



IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 11, 2014

Contact: Lawrence Ragonese, DEP

(609) 984-1795

Joseph Perone, Treasury

(609) 633-6565

Ellen Lovejoy, Human Services

(609) 292-3703

DEP COMMISSIONER BOB MARTIN AND TREASURER ANDREW SIDAMON-ERISTOFF ANNOUNCE \$600,000 IN GRANTS FOR RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON DURING SEASON OF SERVICE TOUR

TRENTON – As part of Governor Christie’s annual Season of Service campaign, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin and State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff today announced nearly \$600,000 in state grants for the Rescue Mission of Trenton during a tour of the facility.

“Governor Christie recognizes the importance of changing perception and focusing our efforts on prevention and treatment rather than punishment,” said Commissioner Martin, who along with the Treasurer, also helped serve lunch at the Rescue Mission. “The Administration is making a concerted effort to change public opinion about drug addiction as a disease requiring hands-on treatment instead of handcuffs.”

The funding, which will support the Mission’s social service goals, is part of \$12 million the Administration is providing to facilities across the state to help people overcome drug addictions and reclaim lives. Portions of the funding for the Rescue Mission of Trenton will help the facility expand long-term residential care, expand the halfway house, and assist with annual contracting for service slots.

“The Christie Administration is committed to making investments in time and resources not only to change how we think about the issues of drug addiction, substance abuse, and recovery, but also how we treat them,” said Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff.

Christie Administration officials are volunteering their time to highlight service opportunities around the state as part of the fourth annual Season of Service. Continuing the success of previous service initiatives, this month’s activities will continue to serve New Jersey’s most vulnerable residents with a particular focus on drug addiction treatment and recovery.

The Rescue Mission of Trenton serves needy men and women who have no place to turn for shelter, food and clothing. The Mission provides a safe, clean and warm refuge for the homeless, the hungry, the transient and the addicted. The Mission offers addiction services, residential services, a comprehensive adult education program known as TEACH, and an outpatient clinic.

“Anyone who has donated clothing or furniture to the Rescue Mission of Trenton is supporting its worthy efforts to help people release the horrible grip of addiction,” Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff said. “It is heartening to know that job training is available for these residents so they can obtain a fresh start in life and transition back into the community.”

“The Mission is so pleased to welcome Commissioner Martin and Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff to see firsthand our job training and permanent housing programs,” said Mary Gay Abbott-Young, CEO for the Rescue Mission of Trenton. “This is an opportunity to take a moment to recognize that so many working in government are our partners in service to the community. Acting on behalf of all the citizens of our great state, the government officials’ engagement in the Season of Service gives recognition to a population which is so often invisible – those struggling with economic poverty, addiction, mental health and other crises.”

“It is a privilege to be part of an Administration that cares deeply about the social needs of our residents,” Commissioner Martin said. “I am equally proud of the Rescue Mission of Trenton for the great service it provides in New Jersey’s capital city.”

For more information on the Rescue Mission of Trenton and to learn how to donate, visit:
<http://www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org/>

###