



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Greene County**



## **Greene County Public Health**

*Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner*  
*Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director*

# **Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 21, 2024**

**Contact: Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer**  
**937-374-5669 office / 937-283-5178 cell / lfox@gcph.info**

## **Local Agencies Announce Events Planned for Overdose Awareness Month**

**XENIA, OH** – Greene County Public Health officials have announced a collaboration with the Hope Spot, Freedom Recovery Ministries, and AHOP Church for several events from Saturday, August 24 through Saturday, August 31 in Xenia in honor and recognition of Overdose Awareness Month and International Overdose Awareness Day.

International Overdose Awareness Day is the world’s largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died from overdose, and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. This year’s theme for 2024 is **“Together We Can”**, highlighting the power of our community when we all stand together. We honor the people whose lives have been altered by overdose, whether they are family and friends grieving the loss of a loved one; workers in healthcare and support services extending strength and compassion; or spontaneous first responders who selflessly assume the role of lifesaver.

In 2023, Greene County Public Health distributed almost 3,300 Naloxone rescue kits to prevent opioid overdoses. Since January 2023, these kits have saved 203 people from dying from an opioid overdose. Saving someone’s life with Naloxone (Narcan®) provides a chance for that person to seek recovery.

Greene County Public Health, Hope Spot, Freedom Recovery Ministries, and AHOP invite community members to join in the following events:

- **Saturday, August 24 and August 31, 2:00-3:30pm – Memorial Garden Rock Painting**  
Hope Spot, 529 W. Second St., Xenia, OH 45385

Individuals who have lost someone to overdose are invited to participate in memorial rock painting activities. This provides a creative and therapeutic space for remembrance and healing, allowing participants to honor their loved ones in a meaningful way. Activities will include:

- Painting rocks as a tribute to those lost to overdose
- An opportunity to share stories and connect with others who have experienced similar losses
- A supportive environment for reflection and community bonding

This event is open to the public, and we encourage everyone to join us in this heartfelt activity. Together, we can create a lasting tribute to those we’ve lost while fostering a sense of community and support for one another.

*-cont’d-*

- **Monday, August 26, 6:00pm – Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil**  
AHOP Church, 282 Stelton Rd., Xenia, OH 45385

Hope Spot, in collaboration with Freedom Recovery Ministries, will be holding a Candlelight Vigil. This special evening is dedicated to remembering those we've lost to overdose, supporting those who continue to struggle, and raising awareness about the impact of overdose in our community.

The evening will include:

- A gathering for food, worship, and reflection
- Sharing stories of those affected by overdose
- An opportunity to come together as a community to spread love, support, and awareness

This event is open to the public, and we encourage everyone to attend and show their support. The vigil will provide a space for healing and remembrance, where we can stand together in solidarity against the stigma surrounding addiction and overdose.

- **Friday, August 30, all day, everywhere – Wear Purple!**

We invite everyone to wear purple in support of Overdose Awareness. This simple act of solidarity helps raise awareness about the impact of overdose in our community and honors those we have lost to this tragic epidemic.

Why Wear Purple?

- **Show Your Support:** Wearing purple is a visible way to demonstrate your commitment to ending the stigma surrounding addiction and overdose.
- **Honor Loved Ones:** It's an opportunity to remember and honor those who have lost their lives to overdose, as well as to support their families and friends.
- **Raise Awareness:** By wearing purple, you help spark conversations about overdose prevention and the importance of support and resources for those struggling with addiction.

How You Can Participate:

- Wear purple clothing, accessories, or even paint your nails purple!
- Share your photos on social media using the hashtag #PurpleForOverdoseAwareness to spread the message further.
- Encourage friends, family, and colleagues to join in and wear purple as well.

Together, we can create a wave of awareness and compassion in our community. Let's stand united in the fight against overdose and support those affected by addiction.

*-cont'd-*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Greene County**



## **Greene County Public Health**

*Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner*  
*Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director*

**For more information:**

Greene County Public Health: 937-374-5600 or [www.gcph.info](http://www.gcph.info)

Hope Spot: 937-352-6367 or [www.thehopespot.org](http://www.thehopespot.org)

***Greene County Public Health...***  
***Your Accredited and Trusted Local Public Health Authority Since 1920***

###