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Governor Christie Launches "Give The Gift Of Support" Campaign to Help Save, Support People with Addiction

Thursday, December 15, 2016

Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)

Governor Christie teamed up with the chairman of the Facing Addiction Task Force, Pastor Joe Carter, for a radio ad that will air today through December 31. Their message offers those struggling with and in recovery from substance use disorder to call 2-1-1 for help 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

[Listen to the radio ad here.](#)

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Through the rest of the year Governor Christie will host events and use social media to fight drug addiction, stem opioid abuse and save lives.

BACKGROUND ON NJ 2-1-1: Calling 2-1-1 is free, anonymous and strictly confidential. New Jerseyans looking for help can dial 2-1-1 from any phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or chat live with an operator at <http://www.nj211.org/chat-now> between 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Monday – Friday.

- New Jersey's 2-1-1 was launched in 2005 to help residents find solutions to personal needs by informing them of resources in their community.
- The system is managed by the NJ 2-1-1 Partnership, a subsidiary of the United Ways of New Jersey.
- Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, call center staff responded to 200,000 callers and 220,000 people visited their website. Most callers were seeking information and referral assistance.



HOLIDAY TRIGGERS: The holiday season are a particularly difficult time for those struggling with addiction. The Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services has some strategies for people with substance use disorders to keep them from engaging in harmful behavior during the holiday party season:

- Stay in contact with close friends and family. Having positive, supportive people in your life can evoke a sense of hope and can help to sort things out.
- Set limits - If you are feeling vulnerable (overwhelmed, angry, tired, sad, etc.), go to an event late and leave early.
- Setting boundaries - Stay away from those people, places, and things that can challenge your sobriety.
- Be conscious of media messages that depict alcohol as relaxing and fun. Be aware that alcohol is a depressant drug.

PREFERRED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Later this morning, Governor Christie will hold a roundtable with people in recovery and treatment providers at Preferred Behavioral Health in Toms River. The organization oversees the provision of programs and services that teach, improve, enhance and maintain mental health and healthy lifestyles for children, teens, adults and seniors.

THROWBACK THURSDAY: Last week, Governor Christie visited the Carrier Clinic in Belle Mead to meet with people in recovery, to support their struggles and successes, and continue a discussion on how to end the stigma surrounding substance abuse.

VIDEO: We See People Get Better At Carrier, I'm Living Proof Of That

Addict In Recovery: We See People Get Better At Carrier, I'm Living Proof Of...

GOV. CHRISTIE: "This is a guy who understands it probably better than 99% of the people in New Jersey yet at this moment he felt that he had to defend the family that he's coming from so that I wouldn't assume that he was from deadbeat family that had mistreated him. Right. That's part of the guilt and the stigma that we place on each other....I

can tell you that from my experience that they feel so badly, they don't even say it. They don't even say it because they're so ashamed of what has happened to them and what it means for their family."

Additional background on the Governor's record [pdf 250 kB]

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