

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Principal of Advent Lutheran Early Childhood Center
First Recipient of the Pearl Award**

Boca Raton, FL – Sally Whitney, Principal of the Advent Lutheran Early Childhood Center, received the Pearl Award at the inaugural “Forever Mom” luncheon held Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at the Polo Club of Boca Raton. Mrs. Whitney is the first woman to receive the award, which was presented by Catherine Hickem on behalf of Intentional Motherhood. Approximately 250 women attended the luncheon.

"Sally Whitney represents everything wonderful about motherhood," said Mrs. Hickem. "Not only is she an amazing mother but she is also an amazing woman. She doesn't just talk about her faith, she truly lives it."

Mrs. Whitney is one of six children, born and raised in Lyanfield, Massachusetts. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts where she earned her bachelor's degree. In 1972 she married Doug Whitney and they moved to Florida in 1975. She has been with Advent Lutheran Early Childhood Center for almost 20 years and currently serves as their principal. Ms. Whitney is the mother of Jon, 30 and Peter, 27. Both sons work with their father in a commercial real estate appraisal company. She is also the mother of Joanna, who passed away last October at the age of 24 after a valiant struggle against a brain tumor.

Catherine Hickem, LCSW, a mother and psychotherapist, founded the Intentional Motherhood initiative in 2005 to minister to the needs, challenges and hopes of every mother. The organization strives to inspire, educate and equip mothers in every phase of motherhood to be confident and intentional in their life-long parenting role. Intentional Motherhood offers a variety of seminars, resources and a coaching program. Ms. Hickem is intentional about helping mothers shift their thinking about their role as maintenance moms to focused, directed mothers who have a clear definition of their influence.

The Pearl Award will be given annually to a woman who symbolizes enduring love, an intentional mindset, and extraordinary faith in the midst of her motherhood.

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