



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman Visits Hillside Food Bank; Thanks Those Who Volunteer to Help the Community

Gov. Christie Whitman today visited the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside to assist in the loading of food on vans for distribution to the needy and to thank the volunteers who contribute to the Food Bank's success by donating their time and effort.

"The holiday season provides us with the perfect opportunity to reflect upon the important contributions of the volunteers who work in community food banks and those who donate food to help them to be successful," Gov. Whitman said. "They are important links to the community because of the vital service they provide, and they deserve our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their humanitarian efforts."

The Governor said volunteering benefits both those who volunteer and those who serve.

"It can restore hope. It can turn a life around. It can even save a life," the Governor said.

Whitman said she believes volunteerism can also play an important role in helping young people make the right choices -- the responsible choices to help them understand personal responsibility.

"I've begun a statewide dialogue with students, parents, business people, community leaders and clergy about how we can work together to promote a greater sense of personal responsibility -- particularly among our young people," the Governor said. "Time and time again volunteers make the difference for young people -- between staying in school and dropping out, between focusing on the future and risking it all on drugs, between doing the right thing and getting into trouble."

The Governor pointed out that the Food Bank itself has helped turn around the lives of some persons who had contact with the criminal justice system by providing them with employment.

"The Food Bank deserves the gratitude of all of us for the many ways it provides assistance to New Jersey's citizens," she said.

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