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Acting Governor Guadagno Congratulates New Jersey's Outstanding Volunteers at Jefferson Awards Ceremony

Monday, June 8, 2015 • Tags: [Other](#)

Honorees in 22 Categories Will Receive Well-Deserved Recognition for Service

Trenton, NJ – Recognizing the efforts of New Jersey's 1.45 million volunteers, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno will attend the annual Governor's Jefferson Awards this evening in Newark.

"One person truly can change the world, just as each of tonight's honorees has done. I know I'm not alone in feeling such a deep sense of pride in knowing that New Jersey is home to so many extraordinary individuals," said Acting Governor Guadagno. "Let's all continue to be inspired by the examples we will honor tonight. More importantly, when we see a need, let's not wait for the 'other guy.' Let's all work together to envision the answer and take action – not only during times of crisis, but in everyday life."

There were 580 nominations across 22 categories for the 2015 awards. Tonight's awardees represent the highest ideals of volunteerism and will be honored for their outstanding acts of service. Among many other service projects, honorees:

- Prepare and deliver more than 10,000 home-style and nutritious meals per month to shelters in the Garfield area;
- Offer safe and engaging alternatives for endangered youths in Newark and Trenton;
- Assist impoverished third-world regions obtain clean drinking water and proper sanitation;
- Provide homeless shelters with new socks, winter goods and other basics;
- Provided thousands of health screenings to uninsured or underinsured residents;
- Enlisted more than 1500 volunteers to provide pro-bono legal assistance to those in need; and
- Established a Scout Troop in Afghanistan that has expanded to more than 10,000 boys and girls.

Additionally, four New Jersey Middle and High Schools will receive Youth Awards for their emphasis on service. More information on the awards, including a full list of honorees, is available online at: <http://www.njgovernorsawards.com/2015honorees.html>.

The Governor's Jefferson Awards is administered jointly by the Community Foundation of New Jersey, *The Star-Ledger* Powering NJ.com, and the Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism, with support from corporate underwriters.

During the Awards, Acting Governor Guadagno will also announce the official launch of the VolunteerNJ portal through the Governor's Office of Volunteerism. The portal will connect individuals with organizations working throughout New Jersey based on location, interest and availability. The portal will be available through the Office of Volunteerism's website at: Volunteerism.NJ.gov.

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