

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 10, 2011

**Contact:** Mary Jane Awrachow, Executive Director  
**Telephone Number:** 1.800.222.0047  
**Fax Number:** 609.520.1515  
[www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org)

### **OUTSTANDING NJ FOSTER PARENTS TO BE HONORED IN MAY**

*Foster and Adoptive Family Services, in conjunction with the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Youth and Family Services, Celebrates National Foster Care Month with Recognition Awards*

Monmouth Junction, NJ, May 10, 2011 –Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) will once again celebrate May's National Foster Care Month with a Recognition Awards Brunch on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel in Eatontown, NJ. FAFS has honored those who support New Jersey's abused and neglected children with recognition awards for over twenty years.

The Awards Ceremony will feature a speech by Thea Komar, FAFS' Ambassador for Children in Foster Care. Komar was recently featured on the cable television news show *This Week in New Brunswick*. To learn more about Komar, please visit [www.fafsonline.org/foster-care-awareness.html](http://www.fafsonline.org/foster-care-awareness.html).

Awards will be presented to outstanding foster and adoptive parents, as well as Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) staff and community members who have demonstrated their commitment to the well-being of children in foster care in New Jersey. The winners of the 2011 FAFS/DYFS Recognition Awards are:

Outstanding Foster Family:	Kristine Best
Outstanding New Foster Family:	Barbara Markowitz
Outstanding Adoptive Family:	Debi Appgar and Robin Fehring
FAFS Commitment Award:	Fran Borgenicht , Leslie and Sheldon Kwitken
Outstanding FAFS Member:	Lisa, Rich and Danielle DeMarco
Outstanding Partnership Award:	Mary Engelmeyer and Arthur McManus, Donna Stackhouse, Helena Roberts, Shamilah Harris, Starling Forbes

MORE

Outstanding Youth of the Year	Tony Anthony Conover, Nicole Cummings
FAFS President's Award	Arthur and Beverly Armstead
DYFS Director's Award	Maria and Dario Jaramillo
DYFS Worker	Linda Burnett
FAFS Volunteer Committee of the Year	Middlesex County FAFS Volunteer Committee

Foster and Adoptive Family Services is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, dedicated to providing 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.

To receive more information about FAFS, contact Mary Jane Awrachow, Executive Director, at 1.800.222.0047.

###

*Foster and Adoptive Family Services: The Voice of Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Families in NJ*