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REACH OUT

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Nonprofit Organization Reach Out Partners with Ontario Police and Ontario Fire Departments to Install Medication Drop Boxes

Riverside, CA — February 1, 2023 — [Reach Out](#) is a community-based nonprofit organization that focuses on tough issues such as the opioid crisis, as part of its mission to strengthen communities through the many programs they facilitate. Reach Out has been working closely with community partners throughout the Inland Empire to reduce substance abuse and misuse. One of the ongoing efforts to combat this problem is the installation of Medication Drop Boxes throughout the Inland Southern region. Reach Out in partnership with [Ontario Police Department](#) and [Ontario Fire Department](#) recently held a ribbon-cutting for the installation of two new prescription medication drop boxes. One of the medication drop boxes will be located in the lobby of the Ontario Police Station, and the other at the Ontario Fire Station located at 425 East B Street, Ontario, Calif. 91764. These boxes will provide the community with a year-round outlet to safely dispose of unneeded or expired prescription medication.

The amount of unneeded/unused prescription medication in households can be surprising to some. By the end of [DEA's 23rd National Prescription Drug Takeback day](#), California collection sites alone had recorded over 18 tons of disposed medication in just one day.

Reach Out Executive Director, Diana Fox opened the ribbon-cutting by welcoming and thanking everyone. "This is a huge investment in our community to have these boxes. We want to see these boxes everywhere, to make it easy for our residents so that pills don't fall into the wrong hands." She also shared that Reach Out has a long partnership with the City of Ontario. "They were the first to have a 'deemed approved ordinance' which means that sellers of alcohol must abide by specific rules and guidelines if they make any changes to their premises. Additionally, they were also the first to implement the 'social host ordinance' which means that people who throw parties and serve alcohol to minors can be held accountable." She also boasted that the City of Ontario's partnership with Reach Out has resulted in the launch of many ordinances and programs, thus setting the pace for surrounding cities.

[City of Ontario](#) Mayor Paul Leon spoke about his longtime relationship with the organization for 14 of the 17 years that Fox has been with Reach Out. He also emphasized the impact that these boxes bring to the community.

Public Information Officer Richard Gonzalez spoke on behalf of the Ontario Fire Department also echoing his appreciation for the partnership with Reach Out on the installation of these medication drop boxes.

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“It is great to be involved on the front end to help prevent someone from overdosing or perhaps being exposed to medications in the wrong way, and we are very happy to be a part of something on the preventive side,” said Gonzalez.

“We look forward to working with Reach Out in this program and we are excited to have this box installed at our fire station,” he said.

Other speakers included Senior Field Representative Karen Haughey with Office of [San Bernardino County 4th District Supervisor Curt Hagman](#), and Field Representative Nadya Behena with the office of [Assemblymember \(53rd District\) Freddie Rodriguez](#) who also expressed their gratitude and talked about the impact of these boxes in their districts. Proclamations were handed out to Reach Out, Ontario Police Department, and Ontario Fire Department from these representatives. District Representative Ivana Wright with [Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes \(47th District\)](#) was also in attendance.

Karen Nutt, director of the Community Health and Policy department closed the ceremony by thanking all of Reach Out’s community partners and staff who helped to make this program possible, including; Ontario Mayor Paul Leon, Ontario Police Chief Mike Lorenz, Ontario Fire Chief Ray Gayk, Fire Captain Dave Loomis, Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services Pamela Martinez, Assemblymember (53rd District) Freddie Rodriguez, San Bernardino County 4th District Supervisor Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County District Attorney Jason Anderson, and Greater Ontario Business Council CEO Peggi Hazlett.

For more information about Reach Out, visit www.we-reachout.org.

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About REACH OUT

Reach Out is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the Inland Empire for 52 years, underpinning a deep well of experience in community cohesiveness and organizing, and empowering communities to make a transformational change on health equity and social justice issues. Our core work of strengthening communities takes many forms, from direct services to youth and families, to deep root cause work in building the health and quality of life of our region. Reach Out works to shift mindsets, policies and practices toward equity, justice, and prosperity for all our residents, which is especially needed during the pandemic and beyond. Reach Out is overseen by Executive Director, Diana Fox, and has three locations: the main office in Upland, and two additional offices in Jurupa Valley and Yucca Valley. For more information visit we-reachout.org, or contact 909.982.8641.

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