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Eric Kiellar and Liza Brienza Presented Award for Service to Foster Children in NJ

EATONTOWN, NJ – Eric Kiellar and Liza Brienza of Mahwah, NJ never turn away a child in need. Because of this, and for their commitment to providing safe, stable and nurturing homes to children in New Jersey, Kiellar and Brienza received the Outstanding Foster Family of the Year award at Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) and the state Department of Child Protection and Permanency's (DCP&P) annual recognition awards.

The pair accepted the award at the Pacific Concord Hotel in front of a crowd of more than 100 foster, adoptive and kinship parents and children, as well as dozens of FAFS and DCP&P staff members.

Among local DCP&P workers, the fostering duo has become known as the "go-to" family for home placements for foster children because they never turn a child away – even if it's the middle of the night.

Over the last five years, Eric and Liza have opened their home to 10 children.

The couple's commitment to helping children in need extends well beyond the doors of their home. Long after their foster children return to their biological parents or are moved to a different home, the pair makes sure to keep in contact and always be there to provide a helping hand or a bit of encouragement when needed.

FAFS Chief Executive Officer Mary Jane Awrachow said, "Liza and Eric exemplify what is so remarkable about thousands of foster, adoptive and kinship families across the state – their willingness to provide safe, stable, nurturing homes for children in need. We applaud Liza and Eric's dedication to New Jersey's children in care."

To earn the award, Eric and Liza met criteria set by the FAFS Board of Directors, which included heightening awareness of foster care, extraordinary commitment to children in care, positive impact on the foster, adoptive and kinship community and improving community outreach for the benefit of children in adoptive care.

For more than 20 years, FAFS, in cooperation with DCP&P, has recognized individuals and families for outstanding achievement in supporting children in foster care.

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. Simply stated, FAFS is the voice of foster, adoptive and kinship families in New Jersey.