



Building Families

Mindy Berkson of Lotus Blossom Consulting

It's the American dream for many couples: creating a loving family by having children. Unfortunately, for some, this dream is not easily attained. Infertility is on the rise in the United States, due partly to delayed child bearing; advanced maternal age; medical conditions; sexually transmitted diseases; and environmental issues.

At any given time, 1 in 6 couples will struggle with infertility—the biological inability to conceive a child or carry a pregnancy to full term. One Chicago area woman business owner and mother of three, Mindy Berkson, has made it her mission to turn the tide on infertility through information, de-stigmatization, and open communication.

“Awareness and education are the keys to empowerment, whether it's a sister, a daughter, or a friend, my message to these individuals is...you need to know that you are not alone in this journey,” says Mindy, founder of Chicago-based infertility consultancy Lotus Blossom Consulting, LLC.



Mindy Berkson

Since then, Berkson has guided hundreds of intended parents through the stressful demands of the infertility process by providing professional and compassionate assistance in dealing with the barriers often associated with third-party reproduction.

In her role as an infertility consultant at Lotus Blossom Consulting, one of the first infertility consultancies in the United States, Berkson works with individuals on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration clients' emotional, physical, and financial infertility issues. She then

develops an individualized, comprehensive plan, including relevant insurance information, to help clients make informed decisions.

First Steps and Beyond

The first step on the path to parenthood begins by ensuring that a client is comfortable with a diagnosis and treatment as determined by a physician. Mindy and her staff also make sure that a client has met and is happy with all other professionals that he/she may need to assist them. In addition to providing resources for legal counsel, mental health professionals and others, Lotus Blossom Consulting also has affiliations with professional organizations and associations including: Family Cord Blood Services, Donor Secure donor registry, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, and more. They can also provide related books, articles, web sites, and identify classes and support groups in a client's area.

“We establish a master plan to tackle the pathway to parenthood, taking into consideration emotional tolerances, the total financial budget, time frames, and parameters for treatment opportunities,” Mindy says. “This plan also includes identified milestones for changing treatment and taking other courses of action.”

The Infertility Consultation is guided by Mindy's philosophy to provide a realistic balance between hope and practicality given each client's unique situation, and

“Our philosophy is to empower our clients about infertility, with education, information, and resources.” Mindy Berkson Infertility Consultant and Founder of Lotus Blossom Consulting, LLC

After fighting her own personal battle with secondary infertility—difficulty conceiving after having a normal pregnancy, and with more than a decade of experience at physician's offices, egg donor and surrogacy agencies, Berkson founded Lotus Blossom Consulting to help individuals around the globe work through the often-challenging roadblocks of infertility, by providing the best information and resources available to them in the world.

“I was amazed to encounter so many intended parents just like myself...floundering with enormous life-altering decisions and no real education or basis to make informed choices. I wanted to help them.”

Financing Fertility Treatment E-book and Free Consultation Service

Lotus Blossom Consulting recently released a new E-Book to specifically address the financial issues associated with infertility and treatment. The E-book, *Financing Fertility Treatment*, discusses financing options available, with particular emphasis placed on individualized tax situations, specific insurance benefits, and the total financial resources available before undergoing the infertility journey. The free E-book is available on their website, www.lotusblossomconsulting.com.

Every individual's case is unique. To schedule your free consultation with Infertility Consultant Mindy Berkson, go to www.lotusblossomconsulting.com or call (877) 881-2685.

to help individuals plan financially for treatment, with resources set aside for multiple cycles of IVF, egg donation, and sperm donation. "At the end of the Infertility Consultation, our clients are better able to make informed decisions about all aspects of their situation," Mindy says.

Mindy and her staff also discuss third-party reproduction techniques, including using an egg donor, a sperm donor, or a gestational surrogate. Using an egg donor increases the chance of success for many, and Mindy has guided hundreds of intended parents through the process. Because of her strong national agency network, egg donors and agencies that best fit a client's criteria can quickly be found – and timing is often critical.

"I validate the services, the passion and energy that Mindy has for her work." Brian Kaplan, MD, Fertility Centers of Illinois

Financial Planning for Infertility

Infertility treatment can be costly, success rates are not guaranteed, and insurance benefits may be limited. Thus, part of the Infertility Consultation that Mindy and her staff provide includes a Financial Consult, to maximize all insurance that may be available to a client for all types of treatments.

"We identify exclusions and benefits to a plan and help to figure out what types of infertility expenses will be covered by insurance, and what expenses may be out of pocket," Mindy says. "Proper financial planning and utilization of insurance benefits in the right order can help you effectively minimize costs, maximize insurance benefits, and save significant out of pocket expenditures."

For those who may require it, escrow management services are available to clients. Lotus Blossom Consulting has also established the Jude Andrew Adams Charitable Fund, a grant available to those without financial resources to fund fertility treatment.

Success Stories

Perhaps the most rewarding part of Mindy's job, is knowing that she has helped a couple create a family. This year,

Infertility Seminar at Latin School, Chicago October 25, 2007

Lotus Blossom founder Mindy Berkson, and Toni Siragusa will present a special seminar entitled "Building the Foundation for Infertility Treatment," as part of the Live & Learn adult education program at the Latin School, on October 25, 2007, www.latinschool.org/liveandlearn/mind_body.html#908.

The seminar will discuss a range of issues confronting people with infertility: maximizing insurance benefits, choosing a fertility center, identifying egg donors and surrogates nationwide, engaging attorneys, providing holistic opportunities, and ways in which to finance treatment. The goal of the seminar is to establish a multi disciplinary, team-oriented approach to conquering infertility.

To register for the seminar (#908), contact the Latin School at 312-582-6035 or e-mail: liveandlearn@latinschool.org.

in 2007, there are 11 new babies on the way, thanks to Mindy and her staff, and notes arrive regularly from many families around the world thanking Mindy for her critical role in their successes. One client from Colorado recently wrote, "Mindy

helped us to achieve a clear understanding of when it was time to change our current

course of treatment and to begin to explore egg donation with confidence and clarity. The pieces to the puzzle fell into place so quickly, and our family dream is soon to be a reality."

For more information about Lotus Blossom Consulting, or to schedule your free consultation, call toll free at (877) 881-2685, email: consultant@lotusblossomconsulting.com or www.lotusblossomconsulting.com.

At Lotus Blossom Consulting, We Build Families.

Since our inception, Lotus Blossom Consulting, LLC has helped hundreds of intended parents from around the world on the path to parenthood. Our empathic and knowledgeable staff will help you manage your infertility treatment in a way that is helpful, hopeful, and ultimately successful. Learn more about how Lotus Blossom Consulting can customize a successful infertility program specific to your financial, physical and emotional needs.

Call toll-free today for your free personal consultation

(877) 881 - 2685

Or, log on to www.lotusblossomconsulting.com to register for your FREE E-book, Financing Fertility Treatment, to get valuable insurance and financial information that may help you in your quest to build a family.

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