on adoption topics. Michael is an attorney and social worker and assists clients with adoptions both domestically and internationally. After more than 25 years and over 2,500 successful placements, the Goldstein's founded FFTA in July of 2007.*