



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 13, 2014**

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### **Art Contest Provides an Opportunity to Shine for New Jersey's Children in Foster Care**

Monmouth Junction, NJ, January 13, 2014 – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) is announcing that it is offering children and young adults, ages 6 to 24, who are or have been in foster care, kinship care or adopted from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) in New Jersey the opportunity to win one of four \$100.00 gift cards. The contest is part of the yearlong anniversary celebration marking FAFS' 40 years of service to New Jersey families. Entries are being accepted now through April 1, 2014. The theme of the contest is **A Word About Me**. Accepted art mediums are in two categories: Visual Arts (i.e., painting, drawing, prints, photography, sculpture) or Writing (i.e., poetry, prose).

“By sponsoring this art contest, FAFS is offering these children and young people the opportunity to express themselves in a creative manner. We have held various contests over the years as an entertaining and educational outlet,” said Mary Jane Awrachow, Chief Executive Officer of FAFS. “These contests provide us with the opportunity to stay on the vanguard of supporting nurturing foster and adoptive families. We hope many families will participate in this event.”

One winner in each age group will be chosen: 6 to 9 years, 10 to 12 years, 13 to 16 years and 17 to 24 years. These winners will have their projects displayed at the Freehold Raceway Mall in Freehold, New Jersey.

No entries will be accepted without completed waiver. Minors must have their parent or guardian sign the waiver form. Decisions of the judges are final. All submissions become the property of Foster and Adoptive Family Services. Entries will not be returned. To view the complete rules and download the entry application, please go to [www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org).

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.