

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Nicky Samuels, FAFS Director of Development and Communications

Telephone Number: 1.800.222.0047

Fax Number: 609.520.1515

www.fafsonline.org

**Hurricane Sandy Doesn't Dampen Donations
to New Jersey's Children in Foster Care**

*Despite the storm and its aftermath, FAFS and the PBA join together again
to bring Happy Holidays to our state's most vulnerable kids*

Monmouth Junction, NJ, December 12, 2012 – Hurricane Sandy brought winds of change to New Jersey, but as the holidays approach, one thing remains the same: The New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association's unwavering commitment to children in foster care. For the eleventh consecutive year, the PBA and Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) held their eleventh annual statewide toy drive on December 11 at Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. Toys collected at the drive will be given December to children living in foster families at holiday celebrations throughout New Jersey during the month of December.

The PBA's support of FAFS is especially notable during this difficult time for our state. Many of these generous men and women of the police force, as well as additional donors throughout the state of New Jersey, surely face hardship and loss because of the storm. Many of them support Hurricane Sandy causes in their communities, helping their neighbors in their time of need. After hours spent on the phone with insurance companies and contractors, volunteering at town shelters, or donating dollars, food and clothing to their fellow residents, it speaks volumes that children in foster care have not been ignored or forgotten in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

"So many of us have wonderful memories of going to the Jersey shore on weekends or vacations, and of the holidays, spending time there with family and friends," says Mary Jane Awrachow, FAFS' Chief Executive Officer. "Children in foster care, who have been victims of abuse or neglect, have very few, if any, good memories like these. The PBA, our individual donors, and our foster parents who give these vulnerable children safe and stable homes, all share FAFS' commitment to giving children living in foster families happy memories this holiday season."

FAFS' A Holiday Celebration for Every Child program provides children living in foster families with the enjoyment of a festive holiday celebration. "In some cases," says Awrachow, "the holiday parties allow siblings living in separate foster homes the chance to reunite and spend a fun-filled day together. For these children, that reunion is the greatest gift they could receive."

FAFS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit in New Jersey with the mission of 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. Beyond its mission, FAFS offers several programs, like A Holiday Celebration for Every Child, that directly affect the lives of children in out-of-home-placement. To learn more about these programs, please visit www.fafsonline.org/foster-children-programs.html, or contact Nicky Samuels, Director of Development and Communications, at 1.800.222.0047.

"Hurricane Sandy was a terrible storm," Awrachow concludes, "but it was the generosity of the PBA and our supporters that blew us away. On behalf of New Jersey's children in foster care, we say a heartfelt thank you and wish everyone Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year."

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