

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New Jersey State Police Make Holidays Brighter
for Children in Foster Care Again This Year**

*Despite the economic downturn, FAFS and the PBA join together to bring
Happy Holidays to New Jersey's children in foster care*

Monmouth Junction, NJ, December 28, 2011 – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) and the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) held their tenth annual statewide PBA toy drive on December 13 at Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. Despite the economic downturn, this year's toy drive was one of the most successful in the history of the event.

The goal of FAFS is to provide a joyous holiday celebration for children living in New Jersey foster care homes. The PBA's continued generosity helps FAFS make the holidays brighter for foster children and their families. Additional gifts were provided by the Somerset Patriots, who held a toy drive to benefit FAFS during baseball season, and by numerous private donors through FAFS' *A Holiday Celebration for Every Child* program.

For the last 18 years, FAFS has provided toys to children in foster care homes under the leadership of FAFS Executive Director, Mary Jane Awrachow.

"In these continued challenging economic times, more children are coming into foster care for neglect due to poverty. For these children, many of whom who have never known the joy of receiving a holiday gift, the generosity of the members of the State PBA, and our donors, is most appreciated," says Awarachow.

Toys collected were distributed to children at each county's annual holiday party, which is organized through FAFS' Local Volunteer Committees and Affiliate.

Foster and Adoptive Family Services is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, dedicated to 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.

To receive more information about FAFS' services, or to donate to the 2012 toy drive, contact Nicky Goodwine-Samuels, Director of Development and Communications, at 1.800.222.0047, or visit <http://www.fafsonline.org>.

Foster and Adoptive Family Services: The Voice of Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Families in NJ.