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Summit County Community Partnership Celebrates Summit County's Success in Safely Disposing Unused Opiates

Summit County Community Partnership along with its 70+ community partners are celebrating two years of increasing safe disposal of unused prescription opiates through distributing 64k+ drug deactivation pouches.

The Community Drug Prevention Celebration on October 25, 2018 will highlight the accomplishments of The Deterra® Project's efforts to save lives by safely disposing unused opiates before they can be misused, abused or diverted. The event will celebrate the group's accomplishments, share data, and update the community on expansion plans. Local officials will join SCCP's partners to share updates on prevention efforts in the community.

Representatives from Verde® Technologies, Inc., creator of the Deterra Drug Deactivation System pouch, are flying in from Minnesota to speak at the event, providing a national perspective on safe medicine disposal projects. "SCCP has done what few coalitions in the country have been able to do: evaluate and sustain the project. Many coalitions are distributing pouches, but SCCP's project stands out for its ability to engage community partners, evaluate pouch usage and effectively save lives" stated Rob Reynolds, Director of Advocacy at Verde Technologies. "We are happy to join them in celebrating the work they are doing in Ohio to prevent opiate use disorder and overdoses."

The Community Drug Prevention Celebration will be held at Summa Health's Ann & David Brennan Critical Care Center on Thursday, October 25, 2018. The event will be held at 8:30 a.m. and is free & open to the public.

The event is being generously sponsored by the following organizations:

Trailblazer Sponsors: ($1,000+)
Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy
Summa Health (generously donating the space & food for the event)
Verde Technologies, Inc.

Champion Sponsors ($500)
Akron Children's Hospital
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

AUI (Associated Underwriters Insurance)
CareSource
Cascade Village
CHC Addiction Services
Cleveland Clinic Akron General
Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging
Gavin Scott Salon & Spa
Summit County Public Health

Pioneer Sponsors: ($250)
Akron Area YMCA
Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP
Cover2 Resources
IBH: Interval Brotherhood Home
Oriana House
Stow Police Dept.
Summit County Opiate Task Force
Summit County Police Chief's Association
Summit County Prosecutor
Western Reserve Hospital

Ally ($100)
AxessPointe
Drug Safe Hudson

Background Information:

On August 31, 2016, Summit County Community Partnership (SCCP), working with their major partner Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy and 11 additional community partners launched an effort to remove over 1.2 million unused, expired and no longer needed prescription pills from Summit County medicine cabinets. Since that time, the project has expanded to more than 70 community partners distributing nearly 65,000 at-home prescription drug deactivation pouches.

According to recent survey data, SCCP estimates that 2.3 million prescription pills and 644,000 opiates will be safely removed from Summit County medicine cabinets if each pouch is used to capacity. The prescription drug deactivation pouch program – known as The Deterra® Project – is a major prevention and harm reduction initiative in Summit County targeting the devastating opiate epidemic.

SCCP reported that 28% of participants used the pouch to dispose of unused narcotics or opioids and 70% 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 99% saying they found the pouch easy to use.

Acme Fresh Market Pharmacies has distributed 17,508 of the 64,000 pouches, providing an easy way for every resident of Summit County to access a pouch. Customers can request a free drug deactivation pouch at any Acme Fresh Market Pharmacy location. Additionally, Acme distributes a pouch with every short-term opiate prescription it fills.

"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.

Darryl Brake points out that providing a pouch with opiate prescriptions is vital to preventing prescription opiates from being diverted for misuse and abuse. "Disposing of unused opiates as soon as they are no longer needed is a key to preventing opiate use disorder, overdoses and fatalities."

In addition to Acme Fresh Market Pharmacies, every major hospital in Summit County distributes a free deactivation pouch with any opiate prescription it fills at the time of discharge.

Michael VanBuren, President of the Summit County Community Partnership Board of Trustees expressed his gratitude for the hard work of SCCP's community partners. "We thank Acme Fresh Market Pharmacies and our many other partners for their commitment to ending the opiate epidemic. This project's success highlights the collaborative nature of Summit County – where we all acknowledge our collective goal of saving lives is most important."

Pouches are available through many agencies. (See attached list)

**** 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.