

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Passaic County Volunteer Committee Honored For Advocacy & Commitment

FAFS' local committee has drastically increased membership in the last 10 years

Monmouth Junction, NJ, May 1, 2009 – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) presented the FAFS Passaic County Volunteer Committee with the first Volunteer Committee of the Year Award at the annual Resource Family Recognition Dinner on May 1.

The event, which took place at the Sheraton-Eatontown Hotel in Eatontown, NJ, coincides with May's National Foster Care month. FAFS currently has 13 volunteer committees, including Passaic, which work closely with foster and adoptive families in its particular county.

Passaic County has seen its membership grow from just a handful of foster parents to monthly meetings of 25 to 40 people. It has used innovative ideas to draw larger numbers at their meetings through such things as raffling newly donated items for children and adults at every meeting.

In addition, Passaic County has applied and received funds over the last several years from the Youth Advocate Program, which is one of the largest nonprofit Youth and Family Support agencies.

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It's through this program they have been able to provide free and discounted tickets for foster and adoptive families to Dorney Park.

The county also has shown the ability to raise money on its own. This past year, Passaic County received more than \$3,000 in donations as well as more than 1,000 holiday gifts, many of which were unsolicited. Because of the generosity of so many, Passaic County has been able to donate holiday gifts to other local FAFS organizations in need. Through their advocacy and commitment, Passaic County continues to demonstrate to the local community the importance of being a foster parent.

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.

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.