



For Immediate Release

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ADAMHS/GWESMV Partner with Area Kroger Pharmacies

People filling an opiate prescription at a Kroger pharmacy will receive a free drug disposal bag for unused medication courtesy of Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS). The drug disposal bags are part of an ongoing effort to provide a safe, cost-effective and environmentally responsible solution to eliminate unwanted opiate prescription drugs.

“By using these charcoal deactivation disposal bags we can discourage misuse and abuse of unwanted opiate medications,” said ADAMHS Executive Director Helen Jones-Kelley. “The bags are convenient and easy-to-use with a simple three step process. Once the charcoal inside the bag absorbs a drug, it becomes insoluble and can safely be disposed,” she added.

ADAMHS received a \$50,000 state grant to collaborate with Goodwill/Easter Seals Miami Valley (GWESMV) to purchase and distribute 5,000 drug disposal bags as part of a national Generation Rx education program to enhance medication safety.

“As a treatment provider serving people struggling with opiate addiction, we are excited to now have this opportunity to work with community partners to prevent others from becoming addicted,” said Dawn Cooksey, GWESMV Director of Behavioral Health Services.

The second leading cause of medications in the water supply is due to people flushing them in the toilet or improperly discarding the drugs.

“Medication safety is a top priority at Kroger Pharmacy. We are proud to partner with ADAMHS and Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley to encourage the safe disposal of old or unused medications. Kroger Pharmacy has 13 locations in Montgomery County that will distribute disposal pouches so that our customers can responsibly clean out their medication cabinets in an environmentally friendly way, including in their own homes,” said Margaret McClure, vice president of Merchandising, Kroger Cincinnati/Dayton division.

The bags will also be available at Goodwill Store Donation Centers located throughout Montgomery County while supplies last. (see attached list).

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services is responsible for the planning, funding and monitoring of public mental health and drug addiction services.

Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley helped 20,560 people with disabilities and other disadvantages across 23 counties in Ohio in 2016. 86 percent of revenue generated through business services, 30 retail stores, auto auction and community support directly impact people in the greater Miami Valley and Lima communities. Find out more and be inspired at gesmv.org.

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