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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**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. Saturday, May 5, the first such free event in Pitt County since last spring.

Taking place again this year 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 10 medicine-cabinet items. 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
- An Access East [Certified Marketplace Navigators](#) booth on Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance

“The event is expected to have a huge impact on the community,” said Kahla Hall, director of the Community Benefits Grants Program at the Vidant Health Foundation, which is sponsoring the giveaway in collaboration with organizers [NC MedAssist](#) and [HealthAssist](#).



The giveaway is projected to serve close to 800 people before doors close at 2 p.m. That volume of participation requires extensive preparation, coordination and staffing, with the event itself put on entirely by volunteers.

“The OTC Medicine Giveaway highlights the partnership of multiple organizations to deliver a much-needed service to our region’s medically underserved,” noted Shantell Cheek, Coordinator for HealthAssist. “In particular, I want to single out Koinonia’s continued partnership, both organizationally and financially. We couldn’t do this without them!”

NC MedAssist is a statewide nonprofit pharmacy providing free prescription medicines to low-income, uninsured North Carolinians, dispensing more than \$48.5 million in free prescription medications to 15,000 residents. More than 12,500 Pitt County residents alone live below the federal poverty level and do not qualify for health insurance.

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](http://www.accesseast.org)), which coordinates patient-focused, provider-driven health care for the Medicaid and uninsured populations across 27 eastern North Carolina counties.

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**EVENT DETAILS:**

**WHAT:** Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medicine Giveaway

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

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**COST:** Free, for all adult individuals, and families

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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