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Katie Swartz – Director of Marketing

Katie_swartz@acmestores.com

330-733-2263 x 55252

330-858-0415

Alyce Jennings

Summit County Community Partnership – Director of Development

ajennings@cpsummit.org

330-208-5499

Summit County Community Partnership Celebrates Distributing 37,000 Medication Disposal Pouches; Announces Relentless Focus on Eliminating All Unneeded Prescription Pills from Summit County

On August 31, 2016, the Summit County Community Partnership (SCCP) launched an effort to remove over 1.2 million prescription pills from Summit County. Today, one year later, partners in the project gathered at Acme Fresh Market on West Market Street to celebrate a huge step in the right direction.

Working with their major partner, Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy, and many other partners, the SCCP has distributed nearly 40,000 prescription drug disposal pouches.. According to recent survey data, SCCP estimates that 1.2 million pills and 323,000 opiates will be safely removed from Summit County medicine cabinets if each pouch is used to capacity. The prescription drug pouch program – known as the Detera Project – is a major prevention and harm reduction initiative in Summit County targeting the devastating opiate epidemic.

SCCP reported that 26% of participants used the pouch to dispose of unused narcotics or opioids and 67% who used the pouch don't regularly clean out their medicine cabinet. "This is our target population" said Darryl Brake, SCCP's Executive Director, "we want to reach people with unused opiates who don't normally take those medicines to a DUMP box or Drug Take Back Day." Participants also reported that they liked using the pouches, with 98% saying they found the pouch easy to use.

"We won't stop until every unused and no longer medically necessary opiate in Summit County is properly disposed. Summit County is rising to the challenge and SCCP is working towards a future with no Summit County resident addicted to opiates through unused prescription medicine. We are in this for the long-haul, and we thank Acme Fresh Market Pharmacies and our many other partners for their commitment," said Darryl Brake, Executive Director of SCCP.

Pouches are available through many agencies, including

- Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy
- Akron Children's Hospital
- Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

- Akron-UMADAOP
- AUI
- AxessPointe
- Bath Township Fire & Police Dept.
- Cascade Village – The Community Builders
- Cleveland Clinic Akron General
- Colonial Pharmacy
- Community Health Center
- County of Summit ADM Board/Summit County Opiate Task Force
- Direction Home: Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities
- Drug & Alcohol Awareness Prevention of Morrow County
- Drug-Free Tuscarawas County
- Equitas Health
- F I Community Housing
- Gavin Scott Salon
- Hudson Fire & Police Dept.
- Interval Brotherhood Home
- Laurel Lake Retirement Community
- Macedonia Police Department
- Mature Services
- Oriana House
- Portage County Substance Abuse Community Coalition
- Revere School System
- Sand Run Pharmacy
- Springfield Township Fire & Police Dept.
- St. Mary Catholic Church
- Summa Health
- Summit County Department of Job & Family Services
- Summit County Prosecutor's Office
- Summit County Public Health
- Summit Educational Service Center
- Tallmadge Police Dept.
- The City of Akron Fire & Police Dept.
- The City of Barberton Fire & Police Dept.
- The City of Green Fire & Police Dept.
- The City of Norton Fire & Police Dept.
- The City of Stow Police Dept.
- The Copley Fire & Police Dept.
- The Coventry Fire & EMS Dept.
- Visiting Nurse Service & Affiliates
- Wadsworth Drug Free Coalition
- Western Reserve Hospital

Individuals interested in cleaning out their medicine cabinets can request a free pouch at any Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy. Acme Fresh Market Pharmacies are also providing the prescription drug disposal pouches with all short-term opiate prescriptions.

“We do not have the capacity to distribute the pouches to individuals, and we needed a way to do that. Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy has stepped up and provided access for individuals to get the pouches and a tremendous amount of publicity for the program. The partnership has been wonderful, and we are very appreciative of Acme’s support,” said Alyce Jennings, SCCP Director of Development.

“As the hometown grocer, Acme Fresh Market is proud to be a part of the solution. I invite everyone to visit your local Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy, ask for a free drug disposal pouch, and go home and get those pills out of your cupboards. It’s a simple, but powerful, step that any of us can take to make our community safer,” stated Jim Trout, President of Acme Fresh Market.

**** Summit County Community Partnership Background Information****

Summit County Community Partnership was founded in 1990 as 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.

**** Acme Fresh Market Background Information****

Acme Fresh Market was founded in 1891 and is locally owned and operated. Acme Fresh Market operates 16 Acme Fresh Market stores in Summit, Stark, Portage and Cuyahoga Counties. Locally based in Akron, Ohio, Acme Fresh Market employs over 2,000 associates focused on creating highly satisfied customers. It is proud of its longstanding tradition of supporting the communities where it operates stores, including support for over 1,000 local non-profit groups through its Community Cash Back Program.

Acme Fresh Market is proud to reinvest in Northeast Ohio by remodeling and opening New, Better, Different, and World Class stores.

For additional information, visit: www.acmestores.com.