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Home > Newsroom > Press Releases > 2014

## Acting Governor Guadagno Joins Allies, Inc. To Celebrate Opening Of Greensleeves Bakery And Café

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### Flemington Center Provides Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

**Trenton, NJ** – Highlighting the outstanding work being done by statewide nonprofits to enrich the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today joined representatives from Allies, Inc. at the ribbon-cutting for their newest Greensleeves location in Flemington. Located in the popular Liberty Village Premium Outlets, the site will feature a farm-to-table café and bakery, in addition to specializing in environmentally-friendly event planning.

Greensleeves is a nonprofit green initiative and part of Allies, Inc. social entrepreneurship programming that seeks to provide individuals with disabilities with a greater understanding of environmental sustainability, all while offering critical on-site job training experience and other educational benefits. The Flemington café shop joins other Greensleeves locations in Somerville and Mount Holly, which are both clothing boutiques. The new café and bakery location will feature ingredients from local farms, including the Allies, Inc. Project Grow farm, and feature the handcrafted works of more than 10 other New Jersey small businesses. A percentage of the sale of all outside products will benefit Allies, Inc. programs, with 100 percent of in-store proceeds benefiting individuals with disabilities.

Today is the latest stop in Acting Governor Guadagno's ongoing effort to reinforce the Christie Administration's commitment to organizations statewide that serve those with autism and developmental disabilities. To date, the outreach initiative has encompassed events at 18 unique organizations across nine counties.

"Having the opportunity to witness the tremendous work being done by fine organizations like Allies, Inc. across New Jersey has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my tenure," said Acting Governor Guadagno. "Through their innovative statewide programs, Allies, Inc. is committed to achieving our shared goal of helping individuals with special needs realize their potential and live fuller lives. These initiatives are not only critical to those individuals who are touched by these programs and their families, but to strengthening the social fabric of our communities. It was a pleasure to personally reaffirm our Administration's steadfast support of these important efforts here in Hunterdon County and across the state."

Founded in 1999, Allies, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit agency dedicated to providing meaningful employment, housing, health care and recreational opportunities to people with special needs. With a principle goal of providing assistance for people with disabilities to live and work as independently as possible, the organization advocates for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of the community. These objectives are achieved through a variety of programs that focus on creative housing options, residential services, gardening initiatives, job training and employment. Allies, Inc. works collaboratively with and receives support from a variety of public and private entities to achieve its programmatic aims, including the state's Department of Human Services and the Division of Developmental Disabilities, among others.

"Allies is proud to open our third Greensleeves with its newest location in Flemington, and we are excited to be part of the Liberty Village Outlets," said Don Tretola, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs for Allies, Inc. "In a departure from our clothing boutiques, this shop is a farm-to-table café and bakeshop, and will also feature environmentally friendly event planning that ties into our social mission. Our Greensleeves Farm-to-Table Café & Bakeshop focuses on numerous initiatives supported by the Christie Administration, such as using local ingredients, produce and fruits from

"Fresh From Zone 7," which is a farm fresh distribution service that connects farmers and chefs. We are incorporating local businesses in our shop, creating jobs, particularly for people with special needs, and providing vocational training and job readiness to people with disabilities."

Governor Christie has long spoken of the State's moral imperative to recognize the individuality and unique needs of every New Jerseyan with a developmental disability or mental health issue. The Christie Administration's Fiscal Year 2015 budget increases funding by \$109.3 million of combined State and federal funding for community placements and related services. This includes, but is not limited to, providing funding for coordinated care for children and families, investing resources to improve long-term outcomes, helping adults with developmental disabilities stay in their communities, and refocusing priorities on community-based care.

To learn more about Allies, Inc. and its diverse array of statewide programs, visit [www.AlliesNJ.org](http://www.AlliesNJ.org)

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