



## iParenting Family News

### Surge in Egg Donation Due to Slow Economy

With a slowing U.S. economy that reduced its work force by 62,000 in June, in addition to widespread pay cuts and overall reduced consumer spending, many are feeling the heat of the economic downturn. For an increasing number of women, the opportunity to earn an extra \$7,000 to \$30,000 through assisted third party reproduction, all while helping to fulfill the family building dreams of infertile couples, is becoming increasingly popular. At the Center for Egg Options Illinois ([www.egg411.com](http://www.egg411.com)), egg donations have increased by 30 percent, with donors coming back for a second, third and fourth time.

College students, stay-at-home moms and more recently military wives have all embraced this as an option, and some say that the extra income has kept their financial ship sailing through tough economic times. Conversely, those looking to conceive through donor egg or sperm now have many more options than in years past – they are not choosing from a small pool of donors but rather thousands – and with money tight, they have become extremely picky.

Current trends have actually reversed what used to be normal, explains Nancy Block, president and founder of The Center for Egg Options Illinois. "When the economy was booming, couples seeking egg donors and surrogates to conceive were in greater numbers, while egg donors and surrogates were harder to come by," she says. "Now that the economy has slowed, we have more surrogates and egg donors available than ever before."

- Egg donations have increased 30 percent at The Center for Egg Options IL.
- Average households carry some \$8,000 in credit card debt (MSN Money).
- Egg Donors are given \$7,000 in compensation.
- Surrogates are given \$30,000 in compensation.
- In 2005, about 6,500 women successfully delivered babies with egg donors – an 88 percent increase since 2000.
- In the United States, approximately 40,000 children are born each year through donor egg and sperm.