

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Union County 18-Year-Old Uses Her Maturity to Defy the Odds

Growing up in foster care has not stopped Marissa Scott from excelling in life

Monmouth Junction, NJ, May 1, 2009 – Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS), along with the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), presented Marisa Scott with one of this year's Outstanding Youth of the Year awards 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. Scott, an Elizabeth resident, is a student at Newark Technology High School. She has maintained an A or B average during her four years while never being late for school. In June she will graduate in the top 20 percent of her senior class.

Scott's mature demeanor helped her qualify for an independent living program in February. She is responsible for food shopping, cooking, cleaning, her cell phone charges and paying a pro-rated rent.

Along with her stellar work in the classroom, Scott also has showed tremendous time-management skills while participating in extra-curricular activities such as softball, cheerleading and the debate club.

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Scott has been accepted to Montclair State University and Kean University and plans on studying biology. Scott has always been a quick learner who addresses her needs in a responsible manner, and she continues to set an example for her three siblings.

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.

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