

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**9/11 CAN BE A DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY MAKING A DIFFERENCE
FOR THOSE IN NEED: WALK FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

**On the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, do something positive for your community to honor
the memory of the tragic day by walking for children in foster care.**

Monmouth Junction, NJ, September 1, 2011 – When tragedy struck on September 11, 2001, we remember most the first-responders who ran towards the two iconic buildings while everyone else was running in the opposite direction. They were rushing to come to the aid of those who needed them in those dark hours when a nation was shocked, confused, hurt, and despairing. Long after 9/11, our nation’s first-responders were still responding, as they dug tirelessly in the critical hours through the rubble to find survivors. It is their spirit of service to their fellow man which showed the world that it was not the towers which we mourned, but the courage of others that we would come to celebrate, and the lives that were lost that we would come to remember with dignity and respect.

The Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) Foundation wants to honor that memory as they walk for children in foster care. Because the walk will be held on September 11, 2011, the 10th Anniversary of the fateful day when so many lives were changed, the Foundation hopes that this event will give due honor to all of our heroes and lost loved ones by making a positive difference in the community. The 4th Annual *A Child, A Heart, A Home – Walk for Children in Foster Care* will be held on the Ocean City Boardwalk. Starting from the Music Pier, the walkers will not be missed in their bright red shirts as they make their way down the boardwalk, sampling the local fare and visiting the numerous attractions, all for a good cause.

“9/11 was a sad and tragic day, but the spirit of the American people has endured. What better way to honor that day than to make it a day of service, to help the community and do something positive,” says Mary Jane Awrachow, Statewide Event

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Chair for the walks. “Another positive will be enjoying the Boardwalk on a Sunday afternoon with family and friends. Even though we’re walking for a good cause, children in foster care, we still want to offer our generous participants, who are taking the time and effort to care about New Jersey’s abused and neglected children, an enjoyable way to give back to the community.”

The goal of this rain or shine walk, which will begin at 1:30 p.m., registration at 12:30 p.m., is to increase community awareness regarding children in foster care as well as the families who provide that care; and to raise funds for Foster and Adoptive Family Services Foundation.

“The bright red shirts are new this year and will make people stop and ask us about who we are and what we do,” says Awrachow. “We’ll be more than happy to tell you!”

The emphasis on making the anniversary of 9/11 into a day to do something positive was a decision made by the Foundation to make sure the day is commemorated. “We want our walkers to know that we are acknowledging the day by doing something good. Every step taken by our walkers contributes to programs and services that benefit New Jersey’s children who have been abused and neglected,” says Janet Farrand, FAFS Foundation President. “Not everyone can become a foster and adoptive parent, but by sponsoring our walk, organizing a team or walking as an individual, everyone can make a difference in the lives of children in foster care.”

The FAFS Foundation’s mission is to support New Jersey’s abused and neglected children. The fundraising efforts of the FAFS Foundation provides critical financial support for Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), its mission, and programs. FAFS is the only nonprofit organization in New Jersey serving as a unified voice for foster, adoptive, and kinship families. Supporting the walk will help sustain programs like Fostering Wishes, Camp Scholarships, academic scholarships, and opportunity grants. For more on these and other programs, visit www.fafsonlin.org.

“A stable and supportive foster home can make a tremendously positive impact on the outcome of a child’s life,” says Farrand. “FAFS works tirelessly to make sure that children in foster care and the families who care for them get the services and support they need to be a healthy and thriving part of the community. The anniversary of 9/11 is a good time to help.”

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4TH ANNUAL
**WALK FOR CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE**

A Child, A Heart, A Home – Walk for Children in Foster Care is an outdoor event. Registration for all walks begins promptly at 12:30pm. The walks begin at 1:30pm. Register to walk and get more information at www.fafsfoundation.org or contact Christina Garcia at (609) 520-1500 x334.