

#NJCounts 2017 Quotes



Homeless Youth Priority for #NJCounts 2017 *#NJCounts 2017 Reaches out to Homeless, Families, Youth and Veterans*

"Pope Francis said in a visit to a Catholic Charities homeless program during his American pilgrimage in 2015 that 'We can find no social or moral justification, no justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing,' says Kevin Hickey, Executive Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden. "The annual New Jersey Counts of homeless people in New Jersey is an important and critical component of responding to the Pope's challenge to all people of goodwill to end homelessness."

"NJCounts 2017 is an essential tool in the efforts to end chronic homelessness in our communities," Rev. Dr. Robin Weinstein, President of the M25 Initiative and Pastor of Bethany Grace Community Church "It measures the effectiveness of our efforts, as well as provides an important metric in securing additional resources. NJCounts 2017's success is vital in continuing the aggressive strides made on various fronts to end the epidemic of homelessness."

"Ending homelessness is possible," says Diane Riley, Executive Director, Supportive Housing Network of New Jersey. "And to get us there, we need and depend on eyes on the ground gathering data that shows what is actually happening with our homeless neighbors and sound public policy providing housing and targeted services. "

"To address any challenge you must understand the scope of the challenge-that is why the annual Point In Time Count remains such important work," said Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise. "We employ a multifaceted approach to address the challenge of homelessness in Hudson County: building more permanent housing, implementation of a "Housing First" strategy to address chronic homelessness, supporting temporary housing and sheltering for those suffering from domestic abuse, and most recently, by developing a coordinated strategy to end veterans homelessness. Yet we understand that the size, composition, and thus the needs of the population experiencing homelessness changes from year to year and we need to keep up with that reality though the PIT Count."

"The homeless are more than the condition that defines them. Behind each set of sad eyes there is the light of humanity that binds us all. This year in particular, let that light inspire us to redouble our efforts to ensure that no one is left to feel unwanted, uncared for, unloved, or forgotten," says Frank Cirillo, Executive Director, Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness. "As an old Scottish proverb reminds us: 'Do not judge by appearances; a rich heart may be under a poor coat.' And we are all part of the rich human heart."

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