

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Families United Network, Inc. Raising Awareness of National Foster Care Month**

Mount Joy, PA, April 26, 2010 – May is National Foster Care Awareness Month. Almost 20,000 Pennsylvania children are in foster care according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services\*. Families United Network, Inc., a private, non-profit foster care and adoption agency, strives to raise awareness of the need for foster families with a variety of outreach activities this month. Events are also planned to recognize the dedicated individuals currently providing foster care.

“We are constantly looking for families across the state, who will be a good match for children needing temporary foster care,” said Families United Network’s Executive Director, Leo McLaughlin. Children in foster care come from urban, rural and suburban areas. The goal of the agency is to identify the most suitable environment for the child or sibling group. “If we are not able to place the child with family or someone already familiar to them, we do our very best to keep the child in their home school district. For that reason we have five foster care offices across the state dedicated to training and supporting foster families,” said McLaughlin.

Lisa Cannon, Program Supervisor of the Mount Joy Office has good reason to celebrate: “We have foster families in Lancaster, Berks and Dauphin county, and the surrounding areas. We also enjoy a good working relationship with our area Children and Youth offices.” Cannon went on to say many of their children are from sibling groups or are teenagers. “We have some really challenging cases, so the need for committed individuals to provide foster care has never been greater. I’m pleased how our foster families and case managers have faced the challenges, especially this year.” The agency has a few events planned this month, including two information sessions for those interested in becoming foster parents, on May 6th and May 20th at 6:30. To RSVP for either session, call the Mount Joy office directly at 717-492-9338, or to see if there is an office closer to you, visit [www.families4kids.org](http://www.families4kids.org).

\* “Foster Care FY 2002—FY 2008 Entries, Exits and Numbers of Children in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year.” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children & Families.

**About Our Agency**—Families United Network, Inc. is a leader in child welfare services. The agency provides quality foster care and adoption services, domestically and internationally. The agency also operates Community Residential Care/Life Readiness programs to prepare adolescent boys and girls as they age-out of the child welfare system. A non-profit, social service agency, founded in 1995; Families United Network is among a select group of social service organizations in the nation that is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA is an international accreditation that requires agencies to demonstrate rigorous standards in quality of services and management.

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