



## Forever Families Through Adoption

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On Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, National Adoption Day, Forever Families Through Adoption (FFTA), a NY and CT-authorized adoption placement agency and resource center in Rye Brook, NY, was awarded the All Children-All Families Seal of Recognition by the Human Rights Campaign. The Seal signifies that FFTA is an organization that is welcoming, affirming and supportive of LGBT families, and has met criteria for fully inclusive policies and culturally competent approaches in working with the LGBT community.

National Adoption Day, recognized throughout the United States including in Westchester County provided an unusual opportunity to finalize the adoptions of thousands of children and to celebrate all families that adopt. Among these families were three FFTA families whose finalizations took place at the Westchester County Family Court with the Honorable Judge Kathie E. Davidson presiding. Judge Davidson, who has been recognizing and finalizing same-sex adoptions for many years, joined FFTA staff and Members of the Board, along with notable guests including Patti Lubin, Senior Counsel and Senior Advisor on Public Policy, representing the Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Diane Balistreri, Director of Community Services and Senior Manager of the Westchester County Office for Women, representing the Office of the Westchester County Executive, DSS Commissioner, Kevin M. McGuire and Leora Neal, Adoption Training Specialist, representing the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, as well as two FFTA families whose adoptions were being finalized, as the agency received this important honor. The Seal of Recognition was awarded by Lori McGown representing the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's All Children- All Families Initiative.

"FFTA is truly proud and pleased to continue to place children with LGBT families and to always focus on the best interests of children in need of their forever family, said Joy S. Goldstein, LCSW, ACSW, FFTA Executive Director. "As we celebrate the awarding of the All Children-All Families Seal of Recognition we are not only supporting the LGBT community, but are standing up for ethical practice by removing barriers to LGBT adults who dream of becoming parents and to children in need of a safe, permanent and loving family."

Every day FFTA is committed to treating all persons with respect, dignity and compassion and welcomes all families regardless of race, religion, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, nationality or disability.

For further information about Forever Families Through Adoption (FFTA) or the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's All Children - All Families Initiative, call (914) 939-1180, or email [adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](mailto:adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org) FFTA may also be found on the web at [www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](http://www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org)

