

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Long-Time FAFS Member Honored For Years of Service**

*Bergen County foster and adoptive parent leaving New Jersey after 20-plus years of service to children in foster care*

Monmouth Junction, NJ, May 1, 2009 – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) presented Edward Shain with the Outstanding FAFS Member award at the annual Resource Family Recognition Dinner on May 1.

The event, which took place at the Sheraton-Eatontown Hotel in Eatontown, NJ, coincides with May's National Foster Care month. Shain, a Teaneck resident, has spent the last 20 years as an active member of FAFS, even during the early years when the agency was known as the Foster Parent Association of New Jersey.

During the 1980s, Shain became a foster parent while also spending a few years as president of the Bergen County Foster Parent Association. Shain has fostered about 12 to 15 children, some with physical and emotional issues, during a 12-year span. Shain now has one adopted daughter, Brianna, 13. They've been together since she was 2-weeks-old, and her adoption became final back in 1997.

Shain has routinely reached out to the foster care community, which especially was the case during his time as a representative to foster parents who were going through difficult times.

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From then to now he has continued to believe in FAFS' mission of providing support to all types of foster families. Shain also has been associated with FAFS' board of directors for more than 10 years, even serving as treasurer at one point.

Shain's next phase of his life will take him away from New Jersey. On June 29<sup>th</sup> Shain and Brianna are moving to California. Despite the move, he has left open the possibility of fostering children on the West Coast.

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. FAFS advocates for improved foster care and adoption services, provides support to foster, adoptive, and kinship parents, and promotes an enhanced understanding of foster care and the adoption of children from 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](http://www.fafsfoundation.org).

For more information about FAFS or its services please contact Mary Jane Awrachow, Executive Director, at 609.520.1500.