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## First Lady Mary Pat Christie Visits Fugitive Safe Surrender Site

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### Praises Program for Helping to Rebuild Lives

**Trenton, NJ** –First Lady Mary Pat Christie today toured the Fugitive Safe Surrender–Central Jersey site at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, commending law enforcement and community members for their efforts to help rebuild the lives of nonviolent offenders. Mrs. Christie also visited the temporary courtroom site set up at the nearby McKinley Community School in New Brunswick.

“Successful programs like Fugitive Safe Surrender are making a real difference in the lives of thousands of individuals who have been willing to assume responsibility for their past actions,” said Mrs. Christie. “By getting a fresh start, these individuals can work with social service agencies on a variety of issues, rebuild their families and improve their communities as they prepare for a positive, more successful life ahead.”

A multi-agency collaboration, Fugitive Safe Surrender encourages individuals who are hiding from the law to turn themselves in at a neutral location over a four-day period. More than 1,400 individuals turned themselves in during the first two days of the program. Overall, an estimated 2,500 fugitives are expected to turn themselves in, from across New Jersey.

While Fugitive Safe Surrender is not an amnesty program, those who turn themselves in will receive favorable consideration from the court. This typically results in probation or reduced fines.

This is the third Fugitive Safe Surrender event held in New Jersey. In November 2008, a total of 2,245 individuals surrendered at Fugitive Safe Surrender-Camden. In November 2009, a total of 4,103 surrendered at Fugitive Safe Surrender-Newark.

Fugitive Safe Surrender-Central Jersey is a partnership of the Office of the Attorney General and the U.S. Marshals Service, Rutgers University, State Parole Board and a host of agencies and organizations at the Federal, State, county, municipal, community-based and faith-based levels.

**Caption:** First Lady Mary Pat Christie and Attorney General Paula Dow tour the Fugitive Safe Surrender–Central Jersey site at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset. The program encourages individuals who are hiding from the law to turn themselves in at a neutral location over a four-day period in November.

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