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First Lady Mary Pat Christie Names Farmers Against Hunger's Kristina Guttadora as 5th New Jersey Hero of 2015

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Leader of Burlington County Organization Honored for Work in Fighting Hunger



Trenton, NJ - First Lady Mary Pat Christie today recognized Kristina Guttadora, Program Director of Farmers Against Hunger and Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Society as the 5th New Jersey Hero for 2015 and 36th Hero overall. Guttadora was one of three New Jerseyans nominated for their respective hunger prevention efforts across the Garden State and beyond. Rounding out the August New Jersey Heroes candidates were Adam Lowy of Move for Hunger and Gary Oppenheimer of AmpleHarvest.org round.

"Our state is well served by so many individuals and organizations committed to helping those in our communities who need it most," said First Lady Mary Pat Christie. "Through Farmers Against Hunger, Kristina

Guttadora has assembled a remarkable support team -from regular volunteers to Garden State farmers - who are helping to provide access to freshly harvested fruits and vegetables for families in need. Kristina is a fine example of how New Jerseyans are making a difference in the lives of others and I am proud to name her as our August New Jersey Hero."

The New Jersey Agricultural Society's Farmers Against Hunger (FAH) program has been "harvesting for the hungry since 1996." In 2011, Kristina Guttadora, a Rutgers graduate and Allentown resident, took over as the organization's Program Director.

"This has been a tremendous opportunity for New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger to reach a wider audience, to gain new supporters, volunteers and people interested in supporting fresh produce hunger relief," said Guttadora. "We have a huge network of support - from agricultural organizations and farmers to those who believe that everyone should have access to fresh produce. We can only hope to continue to stay connected to this wider audience and continue expanding our fresh produce and gleaning distribution program. We look forward to working with many new volunteers and supporters as a result of this experience."

As a collaborative organization, FAH currently helps over 70 partner agencies, including state food banks, soup kitchens and pantries by providing free donations. "Glean teams." engaging 1200 community volunteers annually, come to local farms to help harvest extra produce which may otherwise be plowed underground.

Annually, FAH works to collect 1.3 million pounds of food from farms, grocery stores and wholesale suppliers.

Learn more about Farmers Against Hunger at http://www.njagsociety.org/farmers-against-hunger.html

This is the third New Jersey Hero being determined by the public via an online poll posted to the New Jersey Heroes website. There were more than 36,000 votes cast overall for August's New Jersey Heroes candidates.

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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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