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**SV2 – SILICON VALLEY SOCIAL VENTURE FUND AWARDS \$150,000  
STRENGTH GRANT TO IMPROVE PARENT EDUCATION**  
*Family Connections receives funding to strengthen services for low-income families*

*MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA* -SV2 - the Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation - has awarded a STRENGTH grant totaling \$150,000 to Family Connections, an organization focused on teaching positive parenting skills.

Family Connections will receive \$150,000 over three years in order to secure a physical office space and build up its information technology, marketing and communications efforts. SV2's STRENGTH grants, which stands for Socially-minded Team Responsible for Enabling Non-profits To Grow & Thrive, support capacity-building activities to help nonprofits grow strategically and strengthen their operations.

SV2 is a partnership of social-enterprise investors, based on the venture philanthropy model of giving, at the community foundation. Partners pool their charitable dollars, invest in promising nonprofits and invest their time, talents and intellectual capital in helping to build the internal capacity of the funded nonprofits.

"SV2 is uniquely committed to building the capacity of innovative nonprofit organizations that help meet the challenges facing our region," said Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D., CEO and president of Silicon Valley Community Foundation. "The investment of time and financial resources by SV2 partners means Family Connections will receive critical assistance that will help ensure its long-term success in serving low-income families in our community."

Nancy Cole, SV2 executive director, added: "It is exciting to fund an organization like Family Connections. Their programming is strong and comprehensive, with the goal of reaching children and also teaching parents how to be advocates for their kids and become involved in their children's education."

Family Connections is the only tuition-free, parent-participation preschool serving low-income families in California. Through Family Connections programs, adults learn positive parenting skills and children develop skills necessary to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

“SV2’s support will make a tangible difference. We will now be more visible with new office space in East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park. We also look forward to implementing new marketing tools and improved technology to better serve our clients,” explained Renee Zimmerman, executive director of Family Connections.

SV2’s STRENGTH grants will focus on education issues for three years, beginning in 2007. Up to \$150,000 will be paid incrementally based on the financial needs of the organization to implement changes and provided specific benchmarks are achieved annually. STRENGTH Grants are by invitation only. No unsolicited proposals will be accepted. Organizations must be classified as non-profit 501(c)(3) public charities and must provide service in Santa Clara and/or Southern San Mateo counties.

***About SV2 – Silicon Valley Social Venture Fund***

*SV2 is a partnership of individuals who pool their funds with two distinct goals in mind: Local impact through building the capacity of nonprofit organizations by giving both money and time, a model known as “venture philanthropy”; and connecting partners to the issues facing Silicon Valley and beyond, and growing an understanding of the array of organizations addressing those issues. For more information, visit [www.sv2.org](http://www.sv2.org).*

***About Silicon Valley Community Foundation***

*The merger of Community Foundation Silicon Valley and Peninsula Community Foundation took effect on January 1, 2007, creating Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a catalyst and leader for innovative solutions to the region’s most challenging problems. The new community foundation is among the largest community foundations in the nation, with more than \$1.7 billion in assets under management and 1,400 philanthropic funds.*

*In a region known for innovation in business and technology as well as philanthropy, the new community foundation will address local needs and support Silicon Valley’s charitable giving to causes locally, nationally and around the globe. The integration marks the first merger of equals involving two of the country’s leading community foundations and sets new precedent in the philanthropic sector. The new regional headquarters will open in Mountain View in the summer of 2007. Find out more at [www.siliconvalleycf.org](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org).*

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