

## Timeline

- 1982 Due to increased requests for adoption services, in part fueled by the IUD infertility dilemma of the early 80's, Jewish Family & Children's Services of San Francisco, Marin, The Peninsula and San Mateo & Sonoma Counties gets a grant to conduct a needs assessment with regard to starting an adoption agency.
- 1982 JFCS starts the agency licensing process for a program to provide domestic newborn open adoption services.
- 1984 JFCS hires Lynne Fingerman (MSW, and adoptive mother) to develop the new, adoption program that will be located in San Francisco.
- 1985 JFCS and Lynne Fingerman launch Adoption Connection as a licensed, non-denominational nonprofit adoption agency based on a model Lynne created – called Identified Agency Adoption (where the birthmother and adoptive parents choose one another): Back then considered radical, this “open adoption” model is now a nationwide standard.
- 1985 Along with Lynne Fingerman being named as the agency's Director, Adoption Connection begins offering its services to adoptive families (of all types) throughout Northern California – in San Francisco and 18 other northern California counties where the Program is licensed: Alameda, Amador, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Marin, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba County
- 1985 Adoption Connection begins offering birthparent outreach efforts throughout California.
- 1986 Adoption Connection places its first baby with an adoptive family.
- 1987 Adoption Connection expands its offerings of workshops and birth and adoptive parent services; placing more babies for adoption.
- 1987 To help Lynne meet the increasing demand for Adoption Connection's services, Randie Bencannan (LCSW) is brought on board as Co-Director of the agency.
- 1991 Adoption Connection expands birthparent outreach efforts to the rest of the United States – going beyond the traditional referral system through the use of print advertising and Yellow Pages.
- 1993 Adoption Connection makes its first adoption placement with an LGBTQ adoptive family.
- 1995 Adoption Connection implements an Adoption Service Provider (ASP) program to provide services to birth parents in Independent adoptions.
- 1995 Adoption Connection begins its Second Parent Adoption Program – where, if one parent gives birth or adopts a child, the other parent can also gain legal custody of the child.
- 2001 Due to increasing requests for international adoption services, Adoption Connection expands its license to include international adoption homestudy and post-placement services.
- 2001 Changes to California law now allow non-governmental entities to perform stepparent and domestic partner adoption investigations.

- 2002 Adoption Connection becomes the first adoption agency in California to introduce a Stepparent/Domestic Partner Adoption Program. A “Second Parent” offshoot, this new program was developed due to attorney requests to work with San Francisco County to speed up the investigations process. Subsequently, the updating of this process spreads to other California counties.
- 2002 Adoption Connection begins forming partnerships with accredited international adoption agencies and facilitators throughout the United States – the number of partnerships reached 40+ over the course of this successful program. Randie Bencannan, in conjunction with a dedicated International Adoption Director, acts as the primary liaison.
- 2001 Adoption Connection receives a private donation from a former client – a 5-year grant from the Levine-Lent Family Foundation – to expand the Birthmother Outreach Program. As a result, the agency is able to help adoptive and birth parents find one another directly, by expanding outreach efforts to Northern California clinics and hospitals, and through greater levels of nationwide print advertising and Yellow Pages ads.
- 2002 Adoption Connection begins hosting adoptive family profiles on their website, one of the first agencies in the country to do so. This advancement makes it easier for birth families to find and connect with adoptive families online.
- 2002 The agency places its first baby from a birth family that selected the adoptive family after finding them through their online Adoption Connection profile.
- 2008 The Hague Adoption Convention goes into effect in the U.S. Although improving the regulation of international adoptions by curbing corruption, the convention also slowed down adoptions and lead some countries to close their intercountry programs.
- 2011 Adoption Connection stops accepting new international homestudy applications, due to the sharp downturn in international adoption (from an all time high in the U.S. in 2004). However, the agency continues to provide services for those families already in the placement process.
- 2013 Adoption Connection receives the “All Children – All Families Agency Seal of Recognition” Award from the Human Rights Campaign organization.
- 2013 Co-Director Randie Bencannan retires after 27 years of working side-by-side with Lynne Fingerman.
- 2014 Lynne Fingerman transitions her role, from co-Director, to that of Director for the agency.