



**December 1, 2011**

Dear DHS Stakeholder:

You may have noticed more news stories and articles about volunteerism these last few weeks. It's the nature of the holidays, but it also is in response to a call from Governor and Mrs. Christie. They have announced a statewide ['Season of Service'](#) and are encouraging New Jerseyans to support the state's non-profit organizations with their time.

Governor and Mrs. Christie recognize, as we do at the Department, the valuable work the non-profit community performs on behalf of residents. They also know that there is an increased number of people requiring assistance and that the work you do is buoyed by the generosity of others.

Whether through entitlement programs or in soup kitchens, in health care centers, at child care agencies, in organizations for people with physical or developmental disabilities, working with addiction and mental health disorders, or in service to the visually impaired or hard of hearing – you all are integral to New Jersey's safety net. For you, every day of every week of every month of every year, is your season of service.

As we all know, the need for services lasts beyond the holidays. That's why the Governor's [Office of Volunteerism](#) has expanded its resources to include more information for the public regarding service organizations and how to help by developing the "Volunteerism and National Service - New Jersey [Program Directory](#)". It is a listing of the various volunteer centers, Americorps, Vista and Senior Corps programs in New Jersey.

Happy Holidays to everyone, and on behalf of the people you serve, thank you.

Regards,

*Jennifer Velez*

Commissioner