

For Immediate Release

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**JANET FARRAND A FINALIST FOR THE RUSS BERRIE FOUNDATION
MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD**

***2012 New Jersey Governor's Jefferson Award winner to be honored
for her service to children and youth in foster care in New Jersey***

Monmouth Junction, NJ, May 4, 2012 - Janet Farrand, President of the Foster and Adoptive Family Services Foundation (FAFSF) and Second Vice President of Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), will be honored at the 2012 Russ Berrie Making a Difference Awards on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ.

According to their website, "The Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference celebrates New Jersey's unsung heroes—everyday people whose extraordinary volunteer efforts have made a real difference in the lives of others. Created in 1997, the annual award program honors nineteen individuals who have performed outstanding community service or an act of heroism." Finalists are eligible to win cash prizes ranging from \$5,000 - \$50,000.

Farrand's volunteer efforts have made, and continue to make, a real difference in the lives of New Jersey's children and youth in foster care. As a driving force in the creation and passing of the Tuition Waiver Bill, which provides eligible foster youth with full tuition to college, university or vocational school, Farrand's work resulted in the launch of the FAFS administered New Jersey Foster Care Scholars program. Over 140 students have completed degree or certificate programs as NJFC Scholars at accredited colleges, universities, and trade/career schools since the program began eight year ago. The 2010-2011 academic year resulted in 32 graduates, the most in any single year of the program. Farrand is the founder of FAFS' Fostering Wishes for Children Program, which helps foster parents pay for "little extras," such as art or music lessons, prom bids, and more experiences that boost their children in foster

care's self-esteem. The program has granted over 1,200 wishes since its inception. Farrand remains one of the top supporters of FAFS' Camp Scholarships program, which has given over 200 children in foster care the opportunity to learn positive skills and gain happy summer memories. Literally hundreds of children and youth in foster care benefit daily from her tireless volunteer efforts.

Farrand, a 2010 Female Legends of Morris County award winner, is no stranger to accolades. She recently received a 2011-2012 New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award in recognition of her volunteer service to youth. Like the Russ Berrie Foundation Making a Difference Awards, The New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Awards honors people who perform outstanding community service.

Farrand's "list of accomplishments is very, very long," enthuses Mary Jane Awarachow, FAFS CEO. "It is wonderful to see her being honored for her extraordinary achievements."

The Foster and Adoptive Family Services Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides financial support to Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS).

Foster and Adoptive Family Services is a 501(c)3 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 Awarachow at (609) 520-1500.