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## First Lady Mary Pat Christie Names Katelyn Darrow, Founder of Angels of God Clothing Closet, as the 41st New Jersey Hero

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Tags: [First Lady](#)

### *Pitman Resident Honored for Work in Assisting Domestic Violence Victims and Families in Need*

**Trenton, NJ** – First Lady Mary Pat Christie today announced Katelyn Darrow, founder of Angels of God Clothing Closet in Pitman, as her 41st New Jersey Hero. A victim of domestic violence, Katelyn, along with her mother and sisters escaped from their abuser in the middle of the night, with only the clothes on their backs. Years later, tragedy struck again when a house fire displaced her family. Katelyn started the 501(c)(3) organization in 2009 at the age of 12, as a way to give back to those in need in her community who helped her family through hard times.



"It's so inspiring to see how Katelyn transformed some very unfortunate life experiences by focusing her efforts on making a difference in the lives of other domestic abuse survivors and local residents in need," said First Lady Mary Pat Christie. "Through her empathy, compassion and hard work at Angels of God Clothing Closet, she has assisted more than 27,000 families since 2009 and has grown her non-profit into a true community outreach organization. I am proud to name Katelyn as my 41st New Jersey Hero."

Angels of God Clothing Closet, which is set up as a storefront in Pitman, provides clothing and other necessities such as toiletries and food items to abuse victims and families in need. Working in partnership with local churches, agencies, and shelters, referred clients can shop at the

Closet at no cost.

"I am so honored to be chosen as a New Jersey Hero and I hope that by sharing my story, others will be inspired to make a difference in their community," said Katelyn Darrow, founder of Angels of God Clothing Closet. "Never underestimate the difference that one person can make. It can be as simple as donating your gently used clothing or giving extra food in your pantry to somebody in need. Helping others can start with small actions that make a big difference."

While Angels of God began as a clothing closet, it has exceeded expectations by expanding services to community outreach. Other activities include an onsite Food and Toiletry Bank; The Angels Pet Food Pantry for pet owners unable to purchase pet food; a Bless This Dress Prom Dress Drive to help girls with financial hardships attend their High School proms; a Back-to-School Project where children receive backpacks and back-to-school items; a socks and underwear campaign for children in need at the start of the school year as well as various holiday events to help celebrate Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

To learn more about Angels of God Clothing Closet or to donate items, visit <http://angelsofgod.org/>. 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

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newjerseyheroes.org and follow the application instructions to submit the person you believe is a true New Jersey Hero.

**Photo Caption:** Katelyn Darrow, founder of Angels of God Clothing Closet in Pitman, New Jersey has been named the 41st New Jersey Hero by First Lady Mary Pat Christie.

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