

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor Announces Hotline to Aid in Turkish Relief Effort; Encourages New Jerseyans to Provide Assistance**

Governor Christie Whitman today encouraged New Jerseyans to keep Turkish citizens in their thoughts and prayers as they deal with the devastation resulting from the recent earthquake that shook the country. The Governor also encouraged people to offer assistance to the stricken country.

People interested in sending aid to victims can call 1-800- 286-6528. Callers will be given numbers where they can reach the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, the Turkish version of the Red Cross. The Turkish consulate has requested that all relief efforts be coordinated through the two organizations. Financial assistance is being requested due to the high cost of transporting other donations.

"The devastation that has taken such a large toll on the citizens of Turkey is a tragedy and our thoughts and prayers rest with those who have lost or are still looking for loved ones," said Gov. Whitman. "The loss of life and destruction of towns, should remind us all to appreciate each day we have with our families and friends."

"In times of need, New Jerseyans regularly come together to provide aid and assistance for those who are struck by tragedy," the Governor said. "I encourage people to aid in the relief effort by calling our hotline and getting the numbers for the organizations coordinating the relief efforts. We can all play a role in getting the people of Turkey on the road to recovery from this horrible tragedy."

An earthquake shook Turkey on Tuesday morning. Over 7,000 people are reported dead with thousands still missing. The quake shook the Northern area of the country leaving tens of thousands homeless.