STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic disorder which alters the course of development and causes characteristic physical traits; and

WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs when an individual has additional genetic material, such as a full or partial extra copy of chromosome twenty-one; and

WHEREAS, this disorder may result in low muscle tone, small stature and an upward slant to the eyes, although each person with Down syndrome is an unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees; and

WHEREAS, approximately 400,000 Americans have Down syndrome and about 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome each year; and

WHEREAS, one in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making it the most common genetic condition; and

WHEREAS, between 2006 and 2010, approximately 1.2 out of every 1,000 babies are born with Down syndrome in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome are becoming increasingly integrated into society and community organizations, such as school, health care systems, work forces and social and recreational activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 21, 2015
AS
DOWN SYNDROME DAY

in New Jersey and encourage people to raise awareness to the complex issues related to the needs of those with intellectual disabilities.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixteenth day of March in the year two thousand fifteen, the two hundred thirty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR