



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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JON S. CORZINE
GOVERNOR

October 21, 2007

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone celebrating the **14th Annual National Character Counts Week**.

Concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the nation. Scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character.

During this week citizens nationwide will embrace, teach and practice core ethical values such as respect, responsibility and citizenship as common guiding principles that transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences. On behalf of the State of New Jersey, I would like to commend the organizers of this event nation wide, and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

Best hopes for a most enjoyable and memorable celebration. It is only through the concern and commitment of individuals such as yourselves that we may hope to build a new and brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon S. Corzine".

JON S. CORZINE