



PO Box 6028
2410 Stantonsburg Road | Stanton Square
Greenville, NC 27835
(252) 847-6809

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017

Free Over-the-Counter Medicine Giveaway Returns to Pitt County

Greenville – An Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medicine Giveaway will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. March 25, the first such free event in Pitt County in nearly two years.

Taking place at Koinonia Christian Center Church, the giveaway is open to anyone needing such OTC products as children's medicines, cold and allergy medicines, pain relievers, indigestion aids, vitamins and some smaller first-aid items.

Individuals 18 years or older can receive up to \$100 worth of OTC products. No identification is required to participate.

In addition to free OTC medications being dispensed, the event will also include these and other services, also free:

- Blood-pressure screenings
- Blood-glucose screenings
- A Pitt County Council on Aging information booth on Medicare
- An Access East Certified Marketplace Navigators booth on Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance

Organized by NC MedAssist in partnership with HealthAssist, and sponsored by the Vidant Health Foundation, the giveaway is expected to serve close to 800 individuals before doors close at 2 p.m. That volume of participation requires a lot of preparation, coordination and staffing, with the event itself put on entirely by volunteers. Several local businesses – including Target, Walgreens, Great Harvest Bread Co. and Subway – have also generously donated supplies.

More than 12,000 Pitt County residents alone live below the federal poverty level and do not qualify for health insurance. NC MedAssist aims to ease the burden for these people, especially those having to choose between buying food or medications. Last fiscal year, the organization distributed more than \$1.9 million worth of donated OTC medications directly to North Carolina residents, and to clinic partners; this fiscal year, NC MedAssist plans to distribute in excess of \$2 million in OTC medicines.

“We know that even *with* insurance, many individuals cannot afford OTC products,” said Kahla Hall, director of the Vidant Health Foundation's Community Benefits Grants Program. “The Giveaway helps those individuals fill their medicine cabinets with needed items such as children's Tylenol, cold medicine and even Band-Aids.”

NC MedAssist is a statewide nonprofit pharmacy providing free prescription medicines to low-income, uninsured North Carolinians, dispensing more than \$39 million in free prescription medications to 14,000 individuals each year. For more on NC MedAssist, and its OTC Giveaway program, visit www.medassist.org.

HealthAssist helps meet the medical needs of qualifying uninsured residents of Pitt, Greene and Beaufort counties, and is part of Greenville nonprofit Access East, Inc. (www.accesseast.org), which coordinates patient-focused, provider-driven health care for the Medicaid and uninsured populations across 27 eastern North Carolina counties.



EVENT DETAILS:

WHAT: Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Giveaway

WHERE: Koinonia Christian Center Church, 1405 Greenville Blvd. SW, Greenville

WHEN: Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

COST: Free!

OPEN TO: All adult individuals, and families

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- ♦ Frank Rabey
Communications Coordinator, Access East
(252) 847-0079 | frank.rabey@accesseast.org
- ♦ Kristin Young
Foundations and Communications Director, MedAssist
(704) 661-0641 | kyoung@medassist.org