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PRESS RELEASE

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Stories of Hope Community Event Set for September 29 in Beavercreek

BEAVERCREEK, OH -- On Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, from 5pm – 8pm, [Greene County Public Health](#) (GCPH), [Greene County Drug-Free Coalition](#), [Be Hope Church](#) and the [HEALing Communities Study](#) (HCS) will host “Stories of Hope,” a collaborative, community event celebrating Recovery Awareness Month in Greene County. This interactive event will include a free meal for all attendees, a health resource fair featuring free naloxone, a [Celebrate Recovery](#) meeting, and guest speakers who will discuss their lived experience and recovery from opioid use disorder.

“I am very excited to be able to collaborate with the HEALing Communities Study and Greene County Drug-Free Coalition for this very special event during National Recovery Month. We're looking forward to connecting with the community to continue providing naloxone education and distribution,” said Melody Kingsley, Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) Program Coordinator with Greene County Public Health.

[Project DAWN](#), a part of the Ohio Department of Health, offers educational materials and free naloxone distribution ([Narcan®](#)). Founded in 2012, there are over 100 locations of Project Dawn in Ohio.

In 2018, Greene County was chosen to participate in HCS, a four-year, NIH-funded research study with the lofty goal of decreasing opioid overdoses by 40 percent. In collaboration with the Greene County Drug-Free Coalition and Greene County Public Health, HCS is committed to supporting people in recovery by providing education, evidence-based interventions, and community engagement to bring awareness to opioid-use disorder (OUD) treatment and stigma reduction.

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“We’re thrilled to partner with our fellow community partners to continue bringing awareness to Greene County's battle with opioid misuse and unintentional overdose deaths,” said Amy Pulver, Chair of the Greene County Drug-Free Coalition. “We hope that this event serves as a reminder to those struggling, and their loved ones, that recovery is possible. There is hope.”

“Be Hope Celebrate Recovery is excited and honored to host “Stories of Hope”. Spreading awareness about recovery resources and how they help bring hope to people will save lives,” says Larry Howard from Celebrate Recovery. “Partnering and learning from each other in the recovery world helps all become more effective at serving those in need. Working together to bring recovery services to Greene County will bring hope and save lives.”

Following the Celebrate Recovery meeting, two special speakers will join the stage to discuss their personal experiences with Opioid Use Disorder.

One of the evening’s guests is Megan Wood, who is a volunteer Peer Helper for GCPH’s SafeTrade Syringe Exchange Program. She is in recovery thanks to access to care from a syringe exchange program in California. Wood is a mother and fiancé and spends her free time distributing Narcan to communities in Clermont, Hamilton, and Greene County.

The other featured guest is Scotty Mays. Mays is in long-term recovery, and recently participated in a series of videos for an HCS-related campaign. He is passionate about using his voice within a public platform to share his story and encourage recovery for others.

“I’m so grateful and honored that I get to be a part of this collaboration. There is something to be said when you have an opportunity to be a voice for others and have an entire community of like-minded people behind you. If this helps one person to overcome the fear of what others think then it is worth it. This is about supporting our brothers and sisters in THEIR recovery because what we can't do alone, we will always do together,” said Mays.

Be Hope Church is located at 1850 N Fairfield Road, Beavercreek, Ohio 45432. “Stories of Hope” will start at 5pm and end at 8pm on Wednesday evening, September 29, 2021.

Due to the indoor nature of this event and the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant, Greene County Public Health officials strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. Thank you.

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