

First Lady Mary Pat Christie Leads National Light the Way Initiative with First Spouses from Around the Country to Spotlight Down Syndrome Cognitive Research

Sunday March 20, 2016 Tags: [First Lady](#)

Drumthwacket to Illuminate in Blue Monday, March 21 for World Down Syndrome Day



Trenton, NJ – First Lady Mary Pat Christie is once again lending her support to a national effort among First Spouses that is raising awareness and spotlighting the importance of revolutionary advances being made in Down syndrome cognitive research. Mrs. Christie is being joined by more than 30 First Spouses from around the country who are participating in the 2016 “Light the Way” campaign.

In addition, Governor Christie has proclaimed March 21, 2016 as Down Syndrome Day in New Jersey. On Monday evening, Drumthwacket, the Governor’s official residence in Princeton, will be illuminated in blue to symbolize the Governor and First Lady’s support of Down syndrome cognitive research.

“Through non-profit groups such as the LuMind Research Down Syndrome Foundation, groundbreaking advances are being made every day to increase life opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome,” said Mrs. Christie. “My sincerest thanks to all of the First Spouses and Governors who are participating in this year’s *Light the Way* campaign. Their support of this effort is not only expanding awareness each year, it is helping to empower adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in New Jersey and across the nation.”

To date, First Spouses and Governors from Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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March 21st, is particularly meaningful to the *Light the Way* campaign because Down syndrome results from the presence of three copies of chromosome 21. Down syndrome is the most common chromosomal disorder. It affects over 400,000 Americans with approximately 6,000 babies born with Down syndrome each year. Down syndrome occurs in approximately 1 in every 691 births.

Since initiating the “Light the Way” campaign in 2011, there have been numerous breakthroughs in Down syndrome cognition research, including discovering connections between Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease. The research funded by the LuMind Research Down Syndrome Foundation may also hold promise for preventing or delaying cognitive decline in the Alzheimer’s disease community. Additionally, the Foundation has created a pipeline of

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Governor Christie’s Proclamation
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research discoveries that has led to four clinical trials, including an innovative partnership with the National Institutes of Health and AC Immune.

For more information, visit <http://www.lumindrds.org/>

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