



## NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Adoption Connection Highlights their Dynamic Way of Making Sure Babies Are Happy**

**Non-profit that pioneered open adoptions in US (and led mainstreaming of other revolutionary practices, like LGBTQ, stepparent, single parent and domestic partner adoptions) once again at forefront of breaking barriers**

San Francisco, CA. November 19, 2014 – Adoption Connection announced today they are highlighting the experience of the Blain Family of Oakland, CA – a mixed race family, involved in a delicate and difficult adoption situation – to help inspire adoptive and birth parents waiting for (and seeking) the right match.

As part of the agency's forward-thinking outreach activities for adoptive and birth parents, this story illustrates the vital role openness, perseverance and a support network play in facilitating a successful match in often sensitive circumstances, as the Blains experienced in adopting their son Mingi.

"We were excited, but also had concerns, which Adoption Connection helped us to get through," says John Blain. "Besides being up front with us about the legal situation, they kept in touch frequently to help us figure out next steps, and were thorough and conscientious, as well as positive and supportive."

A soon-to-walk, strapping 10-month old, Mingi is a happy baby, and the Blains appreciate the efforts put into helping them connect with Mingi's birth parents. Although his birth parents could not legally keep Mingi after his birth due to their mental health issues, Adoption Connection provided the right aid and framework that both parties needed to figure out if there was a fit.

The agency used the same willingness to bust barriers that has kept them at the forefront of the adoption field for almost 30 years. The Blains' experience is one instance of many where the agency's methods for advocating in the best interests of the child helped attain the loving, family environments (no matter how one defines them) that babies deserve.

"We try to ensure that everyone has what they need to make the appropriate decision for their situation," says Leah Sheldon, Adoption Connection point person for the Blains. "When adoptive and birth parents have the ability to make informed choices that generates a relationship based on the child's best interests."

The Blain family, representative of how Adoption Connection's open adoption process can help create happy babies – even under the most difficult of circumstances – is available to tell their story to the media at this time. For more information and to set up an interview, please contact Maria Gonzalez at the email and phone number noted below.

#### About Adoption Connection

Headquartered in San Francisco, CA, Adoption Connection is a non-sectarian, California licensed non-profit adoption agency, and is a program of the San Francisco Bay Area community organization, Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS). A pioneer in the field of adoption since its founding in 1985, this agency serves pregnant women and their families throughout the United States, and adoptive parents in the 19 Northern California counties covered under its license. For more information, please go to [AdoptionConnection.org](http://AdoptionConnection.org).

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