

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor's Weekly Radio Addresses Applauds Faith-Based Grants and Community Based Programs

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor discusses the faith-based community development grants she awarded earlier this month. The grants are used by faith-based community groups to provide programs geared toward aiding members of community in areas like child care, senior services, job-training and youth programs.

The \$1.6 million dollar grants recently announced, combined with grants announced in the first round, total \$5 million in assistance. In the address, the Governor discusses how important community involvement is in serving the state's social needs.

Attached is a text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Radio Message for July 23
Faith-Based Community Development

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of announcing the second round of Faith-Based Community Development grants. These grants total over \$1.6 million and will go to 27 different faith-based community development organizations across New Jersey. Combining these with our first round, we have awarded grants totaling \$5 million to more than 60 organizations statewide.

Our faith-based initiative is premised on a simple fact: while government has a responsibility to serve social needs, a government agency isn't necessarily the best way to meet those needs.

Sometimes - actually, many times - members of churches, synagogues, and mosques have come up with a creative, effective program that fills a vital need right within the community. It's in everyone's interests, including state government's, that we support these groups and help them expand their outreach.

Let me offer a sampling of what these groups will be accomplishing.

- Coastal Caregivers will provide expanded senior care in Point Pleasant.
- The True Servant Community Development Corporation will start an after-school program in Trenton.
- Communities of Faith for Housing will expand its integrated living program in Hoboken.
- In Newark, the Clear View CDC will run a youth program.
- The Shiloh Baptist CDC in Port Norris will expand its employment program.

And in New Brunswick, a multi-church effort called Elijah's Promise will build on its success not only in feeding the needy but also in training local men and women in the culinary arts. Elijah's Promise already runs a program to train future cooks and chefs. Now they will be taught and encouraged to start up their own small businesses - perhaps creating even more jobs for area residents along the way.

All around the state, good people like those at Elijah's Promise are combining creativity and compassion to make New Jersey a better place. Through our grant program, we in state government applaud their commitment and hope that it inspires even more good works.

The need is certainly there. The grants we awarded this month will not fill the need entirely; in fact, we had more than 70 applications requesting nearly \$10 million.

I hope that others in New Jersey - individuals and businesses alike - will consider joining with us in recognizing and supporting the efforts of so many people of faith who reach out to help their neighbors.

I think of New Jersey as One Family with Many Faces. Through the \$5 million in faith-based grants we have awarded, we salute some of the many faces whose hard work and compassion make this truly the best family in the world.

Have a great week.