



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lynn Patmalnee, Director of Communication and Development
Email: lpatmalnee@fafsonline.org
Telephone: 609.520.1500 - Ext. 324

Essex County Backpack Event Prepares Children in Foster Care for Success in School

MONMOUTH JUNCTION – The end of summer can be a stressful time for children, especially when they’re switching to a new school or experiencing difficulties at home. For children in foster care, these challenges can be especially daunting. That’s why two community organizations are coming together to help children in foster care prepare for a happy and successful school year.

Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), a 501(c) (3) dedicated to children in foster care, and Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills (JLOSH), an organization of women committed to voluntarism, will distribute new backpacks filled with school supplies to children living in Essex County foster homes on Saturday, August 8, 2015 in East Orange, NJ.

“Going back to school should be an exciting time, where children have an opportunity to go back to-school shopping to prepare for the upcoming school year. However, for children in foster care, who are separated from their family and may have had to change schools, this may not be the case,” said Tara Rizzolo, Director of Support Services.

“With the support of JLOSH, this event will provide a positive life experience for children in foster care, giving them a new backpack filled with the school supplies needed to succeed and putting them on equal footing with their peers.”

More than 100 children will receive a backpack at the event. 300 books donated by BookBGone will also be distributed. A DJ and face painter will be on hand to entertain the children and lunch will be served.

“We are excited to support Foster and Adoptive Family Services,” wrote Michelle Burroughs, Chair, JLOSH Community Grant Evaluation Committee, “and hope this grant will help them to continue to advance their mission and the good work that they do in our community.”

JLOSH is an organization of women committed to voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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.

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