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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Assembles Gift Packages at Holiday Express in Tinton Falls During Season of Service

Friday, December 7, 2012

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Trenton, NJ – Working alongside a group of volunteers, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno continued the Christie Administration's Season of Service today at the Holiday Express Warehouse in Tinton Falls, assembling personal care packages for those in need. Year round, Holiday Express delivers music, food, gifts, and human kindness to the mentally and physically disabled, the isolated, individuals in addiction and recovery programs, the poor and homeless, and children with serious illnesses.

"Holiday Express has a very simple, yet important mission," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "This organization brings joy, smiles and love to people who are hospitalized, institutionalized or alone. There is no time of the year when delivering human kindness and making a difference is more important. Holiday Express' volunteers are just a few of the more than 1.5 million Garden State residents who selflessly give their time and energy to a range of important causes and charitable organizations."

Founded in 1993, Holiday Express is comprised of more than 1,400 volunteers and professional musicians who offer music, food, gifts, financial support, and friendship to those less fortunate during the holiday season and throughout the year. Their parties for the homeless and elderly, those with life-threatening illnesses, children and adults with mental or physical disabilities come complete with a rock n' roll band, costumed characters, parodies, and a visit from Santa.

Holiday Express provides gift packages often contain blankets, personal care products, warm hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, coats, stuffed animals and individually packaged snacks. The packages are stored in the group's 8,500 square foot Tinton Falls warehouse where they're ready for distribution. Each season, volunteers pack and distribute over 15,000 gift bags.

"While our mission is to provide smiles and kindness to others, I think our volunteers get the greatest benefit from the thanks and appreciation they receive," said Holiday Express founder Tim McLoone. "We're grateful that Lt. Governor Guadagno, a long-time Holiday Express volunteer and supporter, was able to join us today and recognize the wonderful work of our many dedicated volunteers."

Today's visit by the Lt. Governor is part of the Christie Administration's second annual Season of Service. Last year, Cabinet members participated in approximately 60 events across the state -- from serving meals on wheels to shut-ins and helping to serve and stock food pantries to stuffing care packages for military service members overseas and holiday letter writing to troops abroad to collecting and delivering coats to homeless shelters.

Governor Christie has emphasized the importance of community service since his inaugural in 2010. Today, approximately 1.5 million New Jerseyans contribute about 170 million hours of service each year, bringing a positive influence to neighborhoods and communities throughout the Garden State through local groups, houses of worship and civic organizations.

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