



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact:** Lynn Patmalnee, Interim Director of Development & Communications  
**Email:** [lpatmalnee@fafsonline.org](mailto:lpatmalnee@fafsonline.org)  
**Telephone:** 1.800.222.0047 ext. 324

## **Foster and Adoptive Family Services Announces Advisory Council Membership**

*Community leaders to contribute support to New Jersey's children in foster care*

Monmouth Junction, NJ, February 3, 2014 – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) is proud to introduce this year's membership of the FAFS Advisory Council. These volunteers include: FAFS Founders Bernard and Sue Dondiego, Tom Blatner, Lucinda Florio, State Assemblyman Sean Kean, The Honorable Norman Peer, State Senator Joseph Vitale and Cecilia Zalkind, Esquire. FAFS CEO Mary Jane Awrachow also serves as Chairperson.

These individuals contribute their expertise and wisdom to the current and future work of FAFS. Many of these members have directly affected the advancement of programs for children in foster care. Their efforts continue to focus attention on the mission of FAFS, 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.

Here is some information about the FAFS Advisory Council Members:

- Sue and Bernie Dondiego have worked to bring about positive change for children in foster care for over 40 years. They helped form the New Jersey Foster Parent Association, known today as FAFS.
- Tom Blatner is President and CEO of JANUS Solutions. He has led numerous strategic planning and management assistance projects in New Jersey and twelve other states.
- Lucinda Florio is the former First Lady of New Jersey. She currently volunteers with the Liberty Science Center and the Middlesex County Y.
- Sean Kean is a graduate of Seton Hall University. He has been active in local and state politics and currently serves as Member of the NJ State Assembly.
- Norman Peer is a retired NJ Superior Court Judge, currently of counsel with Lomurro, Davison, Eastman & Munoz. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy. He is a recipient of the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council's prestigious Silver Gull Award.
- Joseph Vitale is a Member of the New Jersey State Senate. He was a major proponent of the NJ KidCare and FamilyCare health programs. He volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the VNA of Central Jersey.
- Cecilia Zalkind, Esq. has a wide-ranging background in advocacy for children. She is currently the Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New Jersey.

Foster and Adoptive Family Services is a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization with offices in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey. For more information on FAFS' services or programs, please call 1.800.222.0047 or visit [www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org).