



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Nicky Goodwine-Samuels
Phone: 609.520.1500
Email: nsamuels@fafsonline.org

**NEW JERSEY'S FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILY SERVICES
SELECTED AS STATE FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR
BY THE NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION**

Award to be accepted by organization founder Sue Dondiego on June 16th

Monmouth Junction, NJ, May 16, 2012 – Nearly 40 years ago, Sue Dondiego and her husband Bernie, along with their friend and fellow foster parent Hattie Talley, started Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS). What began as a casual meeting around a kitchen table to share concerns and advice on fostering became the first organization to receive state funding for training, advocacy and foster home recruitment. Today, FAFS still uses federal/state funding to provide these valuable services to foster parents, but it has also broadened its scope to include privately-funded programs that directly impact the lives of children in foster care. In recognition of the organization's ongoing accomplishments, the National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) has selected FAFS as their 2012 State Foster Parent Association of the Year. Dondiego will accept the award to be presented at the NFPA's 2012 Conference in Chicago, IL on Saturday, June 16th.

"From its humble beginnings as an all volunteer organization to the present day, FAFS has focused their time, talents and hard work to develop programs, projects and activities that would improve the lives of resource parents and the children in their care," says Dondiego. "We are successful because we have never lost of our original goal of supporting foster and adoptive parents. It is truly an honor to receive this award from the NFPA."

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About NFPA: The National Foster Parent Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that supports foster parents in achieving safety, permanence and well-being for the children and youth in their care.

About FAFS: Foster and Adoptive Family Services is a 501(c)3 New Jersey nonprofit 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. For more information, please visit www.fafsonline.org or contact Mary Jane Awrachow at (609) 520-1500.

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