

## #NJCounts 2017 Quotes

### *#NJCounts 2017 Quotes Regarding the Impact of NJCounts*



“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.”

“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 data that shows what is actually happening with our homeless neighbors . Only then can we develop sound public policy that provides housing and targeted services. “

“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.”

“The information gathered from the PIT survey is invaluable to policy makers and those on the front lines of combatting homelessness in New Jersey. The results give us a snapshot of our successes and challenges in ending homelessness in our generation,” said Rev. Dr. Robin Weinstein, President of the M25 Initiative and Pastor of Bethany Grace Community Church in Cumberland County. “Our failures in addressing homelessness costs our society morally and fiscally. We have made progress, but we have great work ahead. We will do what is hard and achieve what is great.”

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