

## **Mindy Berkson: Building Families and Achieving Dreams**

When a couple tries to get pregnant, they often set milestones for themselves. “I’ll be pregnant by my next birthday”, “We may have some good news to share with everyone at the holidays,” and so on. But for some, those milestones will come and go, without a baby on the way. Many couples will experience infertility—the biological inability to conceive a child. On the rise in the United States due to many factors, infertility affects about 7.3 million women and their partners, about 12% of the reproductive-population, or 16% of all couples. Mindy Berkson, founder of Chicago-based infertility consultancy Lotus Blossom Consulting, LLC knows first-hand the physical, financial, and emotional toll that infertility can take on the lives of those affected by it.

“We all know someone who has been through this struggle,” Mindy says. “Whether it’s a sister, a daughter, or a friend, they need to know that they are not alone in this journey. Awareness and education are the keys to empowerment.”

After successfully fighting her own personal battle with secondary infertility—difficulty conceiving after having a previous normal pregnancy, Mindy made it her mission to turn the tide on the perceived stigma of infertility through open communication and resources. With more than a decade of experience at physician’s offices, egg donor and surrogacy agencies, Berkson founded Lotus Blossom Consulting to assist individuals around the globe work through the often-challenging roadblocks of infertility.

“The barrage of information can be overwhelming. I was amazed to encounter so many intended parents just like myself...facing these enormous life-altering decisions with no real education or basis to make informed choices. I wanted to help them,” Mindy says.

With a network of financial, medical and professional resources in place, Mindy’s goal was to provide the best infertility information and resources, in one location. By working with a nationwide network of donors and surrogates, Mindy is often able to increase her clients’ chances of becoming pregnant, in a forum where timing is a critical component to success.

Through a compassionate and professional approach, Mindy helps individuals and couples work through the delicate issues surrounding infertility including egg and/or sperm donation, in-vitro

fertilization, third party reproduction, alternative medicine, cord blood storage, donor registries, religious and cultural infertility issues, as well as financial planning.

“Dealing with infertility can be stressful even beyond the medical issues,” Mindy says. “It’s important that people also understand the importance of financial planning and the best way to use insurance benefits and other financial resources available to them.”

One of the Lotus Consulting resources that specifically addresses the financial issues associated with infertility and treatment is an E-Book, *Financing Fertility Treatment*, which provides an overview of financing options, with particular emphasis on individualized tax situations, specific insurance benefits, and the total financial resources available. The free E-book is available on Mindy’s website, [www.lotusblossomconsulting.com](http://www.lotusblossomconsulting.com).

Perhaps the most rewarding part of Mindy’s job is, knowing that she has helped intended parents create a family. Mindy happily reports that, collectively, her clients have 11 new babies on the way this year.

Mindy speaks from experience when she notes, “I have the best job in the world. Each day I get to help individuals create their families, and achieve their life-long dream of becoming parents.”