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Forever Families Through Adoption Celebrates Dutch American Adoption Day

Three Dutch couples finalize their "forever families" with the help of local adoption experts' new agency

Rye Brook, September 8, 2008. Joy and Michael Goldstein, the founders of Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc. (FFTA), a New York and Connecticut authorized not-for-profit adoption placement agency and resource center, are pleased to announce the adoption of three infants during a very special Dutch American Adoption Day event.

Baby girl Jasmine and baby boys Brandon and Samuel all found homes in the Netherlands with couples anxious to expand their families. The babies were born in Westchester County in February and April and went home with their new families shortly thereafter. The adoptions were finalized in White Plains on September 8th during a heart-warming ceremony in the Family Court. The Dutch families returned to New York for the finalization, accompanied by elated extended family members and the staff members from the adoption agency. Also in attendance were officers from the Consulate General of the Netherlands, Miranda van Iersel and Zwanette T. Peterkin. Older siblings and grandparents who traveled from the Netherlands were included in the joyous experience.

"It was such a special day!" explained Joy Goldstein, FFTA's Executive Director. "The Court arranged for all three Dutch families to finalize their adoptions at the same time. Judge Kathie Davidson and Court Attorney Maria Recine who presided over the ceremony exhibited such warmth and sensitivity."

The Goldstein's unusual expertise in international 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 85 adopted children. There is even an annual "Goldsteiner Picnic Day" celebration, organized by the families each June. This past June, more than forty families came to the picnic to reintroduce their growing children to Joy and Michael who were in attendance.

"Michael and I have dedicated our lives to helping birth parents, adoptive parents and, of course, children," explained Joy. "And while most of the babies we help place are healthy, Caucasian infants, we have a particular fondness for harder 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."

"These babies 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.

About Forever Families Through Adoption: *FFTA is a New York and Connecticut-authorized, not-for-profit, adoption placement agency and resource center 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 in his private practice. After more than 25 years and over 2,500 successful placements, the Goldstein's founded FFTA in 2007. For more information please see the FFTA website www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org*