



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUMMIT COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES DONATION BY MALLINCKRODT PHARMACEUTICALS OF 40,000 DRUG DEACTIVATION POUCHES TO PROMOTE SAFE DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

COMMUNITY LEADERS UNDERSCORE NEED TO PREVENT OPIOID ABUSE AND MISUSE

Akron, OHIO, Aug. 31, 2016 – The Summit County Community Partnership today announced a donation by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals of 40,000 drug deactivation pouches that will be distributed to senior centers, patients, parents and families in Akron and Summit County to provide a safe and responsible drug disposal method, preventing abuse and misuse of leftover prescription medication.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, a long-time champion in leading the fight to prevent opioid misuse, issued the following statement in support of safe communities. "The donation of 40,000 drug deactivation pouches marks an important step in our fight to combat addiction in our communities, especially here in Summit County. Eliminating unused prescription pain pills in our homes and communities will help lower the amount of pills being sold on the streets. Additionally, the increase in overdoses in the Akron community highlights the need to quickly implement my Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), which was recently signed into law. CARA will help provide new resources to give patients more treatment and recovery options and can work hand-in-hand with the drug deactivation pouches," said Sen. Portman.

The drug deactivation pouches were purchased and donated by Mallinckrodt, a leading global specialty pharmaceutical company. The user-friendly, pouch-based systems deactivate prescription drugs and render chemical compounds safe for landfills. After filling the specially formulated pouch with regular tap water, it can be sealed and thrown away with the household trash.

"Mallinckrodt's donation provides people in our community a tangible way to reduce availability and access to expired and unused prescription pain medications," said **Darryl Brake, Executive Director for the Summit County Community Partnership**. "Collaboration behind this initiative demonstrates what we can do together to combat the drug abuse epidemic. If each pouch is used to dispose of the pills they can hold, there will be 1.3 million less prescription pills available to fall into the wrong hands."

The Partnership, a consortium of community resources committed to preventing substance abuse, will work to distribute the pouches at 16 Northeast Ohio Acme Fresh Market Pharmacies and with the help of other community organizations, including Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, AUI, Cascade Village The Community Builders, City of Akron, City of Barberton, Community Health Center, County of Summit ADM Board, Mature Services, Inc., Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, Summa Health, the Summit County Opiate Task Force and Summit County Public Health.

The Summit County Community Partnership donation is part of Mallinckrodt's nationwide one-million pouch donation initiative to help combat the abuse of prescription pain medications, which is one of the top public health threats in the U.S. today.

"As a company focused on the health and well-being of our patients and communities, Mallinckrodt has long been a strong advocate of addressing the complex issues of opioid misuse and abuse that cause so much harm to families," said **Mark Trudeau, Mallinckrodt President and Chief Executive Officer**. "We share the concerns of people across the nation, and believe that providing patients with a safe and responsible way to dispose of unused medications is critical in this fight against prescription drug abuse. Mallinckrodt is committed to working with policy makers, community leaders, law enforcement and industry partners to ensure the responsible use of pain medication and prevent unused medications from ending up in the wrong hands."

Northeast Ohio residents can access the pouches at any Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy location, which will distribute 12,000 of the pouches, as well as consult with pharmacists about the pouches and prescription drug safety.

"Acme Fresh Market pharmacies are providing a solution – a way for everyone in our community to help reduce the frequency of drug abuse," said **Jim Trout, President of Acme Fresh Market**. "It's easy – come to any Acme Fresh Market pharmacy, ask for a free drug disposal pouch, go home and get those pills out of your house. This is a simple action that any of us can take to make our community safer. As the hometown grocer, we are proud to be a part of the solution."

Along with the announcement, community leaders underscored the urgent need to find ways to prevent prescription drug abuse before it begins. This included Chief of Staff for the City of Akron, James Hardy, and Executive Director of the County of Summit ADM Board Jerry Craig. Today's announcement coincides with International Overdose Awareness Day, which emphasizes that "the tragedy of overdose death is preventable."

A national survey of U.S. adults who used opioids showed that nearly 6 out of 10 had or expect to have leftover opioids, according to findings published online June 13, 2016, in the *JAMA Internal Medicine* journal. Nearly 68 percent of those who used prescription pain relievers non-medically in 2012-2013 got them from friends or relatives, according to the 2013 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

The drug deactivation pouches are manufactured by Minneapolis-based Verde Technologies. Find more information at www.mallinckrodt.com/disposal.

ABOUT SUMMIT COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Summit County Community Partnership is a consortium of community individuals, businesses and organizations committed to preventing substance abuse in Summit County. Our mission is to facilitate coalitions of community resources in order to prevent alcohol and other drug abuse in Summit County. We use evidence-based prevention techniques, information, and activities in an attempt to infuse them into every community system. More information is available at www.cpsummit.org.

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