

Governor Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie Volunteer at Morris County's Market Street Mission

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Organization's Executive Director Honored as a New Jersey Hero for his Commitment and Service to Improve Lives of Homeless Residents

Trenton, NJ – Continuing the Administration's commitment to service, Governor Chris Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie served a luncheon meal today at Market Street Mission in Morristown and recognized the organization's executive director, David Scott as the 8th New Jersey Hero of 2015. Market Street Mission meets critical needs of homeless and disadvantaged men, women and children through its emergency services program, providing tens of thousands of meals and shelter nights to those in need every year.

"Mary Pat and I want to thank Dave and his staff at Market Street Mission for their outstanding work and for continuing to make a difference in the lives of so many of our local residents in need," said Governor Christie. "This commitment is a powerful example of what happens when people and communities come together to not only serve neighbors and friends but to also deliver hope and give those who want a second chance the opportunity to make things right in their lives."

Since the beginning of his Administration, Governor Christie has placed a strong emphasis on changing the conversation on drug addiction and put the focus on treatment and recovery – from expanding New Jersey's Drug Court Program so that first time nonviolent offenders have the opportunity to get the treatment they need rather than jail time to implementing a groundbreaking one-stop model for re-entry that connects comprehensive services to ex-offenders re-entering society.

A key initiative at Market Street Mission is its Life Change programs, which help men recover from alcohol and drug addiction. The 8 to 12 month residential treatment program includes daily work at the Mission's Thrift Store, a daily chapel service, group and individual counseling AA/NA meeting and computer assisted and classroom instruction.

"Over the years, Dave and his staff have worked tirelessly to address the issues of homelessness and hunger in the community and have truly made a lasting impact in the lives of so many New Jersey residents," said First Lady Mary Pat Christie. "It is truly inspiring to see first-hand how these men have taken charge of their lives and are on the road to a healthier and self-sufficient life for themselves and their families. During this season of hope and giving, I am proud to name Dave Scott our 8th New Jersey of 2015 and 39th Hero overall."

David Scott has been the Executive Director of the Market Street Mission since 1989. He has helped the Mission expand their reach across the state and to provide the essential programs, including the multi-phased Emergency Assistance and Life Change rehabilitation program for men. This rehabilitation and recovery program integrates Christian values and practices for rehabilitation so that these men can successfully transition from homelessness and addiction to being productive citizens within their communities. In the past year alone, 45 men have graduated from this program, with over 1,000 men successfully completing the program.

"I'm truly honored to receive the New Jersey Heroes Award on behalf of Market Street Mission and all of our dedicated staff members," said executive director Dave Scott. "The work we do is dramatically changing people's lives by providing important life skills and assistance to help those in need right their way and become productive members of the community."

For more information on Market Street Mission visit <http://www.marketstreet.org/>

New Jersey Heroes is an initiative First Lady Mary Pat Christie began in 2010 to showcase the positive and unique ways people and organizations are impacting New Jersey and their communities. To nominate a hero, go to newjerseyheroes.org and follow the application instructions to submit the person you believe is a true New Jersey Hero.

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