



FOSTER ^{and} ADOPTIVE[®]
FAMILY SERVICES

The Voice of Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Families in NJ

Annual Report 2012-2013

A Message from our President, Glenda Y. Elie and our Chief Executive Officer, Mary Jane Awrachow: Looking Ahead and Moving Forward

For the past 40 years, FAFS has strived to be a support to NJ families. In the words of one of our founding members, Sue Dondiego, “From its humble beginnings as an all volunteer organization to the present day, FAFS has focused their time, talents and hard work to develop programs, projects and activities that would improve the lives of resource parents and the children in their care. We are successful because we have never lost track of our original goal of supporting foster and adoptive parents.” Today, we forge forward with our mission **to provide support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster, adoptive and kinship families, who provide safe, stable and nurturing homes for children in foster care.** As we prepare to commemorate our 40th anniversary of award winning service, there is a question that comes to mind: “Where do we go from here?” What started out as a few foster parents in a kitchen in 1974 turned into an organization partnered with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency and many generations who have benefited from the vision that was started so long ago.

The landscape of foster care has changed dramatically over the decades along with the tools, information and ways of dispersing that information to the foster care population. The evolution of the child welfare system has shifted the way we communicate, and with that change, it is our challenge to make sure we continue to meet the needs of the families we serve. We are proud to say that, with the transformation our offerings, we have made it much more convenient for families to receive our services.

FAFS’ white paper *The Changing Landscape of Foster Care* outlines a plan that will help to strengthen New Jersey’s child welfare program and bring overall improvement to resource parent homes. The plan supports six main areas: Engaging Kinship Parents, Retention of Non-relative Resource Homes, Special Homes for Adolescents, Homes for Multiply Challenged and Developmentally Delayed Children and Programs for Scholars. We believe that a combination of these efforts will take permanency to a new dimension.

How is FAFS Looking Ahead and Moving Forward?

Support - We are looking to implement new and exciting initiatives. To keep up with the trend of connecting conveniently online, we are offering resource parents a new platform via the Online Support Network. Through this medium, resource parents will have easy access to not only the Advocates and staff at FAFS, but one another. It’s a great networking tool.

Training - FAFS continues to offer innovative and relevant new courses via home correspondence, online training and webinars.

Development and Communication - We continue to grow in the social media market and online. Thanks to going **green**, we have been able to convert our previous print newsletter *Connections* into our online publication *News From Our Heart*, incorporating helpful information for resource parents. Our new Self Esteem Dreams Initiative will give children in care the tools they need to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact on society.

Scholarship - Our Scholarship Outreach program has launched and continues to develop a webinar to reach high school students and their guardians who are unable to attend in-person workshops. Like the workshops, the webinar provides vital information about higher education institutions and assists students with filling out their FAFSA and NJFC Scholars Program applications. In order to accommodate the ever-changing technological world, Scholarship is offering four different tablets/e-readers to students, as well as added a MacBook to the laptop selection for the students who need Apple products for their majors (art, graphic design, etc.). Upcoming additions will be an additional stipend to assist students who are also parents, so that they can continue to provide for not only themselves while they are in school, but also their children.

With all that has been achieved and all we strive for in the future, we are confident that FAFS will continue to accomplish meeting the needs of New Jersey families and children in care.



Support

Achievement: Attendance at Volunteer Committee meetings reached 2,612 resource parents, **exceeding the contract objective by 117%.**

Achievement: The Hotline responded to 15,512 contacts, with a 100% positive satisfaction rate, **exceeding the contract objective by 47%.**

Achievement: Resource Family Advocates assisted 1,785 resource parents, **exceeding the contract objective by 138%.**

Achievement: Through its Peer-to-Peer Program, FAFS received 34 newly licensed homes through its Honorarium program, **meeting 56% of the contract objective.**** (**Additional referrals still awaiting licensing)

Achievement: The Hotline responded to 5,062 inquiries, meeting 92% of the contract objective.* (*Objective dependent upon DYFS promotion)

Several of FAFS’ Directors serve on committees that help children and youth in foster care:

Mary Jane Awrachow, Chief Executive Officer: Task Force on Helping Youth Thrive in Placement (HYTIP)

Formed to bring normalcy into the lives of children and youth in out-of-home-placement, HYTIP updates key rules and regulations to ensure that all children and youth residing in foster care have their safety, well-being, and case/treatment goals met. These regulations promote contact with family and friends and access to the community for recreation, education, and employment.

James Chester, Director of Support Services: The Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTFCAN)


NJTFCAN studies and develops recommendations for the most effective means of improving the quality and scope of child protective and preventative services provided or supported by State government, including DCP&P.

Mary Jane Awrachow, Chief Executive Officer and Fran Gervasi, Director of Education and Human Resources: Partnership in Long-term Recovery Workgroup

Initially formed after Hurricane Sandy to bring recovery from the effects on all NJ families and provide them with the help they need, it has also progressed into areas of human trafficking and a variety of other topics that surround the care of families in the Workgroup.

Tara Rizzolo, Director of Scholarship Programs: Transitions to Adulthood Advisory Workgroup

A partnership with the Department of Children and Families’ Office of Adolescent Services (OAS) to help move the OAS strategic plan and initiatives forward. The OAS strives to support adolescents in the transition to adulthood so they can achieve economic independence and live healthy lifestyles.



Our vision is a world where all children are living in safe, stable and nurturing homes, and no child is the victim of abuse or neglect.

Training

Achievement: FAFS specifically reached 953 resource parents through its E-learning trainings, **exceeding the contract objective by 90%.**

Achievement: In-service trainings reached 2,048 resource parents, **exceeding the contract objective by 70%.**

Achievement: Overall in-service trainings - including E-learning, county-based, webinars and home correspondence - reached 4,201 resource parents, **exceeding the contract objective by 189%.**

Achievement: Attendance at county-based trainings reached 1,200 resource parents, **exceeding the contract objective by 129%.**

Achievement: Overall, in-service trainings achieved a 100% satisfaction rating from resource parents, **exceeding the contract objective by 10%.**

“The lesson books that I can keep are like having a personal teacher in my home to talk me through data that is easy to read and understand. Words fails me to express the excellent job these lessons bring to my hungry mind. Thanks so much!”

Education

Achievement: After starting in 2004 with just 20 students, **the 2012-2013 academic year of the NJFC Scholars program resulted in 27 graduates.** This brings the total number of confirmed graduates to 205 since the program's inception.

Achievement: The Scholarship Department processed 175 new applicants to the program, **exceeding the contract objective by 4%.**

Achievement: The NJFC Scholars program served 356 students, **exceeding the contract objective by 2%.**

Achievement: 225 future college students attended the Scholarship Department's Outreach Workshops, **exceeding the contract objective by 12%.**

Achievement: 327 students (180 re-applicants and 147 new applicants) were active in the program by the end of the last academic year, which ended in June 2013.

Achievement: During the 2012-13 fiscal year, FAFS provided private scholarships and opportunity grants totaling \$12,750 to 16 youths who were graduating from high school and had been in care of, or adopted from, the New Jersey foster care system.

Achievement: \$882,676.72 was spent in specific assistance to students in the program, going directly to tuition and other costs associated with school.

Our mission of providing support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster, adoptive and kinship families continues on...



Development & Communications

Achievement: Raised \$61,259.34 in donations, **exceeding the fund development plan goal by 33%.**

Achievement: Continued enhancements on FAFS' website, www.fafsonline.org, and expanding social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.

Achievement: Published five editions of *Connections*, FAFS' newsletter, highlighting upcoming events, FAFS' private and public scholarship programs, foster care legislation and FAFS' training courses.

Achievement: Kept resource parents, Premium members and subscribers up-to-date with FAFS news and opportunities by sending 3 e-newsletters throughout the fiscal year.

Achievement: Honored resource families, outstanding youth award winners and outstanding Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) staff members at our annual Recognition Brunch, which was held in conjunction with DCP&P during May, National Foster Care Month. This event demonstrates FAFS' support for foster, adoptive and kinship families that are an inspiration to the community.

Achievement: Brought together resource parents from across New Jersey to share information, tips and concerns during two annual meetings that were once again held in both the southern and central parts of the state to better accommodate our clients. Resource parents met with staff and volunteers from FAFS. The meeting allowed resource parents and members of FAFS to meet and interact with guest speaker Carol A. Friedman, Ph.D and DCP&P Adoption Recruiters.

Achievement: Collected and distributed new, unwrapped toys for foster, adoptive and kinship families at holiday parties in every county in New Jersey.



"I will not let my past affect my future. I am thankful I am a strong person and know that with hard work, determination, ambition and a lot of hope I will have a happy life."



"Our resource parents are the best resource our children can ever have. Their patience and understanding pull the kids through."

Significant Achievements and Special Events

Achievement: The Fostering Wishes for Children program is a statewide FAFS initiative that provides children in foster care with the little extras they might not otherwise be able to experience. FAFS awarded 180 wishes in the amount of \$13,219.98 for the 2012-13 fiscal year. **The number of wishes granted is dependent upon funds available and applications received.*

Achievement: During the 2012-13 fiscal year, FAFS provided private scholarships and opportunity grants totaling \$12,750 to 16 youths who were graduating from high school and had been in care of, or adopted from, the New Jersey foster care system.

Achievement: FAFS held two raffles during the 2012-13 fiscal year, receiving \$2,745 in contributions, which generated \$1,372.50 net proceeds in unrestricted funds.

Achievement: FAFS provided \$10,775 in Camp Scholarships for 22 youths in foster care to attend Camp Johnsonburg during the summer of 2012.

Achievement: A Holiday Celebration for Every Child gave children in foster care the opportunity to experience holiday joy with their foster families and peers. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our 21 county FAFS Volunteer Committees and 1 affiliate, we threw holiday parties for thousands of children in foster care; new toys and gifts were distributed to each child in attendance. These gifts, whether collected from toy drives held by FAFS' supporters such as the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association and the Somerset Patriots, or donated by offices or individuals, brightened the holiday season for New Jersey's children in foster care.

***Foster and Adoptive Family Services, Inc.
Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2013***

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenue			
Government grants	\$ -	\$3,349,658	\$3,349,658
Government grant refund	-	(169,219)	(169,219)
Other grants, net	-	9,329	9,329
Contributions and other income	65,685	42,172	107,857
Dues	5,815	-	5,815
Fundraising income	3,539	3,673	7,212
Interest and dividend income	4,246	-	4,246
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	-	-	-
Total Revenue	79,285	3,235,613	3,314,898
Net assets released from restrictions	3,236,387	(3,236,387)	-
Total Support and Revenue	3,315,672	(774)	3,314,898
Expenses			
Program services	3,172,059	-	3,172,059
Management and General	73,721	-	73,721
Fundraising Expenses	34,363	-	34,363
Total Expenses	3,280,143	-	3,280,143
Increase (decrease) in net assets	35,529	(774)	34,755
Net assets, beginning of year	414,384	188,587	602,971
Net assets, end of year	<u>449,913</u>	<u>187,813</u>	<u>637,726</u>



FAFS Programs and Services 2012-2013

Foster and Adoptive Family Services provide the following services free to all licensed foster, adoptive and kinship parents in New Jersey:

Programs Funded by Private Donations

- *Private Academic Scholarships and Independent Living Grants
- *Camp Scholarships
- *Fostering Wishes for Children Mini-Grant Program
- *Community Based Support
- *A Holiday Celebration for Every Child
- *Backpack Program

Contracted Services Provided by FAFS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| *Toll-Free Information Line | *Public Awareness/Recruitment |
| *Advocacy/Support Services | *Scholarship Funding |
| *Liaison/Mediation Services | (New Jersey Foster Care Scholars Program) |
| *Information Resources | *Community Based Support Groups |
| *Referral Services | *Foster Care Recruitment Hotline |
| *Education/Training | (1.877.NJ.FOSTER) |
| | *Adoption Hotline (1.800.99.ADOPT) |



FAFS' Visionaries

In the theme of looking ahead and moving forward, we recognize those who have been trailblazers in foster care. These individuals have paved the way with their vision of uniting New Jersey families and have been innovators in accomplishing that goal through their tremendous support and caring for children in need.



Sue and Bernie Dondiego

As founders of FAFS, foster parents and members of the FAFS Advisory Council, Sue and Bernie embody the American Spirit – the average person achieving extraordinary results through unwavering commitment and tireless energy. Together, they are a force to be reckoned with.



Hattie Talley (posthumously)

Another founder of FAFS, Hattie Talley, was also a foster parent and member of the DCP&P (formerly DYFS) Board of Trustees. She was instrumental in FAFS becoming the first state association to be funded for recruitment, training and support. Hattie was a visionary who saw the need for a unified voice for New Jersey foster parents and provided that voice.



Janet Farrand

FAFS Foundation President, FAFS Board Second Vice President, foster parent and a member of the FAFS 40 Club, Janet's vision and advocacy for resource parents is embedded in all she does. She leads with passion, courage and innovation. Her accomplishments inspire others to do more.



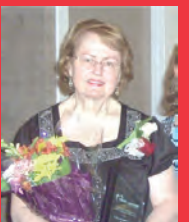
Edward Ciak

Foster parent and pivotal leader at FAFS, "Steady Eddy" has been a leader at FAFS for decades. His calm unassuming, gentle nature has led FAFS through many storms. He is a man of great character and humility.



Mary and Robert Sterling

Pioneers in foster care for children with HIV and members of the FAFS 40 Club, Mary and Bob embraced children with very special needs. They forged a path that others followed as a result of their vision that all children in foster care deserve, safe, loving and nurturing homes.



Cheryl Novak

A foster and adoptive parent that provided care to more than 150 children, Cheryl's steadfast commitment to the resource parents in her community spans over forty years. Every day she lives her vision of helping families help each other.



www.fafsonline.org



www.facebook.com/fafs.nj



www.twitter.com/FAFS_NJ



www.pinterest.com/fafsnj

Thank You

*57th Avenue, LLC
 *Accents by Narcissus
 *Arnie Kahlenberg Charity Fund, Inc.
 *Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Co.
 *Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bolanowski
 *Ryan M. Carbone
 *Patricia Charles
 *Coutts & Company
 *Ed DeVenezia
 *The Edmond N. & Virginia H. Moriarty Foundation
 *First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway
 *Sari Gross, Flames of Giving
 *Lucinda Florio
 *Mr. David Gann
 *Nicole C. Goula
 *Mr. and Mrs. James Hill Sr.
 *JPMorgan Chase
 *V.F.W. Post #3484 Ladies Auxillary to Romaine
 *John Legere
 *Benjamin Metcalf

*King George Chiropractic Center
 *Long Valley Junior Women's Club
 *Long Valley Presbyterian Church
 *Munich Reinsurance America, Inc.
 *New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association
 *Bridget O'Brien
 *Christina Orles
 *Pro Bono Partnership
 *William P. Roberts, III
 *Glenn Savin
 *The Smullen Family
 *Diane Stubblefield
 *U.C.T.I.E.
 *V.F.W. of the United States, Inc.
 *Senator Joseph F. Vitale
 *Warren Township Lions Club
 *Woodbridge Lodge #2116 BPO Elks
 *Woodbridge Memorial VFW Post 4410

And each and every one of our donors who gave from their heart to our children and families

When you donate to FAFS you help bridge the gaps between what the government can provide and what children in foster care actually need to live happier, more successful lives. Scan the code below or visit <http://bit.ly/N3EQsr> to donate today.





PO Box 518
4301 Route 1 South
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
Information Line: 1.800.222.0047
Website: www.fafsonline.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PRINCETON, NJ
PERMIT #47

FAFS' Board of Directors & Management 2012-2013

Glenda Elie, President
Janis Nietzer, First Vice
President/Secretary
Lynn Nowak, Board Member/
First Vice President
Janet Farrand, Second Vice President
Ed Ciak, Treasurer

Roberta Hester, Board Member
John Morino, Board Member
Vincent Terry, Board Member

Sue Dondiego, Advisor to the Board

Mary Jane Awrachow,
Chief Executive Officer

James Chester,
Director of Support Services

Fran Gervasi,
Director of Education and Human Resources

Nicky Goodwine-Samuels,
Director of Development and
Communications

Tara Rizzolo,
Director of Scholarship Programs

FAFS' Volunteer Committees & Affiliate 2012-2013

*Vacant, Atlantic County
*Tracey Bouzoumita, Bergen County
*Joyce Wakefield, Burlington County
*Georgette Maslanik, Camden County
*Vacant, Cape May County
*Wendy Baptiste, Cumberland County
*Celines Garcia and Bettie Williams,
Newark/Essex County
*Vacant, Suburban/Essex County
*Cynthia Glover and Theresa Brown-Glover,
Gloucester County
*Vacant, Hudson County
*Amy Liszt, Hunterdon County
*Jayne Gordon, Mercer County
*Mary Engelmeyer, Middlesex County
*Phyllis DiNardi, Monmouth County
*Michelle Cannaveno, Morris County
Affiliate
*Shannon Williams and Bonnie Stevens,
Ocean County
*Catherine Fredericks, Passaic County
*Kathleen Rutter, Salem County
*Roberta Hester, Somerset County
*Cheryl Novak and Lisa Santarpia-Hamler,
Sussex County
*Vacant, Union County
*Tammi Fennelly and Cathleen Fischer,
Warren County