

Date: August 20, 2021

Millstone Township Launches International Overdose Awareness Efforts

In the first quarter of 2021, there were 51 drug overdoses in Monmouth County – 51 too many. They were family members and friends. We mourn and remember those we have lost in the fight against addiction, those who are still suffering, those in recovery and their loved ones. On August 31st International Overdose Awareness Day is recognized as a time to reflect on the grief of those hurting from the loss of a loved one and hope in the knowledge that the tragedy of these deaths is preventable.

The Millstone Township Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse, in partnership with the Prevention Coalition of Monmouth County worked to create a visually impactful reminder of this tragic reality. In addition to a prominent sign outside the Municipal Building on Stagecoach Road explaining the purpose of the display, Township staff, Alliance volunteers and members of the Millstone Township Fire Department worked to place 51 purple flags along the road - one for each life lost to overdose in Monmouth County. The Millstone Township Committee also passed a resolution acknowledging August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day in the township.

What is most important to remember is that these tragedies were preventable, and raising awareness and providing education about the dangers of substance misuse - particularly opioid and prescription medication – is critical in helping to curb the crisis. In addition to raising awareness, the Millstone Alliance funds prevention education for youth and parents and provides information and referrals to those in need of these services. Reach out to millstonealliance@gmail.com or contact us at 732-446-4249, ext. 3106.

More information about drug overdose as well as local statistics can be found at the following sites:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>

<https://www.njoag.gov/programs/nj-cares/nj-cares-suspected-overdose-deaths/>



Reminding the community of Overdose Awareness Day are Millstone Township firefighters Ryan Naclerio, Lt. Mike Maloney, Andrew Van Wart, Andrew Christensen, Municipal Clerk Kathleen Hart, Alliance volunteer Joanne Schiumo and Kaitlin McCarthy from the Prevention Coalition of Monmouth County.