



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recognition Brunch Honored New Jersey Residents During National Foster Care Month
And celebrated 40 years of award winning service

Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, May 22, 2014 – For 40 years Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) has worked in conjunction with the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) to provide award winning services to foster, adoptive and kinship families. For over 16 years, they have recognized individuals, families and organizations for outstanding achievement in the area of supporting children in foster care. On May 17, 2014 the tradition continued with the Annual Recognition Brunch held at the Sheraton Eatontown. This year, Dr. Allison Blake, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, on behalf of Governor Chris Christie, presented FAFS with a congratulatory letter and an official proclamation declaring May Foster Care Month in New Jersey. Dr. Blake also presented FAFS with a Senate proclamation congratulating and honoring their 40th anniversary. In addition to specific awards, young men and women in foster care who received a 2014 scholarship grant were also recognized. The award presenters were FAFS Chief Executive Officer Mary Jane Awrachow, DCP&P Assistant Commissioner Lisa vonPier, FAFS Foundation President/Second Vice President of FAFS Janet Farrand and FAFS Scholarship Director Millicent Barry.

2014 Award Recipients

Outstanding Foster Family of the Year - Tracey Bouzoumita of Saddle Brook
Outstanding New Foster Family of the Year - Daniel and Amber Rementov of Voorhees
Outstanding Kinship Family of the Year - Tracy and Enio Perez of Hackettstown
Outstanding Adoptive Family of the Year - Jacquelyn Brown of Jersey City
Outstanding DCP&P Staff Person of the Year - La'Keisha Dennis-Reyes
Outstanding Youth of the Year - Sarah McManus of Piscataway
Outstanding Support Network of the Year - Kathleen Rutter of Salem County
FAFS President's Award - Jacquelyn Spencer of Springfield
FAFS Partnership Award - Division of Children and Families (DCF)
FAFS Commitment Awards - Pro Bono Partnership and the NJ State Policemen's Benevolent Association
Assistant Commissioner's Award - Jillian Hennessey

FAFS CEO, Mary Jane Awrachow commented, "Celebrating 40 years of award winning service and acknowledging the dedication of so many families and staff alike is a true inspiration and a testament to the heart of our mission."

The mission of FAFS is 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 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.