



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Recognition Brunch Honors New Jersey Residents

April 29, 2013, Monmouth Junction, NJ - For over 15 years Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), in cooperation with the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) has recognized individuals, families and organizations for outstanding achievement in the area of supporting children in foster care. On Saturday morning, May 4, 2013 the tradition continues with the Annual Recognition Brunch to be held at the Sheraton Eatontown. In addition to specific awards, young men and women in foster care who are receiving a 2013 scholarship grant will also be recognized. Presenting the awards will be FAFS President Glenda Elie, FAFS Chief Operating Officer, Mary Jane Awrachow, DCP&P Deputy Director, Valerie Kelly and Scholarship Director Tara Rizzolo.

2013 Award Recipients

Outstanding Foster Family of the Year - Patricia and David Kovacs of Lake Hopatcong

The DCP&P Director's Award - William Shields-Billups of Mount Holly

Outstanding New Foster Family of the Year - Shalon and Robert McNamara of Neptune

Outstanding Kinship Family of the Year - Andrea and Vincent Feiner of East Rutherford

Outstanding Adoptive Family of the Year - Elizabeth and Howard Hickey of Medford

Outstanding DCP&P Staff Award - Adam Janiec

Outstanding Teamwork in Support of a Child Award - Kyle and Dawn Deuter of Northfield, Kelly Serrano, DCF Trenton, Sheri Gallo, DCF Mays Landing and Ashley Chiappano, FAFS Monmouth Junction

FAFS Outstanding Commitment Award - FAFS Foundation

FAFS Outstanding Youth Awards - Heather Ann Loughran and Joshua Loughran of Lakewood

FAFS Outstanding Volunteer Committee Award - Monmouth County Committee, Phyllis DiNardi, Chair

FAFS President's Award - Hillary Scarbrough of Barnegat

FAFS Foundation Excellence In Support Of Children Award - Linda Gagliardi of Monroe Township

FAFS CEO, Mary Jane Awrachow commented, "Every year, these presentations highlight the efforts of hundreds of families and concern citizens across our state. They are inspirational and focus on the good that people do, each and every day."

The mission of Foster and Adoptive Family Services is to provide support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of the 7,000 foster, adoptive and kinship families, who provide safe, stable, and nurturing homes for children in foster care in New Jersey. FAFS is a federal 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, with headquarters on Route 1 in Monmouth Junction. The organization serves as a catalyst for positive advances in the child welfare system. Simply stated, FAFS is the VOICE of foster, adoptive and kinship families in New Jersey.

For further information about the mission or programs of Foster and Adoptive Family Services, please call 1.800.222.0047, email development@fafsonline.org or visit fafsonline.org.