

Voice for Adoption

SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR NATION'S WAITING CHILDREN

October 10th, 2011

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Oregon Post-Adoption Resource Center
Attn: Kelly DeLany / Kendra Morris-Jacobson
2950 SE Stark Street, Suite 130
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Ms. DeLany & Ms. Morris-Jacobson:

I am pleased to inform you that Voice for Adoption has selected the **Oregon Post-Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)** to be the recipient of our ***Drenda Lakin Memorial Award for Continuing Services to Adoptive Families*** this year. This annual award honors a state, nonprofit organization, or individual whose programs provide valuable adoptive family support after adoptions are finalized.

We received a nomination letter for this award, on behalf of ORPARC, from the organization's Program Director, Kendra Morris-Jacobson. In her letter, Kendra expressed sincere appreciation and enthusiasm for the work she is involved with at the Oregon Post-Adoption Resource Center. Kendra specifically identified the "impeccable work ethics" that are observed by ORPARC.

VFA would particularly like to highlight the outstanding commitment of ORPARC staff, who accommodate the unique needs of each family served, such as staff willingness to attend IEP and/or team meetings, therapy sessions and other important events at the special request of individual families. The ORPARC program exists to meet the needs of adoptive families in Oregon and is deserving of recognition, if not simply for its twelve year history of supporting families, but for the incredible success of keeping a number of adoptive families from disrupting placements.

ORPARC has also historically partnered with Voice for Adoption's Adoptive Family Portrait Project to provide adoptive families to be featured; they have also worked to engage Oregon's legislators to participate in this annual awareness project. This year is not unlike past years, however, I am particularly pleased to have had the assistance of ORPARC staff, who have been extremely helpful and effective at recruiting every one of Oregon's U.S. Senators and Representatives to be involved in this year's 2011 project.

We will be presenting the ***Drenda Lakin Memorial Award for Continuing Services to Adoptive Families*** at our upcoming reception on Monday, November 14th, 2011 in Washington, DC. We would love to have a representative of ORPARC attend the reception, to accept this award in person.

Congratulations to the Oregon Post-Adoption Resource Center on winning this award—and to each of the organizations committed staff for your exemplary efforts to ensure adoptive families are supported and stable, beyond adoption finalization.

Warm Regards,



Nicole Dobbins,
Executive Director