

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mary Jane Awrachow, FAFS' Executive Director

Telephone Number: 609.520.1500

Fax Number: 609.520.1515

www.fafsonline.org

Annual Dinner To Honor NJ's Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Families

FAFS also will celebrate its 35th anniversary as a leading advocate.

Monmouth Junction, NJ, May 1, 2009 – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), along with the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), hosts New Jersey's annual Resource Family Recognition Dinner on Friday, May 1.

The event, which will take place at the Sheraton-Eatontown Hotel in Eatontown, NJ, coincides with May's National Foster Care month. This year's event will feature a special tribute to FAFS as it celebrates 35 years as the leading advocate for foster, adoptive and kinship families in New Jersey.

The festivities begin with the cocktail hour at 6 p.m. followed by the awards dinner from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The awards will be presented by Christine Mozes, DYFS Director, and Janis Nietzer, FAFS President and a long-time foster/adoptive parent.

A complete list of award winners is attached.

FAFS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the special needs of the more than 5,000 foster, adoptive and kinship families in New Jersey, who provide care for more than 9,000 children. FAFS advocates for improved foster care and adoption services, provides support to foster, adoptive, and kinship parents, and promotes an enhanced understanding of foster care and the adoption of children from foster care.

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The new FAFS Foundation is a nonprofit that provides the parent organization with financial support for many of its privately-funded programs. For more information about the Foundation please call 609-977-4880 or visit the Web site, www.fafsfoundation.org.

For more information about FAFS or its services please contact Mary Jane Awrachow, Executive Director, at 609.520.1500.

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DYFS Director's Award

Carol and William Regad (Morris County)

Outstanding DYFS Staff Award

Naisha Andrews (Union County)

Outstanding Partnership Award

Don DeBruyne (Essex County)

Debbie Edwards (Home: Unionville, Pa.; Work: Trenton, NJ)

Dianna Black (Burlington County)

Deserre Whiteside (Camden County)

Youth of the Year

Marissa Scott (Union County)

Abby Stern (Mercer County)

Nikita Barde (Mercer County)

Outstanding Special Home Service Provider

Cheryl and Larry Novak (Sussex County)

Outstanding Adoptive Family

Sally Jacober-Brown and Jim Brown (Monmouth County)

Outstanding New Foster Family

Zakiyyah Johnson and Kristoffer Green (Essex County)

Outstanding Foster Family

Lorenzo Bennett (Hudson County)

Volunteer Committee/Affiliate of the Year Award

FAFS Passaic County Volunteer Committee (Passaic County)

FAFS Commitment Award

International F & A.M. Masons – District # 10 (Mercer County)

Gloucester County Bar Foundation (Gloucester County)

Matt Blatt Auto Sales (Gloucester County)

Virginia Moriarty (Morris County)

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Outstanding FAFS Member
Edward Shain (Bergen County)

President's Award
Cecilia Castro (Essex County)

FAFS Founders' Award
Janet Farrand (Morris County)
Edward Ciak (Middlesex County)