

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Happy Birthday To FAFS: Agency Celebrates 35 Years As The Leading Advocate For Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Families in New Jersey

Monmouth Junction, NJ – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) proudly celebrates its 35th anniversary as New Jersey's leading nonprofit organization, which is dedicated to meeting the special needs of the more than 9,000 children in foster care.

FAFS was founded in the 1970s by the late Hattie Talley as well as Bernard and Sue Dondiego, both of whom remain active today. The goal from Day One was to create a statewide organization that would support foster families and serve as a voice for foster parents in New Jersey.

Even though FAFS was incorporated in 1974, the organization wasn't officially received until Hattie Talley proudly led a group of foster parents to New Jersey's State House to rally in support of foster care. From that moment, FAFS received the necessary support from state legislators.

In 2000, the agency's name was officially changed from the New Jersey Foster Parents Association to Foster and Adoptive Family Services. The change was made to specifically include adoptive families who have adopted through New Jersey's Division of Youth and Family Services.

FAFS now features four key departments – Development & Communications, Education & Training, Scholarship and Support Services, which continues to be a vital element of FAFS in helping to provide much-needed guidance and services to foster families in New Jersey.

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“I am most proud of the fact that FAFS has held firmly to our original mission – to meet the special needs of foster and adoptive families,” Sue Dondiego said. “I am also proud of the fact that foster parents continue to make sacrifices and give so much of themselves to provide the quality of care needed so desperately by children in foster care.”

FAFS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the special needs of the more than 5,000 foster, adoptive and kinship families in New Jersey, who provide care for more than 9,000 children. Its mission 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.

The new FAFS Foundation is a nonprofit that provides the parent organization with financial support for many of its privately-funded programs. For more information about the Foundation please call 609.977.4880 or visit the Web site, www.fafsfoundation.org.

For more information about FAFS or its services please visit its Web site, www.fafsonline.org, or contact Mary Jane Awrachow, Executive Director, at 609.520.1500.