

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Go Team: Four DCF Staff Honored For Vital Teamwork

Group helps great grandparents adopt great grandchildren

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 four members of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) with the Outstanding Partnership 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. The four DCF members are: Don DeBruyne (Essex County), Debbie Edwards (Unionville, Pa.), Dianna Black (Burlington County) and Deserre Whiteside (Camden County).

They have collectively gone above and beyond to assist several families in qualifying for Rehab funds, which makes it possible for families to become licensed through creating the necessary repairs or upgrades to their homes.

The team recently worked together to assist great grandparents make the necessary repairs to their home. These repairs aided the family in adopting their great grandchildren.

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After realizing that this family's home would not meet licensing standards, Whiteside, along with Edwards, Black and DeBruyne, worked thoroughly with this family to facilitate the application to the Resource Family Home Rehabilitation Program.

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.