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## Lt. Governor Guadagno Visits Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick

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### Program Combats Poverty With Soup Kitchen, Culinary and Baking Program, Better World Café and Bakery

**Trenton, NJ** – Recognizing organizations that have received grant awards through the Department of State's Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBI), Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today visited Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick.

In 1989, three New Brunswick churches – St. John's Episcopal, Emanuel Lutheran and Christ Episcopal of New Brunswick – established Elijah's Promise as a small soup kitchen based on the philosophy that no one in the community needs to go hungry if others share what they have and provide the tools for people to feed themselves. Elijah's Promise received a \$50,000 grant from OFBI.

"Today we celebrate an organization that not only provides food to the hungry but offers professional training to encourage independence in those it serves," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "I commend Elijah's Promise for its work to provide practical experience through café and bakery settings. Elijah's Promise is an excellent example of a social program that reaches and improves all parts of its community."

In 1997, Elijah's Promise created Promise Culinary School, which offers a professional culinary curriculum to hundreds of students, preparing them for and placing them at jobs in the food service industry. To provide on-the-job training for culinary graduates, Elijah's Promise started a catering business in 1998, which supplies hundreds of healthy meals every day to children in New Brunswick and to elderly and homebound residents through New Brunswick's Meals on Wheels program. In 2010, culinary staff launched a Baking and Pastry program to train students in the art of professional baking.

"Through our work, Elijah's Promise strives to break the cycle of poverty in our community," said Jim Zullo, Executive Director of Elijah's Promise. "We envision a community where no one goes hungry for lack of food or funds; where a good meal is a nutritious meal; where our community learns to steward natural and financial resources wisely; and where we make opportunity available to those who seek it. Through our culinary job training program and our various social enterprises, we are dedicated to providing people with the skills to achieve meaningful employment and self sufficiency. At Elijah's Promise we believe in "Food to Change Lives!"

In 2009, Elijah's Promise created the pay-what-you-can "A Better World" community café. The group then founded the "Better World Bakery" as a social enterprise to give baking and pastry students practical experience in a bakery setting. This year's funding from OFBI supports the Bakery, which has partnered with Suydam Farms in creating the "Better World Market & Bakery" to offer farm-fresh produce, baked goods and other local food products.

OFBI continues to strive toward its mission to eliminate all barriers to funding and other resource opportunities, create greater access for partnership and enhance the capacity of faith and community based organizations to effectively design, implement, successful programs and efficiently manage the day to day operations of their organization. In September 2014, the OFBI awarded a total of \$1.15 million in Fiscal Year 2015 grants to 32 organizations.

A full list of OFBI grantees is available here: <http://www.nj.gov/state/programs/pdf/ofbi-fy15-grant-awards-by-category->

and-county.pdf.

More information on OFBI is available on its website at

[http://www.nj.gov/state/programs/dos\\_program\\_faith\\_based.html](http://www.nj.gov/state/programs/dos_program_faith_based.html).

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