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First Lady Mary Pat Christie Joins National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse Initiative to Mark Family Day- Be Involved. Stay Involved® to Help Keep Children and Teens Substance Free

Friday, September 23, 2016 Tags: [First Lady](#)



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Drumthwacket to Be Lit in Red on Monday, September 26th

Trenton, NJ – First Lady Mary Pat Christie today announced that Drumthwacket, the Governor’s Official Residence in Princeton, will illuminate in red the evening of Monday, September 26th to celebrate the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) *Family Day – Be Involved. Stay Involved®. Family Day* is a national initiative to promote simple acts of parental engagement as key ways to help prevent substance use in children and teens. This is First Lady Mary Pat Christie’s sixth year serving as an honorary chair of *CASA Family Day*.

“Confronting the issue of substance abuse and addiction is a public-private partnership, which involves leadership at the state, local and national levels with organizations like CASA,” said Mrs. Christie. “During *Family Day* and every day, it’s important to take time out from busy schedules to sit down to talk with and listen to your children about what’s on their mind. Being engaged in their lives keeps the lines of communication open, which is so important in fighting substance use.”

Adolescence is the critical period for the initiation of risky substance use. In fact, nine out of 10 Americans who meet the medical criteria for addiction started smoking, drinking, or using other drugs before age of 18. Research shows that children with more involved parents are less likely to smoke, drink, or use other substances.

Recognizing the importance of the issue, Mrs. Christie has addressed organizations such as *Community in Crisis* to discuss substance abuse prevention in the local community. During her visit, she met with parents who have suffered the loss of their children to opiate abuse.

Over the last six and half years, Governor Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie have put a strong emphasis on changing the conversation on substance use and addiction, including mandatory drug court, the significant expansion of the Narcan program to include training of family and friends of addicts and a recovery coach program.

For additional information about Family Day, visit <http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/>.

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