



Family Connections

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**FAMILY CONNECTIONS RECEIVES AWARD IN 22<sup>ND</sup>  
ANNUAL REDWOOD CITY MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION  
RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

REDWOOD CITY, CA, September 13, 2010 –Family Connections has been selected by the City of Redwood City to receive an award in the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Mayor's Beautification Recognition Program for its Garden/Landscaping project at the tuition free preschool's newest location at 414 Fourth Avenue.

Family Connections received the award during the City Council meeting on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The project was the culmination of two Rebuilding Together Peninsula efforts in 2008 and most recently in April 2010. The goal of the project was to transform a vacant front and backyard dirt lots into a natural outdoor play space for the nearly 60 young children who attend the parent participation preschool.

With significant input and hands on help from the young families served by Family Connections the Rebuilding Together project partners included DES Architects in 2008 and the law firm of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati this past Spring. Construction Captain Ken Rhoads and his team created a design that was child friendly, water conscious and interactive, a landscape that would instill curiosity and love of outdoors. Edible plants and a fruit and vegetable garden were among the features of the remodel. The result is simple but beautiful and shines brightly in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood.

"This landscape project would not have been possible without our partners at the Sequoia Union High School District, who are the property owners and assisted with preparing the space prior to the re-design. In addition, we are most grateful to Rebuilding Together Peninsula and the Child Care Coordinating Council who provided the grant funding for the work to be completed."

"So many of our families live in apartments or smaller homes with little or no outdoor space and the addition of the front and back yard play space to our Redwood City location will significantly improve our participant's growth and learning experiences. Being able to feel soft grass, pick tomatoes, watch birds go in and out of the birdhouse and run and play are all important experiences that every young child should have."

Renee Zimmerman, Family Connections executive director, added: "It is exciting to both improve our physical space for the many families we serve and to be able to contribute to the overall beautification of the North Fair Oaks neighborhood as well. We are proud to

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**Executive Director**

Renee Zimmerman

**Classrooms**

Belle Haven School  
*Menlo Park*

1070 Beech Street  
*East Palo Alto*

414 Fourth Avenue  
*Redwood City*

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be serving the parents and children in this community and hope that our remodel catches ones eye as they walk or drive by the building.”

**Family Connections** *About Family Connections*

*Family Connections is the only tuition-free parent participation pre-school for low-income families in California. At Family Connections parents learn to be active participants in their child's education while their children gain the skills they need for kindergarten and beyond. At our three locations in East Palo Alto, eastern Menlo Park and Redwood City we teach over 400 children and their families, many of whom are English Learners, who will benefit most from our program. Founded in 1993, Family Connections has helped over 1000 families to jumpstart their child's education. Our goal is to become the first place that low income families go for early childhood education – empowering children and their parents to learn, grow and dream.*

For more information visit [www.familyconnections.org](http://www.familyconnections.org)  
or contact Renee Zimmerman at [rzimmerman@familyconnections.org](mailto:rzimmerman@familyconnections.org).

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