

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**Greenville** – No one should have to choose between buying needed medicines or food and other living essentials.

The Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medicine Giveaway exists to help address that unfortunate potential dilemma. Now an annual Pitt County tradition, this year's event will be from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at St. James United Methodist Church.

The giveaway is open to anyone needing such OTC products as pain relievers, children's medicines, cold and allergy medicines, indigestion aids, vitamins and some smaller first-aid items like Band-Aids. Individuals 18 years or older can receive up to five medicine-cabinet items apiece.

"By providing items of need, we're trying to relieve a little financial strain that can sometimes come with purchasing medications," noted Shantell Cheek, Coordinator for HealthAssist, organizer for the event along with NC MedAssist.

"We're excited to serve our community while offering help and hope!" Cheek added.

"Having access to these products can be crucial," agreed Kahla Hall, director of the Community Benefits Grants Program at the Vidant Health Foundation, a recurring OTC Giveaway sponsor. "If people don't have the financial resources to purchase these OTC items, it may make a difference as to whether they have to visit the Emergency Room."

OTC Giveaways typically serve close to 800 people before doors close at 2 p.m. That volume of participation requires extensive preparation, coordination and staffing, the latter handled entirely by volunteers.

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

- Blood-pressure, blood-glucose and other medical screenings, including HealthAssist screenings:
  - For eligibility for HealthAssist services
  - For eligibility to receive no-cost prescription medications
- An Access East Certified Marketplace Navigators booth on Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance

NC MedAssist is a statewide nonprofit pharmacy providing free prescription medicines to low-income, uninsured North Carolinians, in the last fiscal year dispensing more than \$48.5 million in such 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, Beaufort and Martin counties, and is part of Greenville nonprofit Access East, Inc. ([www.accesseast.org](http://www.accesseast.org)), a Vidant Health affiliate coordinating patient-focused, provider-driven health care for the Medicaid and uninsured populations across 27 eastern North Carolina counties.



NC  
MedAssist  
Dispensing Hope for the Uninsured

### EVENT DETAILS:

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

**WHERE:** St. James United Methodist Church, 2000 E. 6th St., Greenville

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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