



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Partners to Bring Free Over the Counter Medicine to Individuals in Need

Warrenton, NC (February 6, 2017) - - NC MedAssist will hold a free Over the Counter (OTC) Medicine Give Away Day in Warren County on Tuesday, February 28. The event, which is funded by Triangle North Healthcare Foundation and hosted by the Warren County Health Department, is open to any individual or family needing OTC medication. The Give Away will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Warrenton Armory (501 US 158 Business East, Warrenton, NC 27589). Identification is not required to participate.

“Triangle North Healthcare Foundation is pleased to bring the Over the Counter Medicine Program back to our community,” stated Executive Director Val Short. “The OTC Give Away Day is expected to have a huge impact. Our goal is to improve the health of our community one person at a time. We know that even with insurance, many individuals cannot afford OTC product. The Give Away helps those individuals fill their medicine cabinets with needed items such as children’s Tylenol, cold medicine and even Band-Aids.”

This will be the first OTC event held in Warren County however this will be the third event sponsored by Triangle North Healthcare Foundation. In September 2016, a similar event was held in Granville County and drew over 800 participants. Again, individuals will receive \$100 worth of OTC product which includes items such as allergy relief, pain relief, indigestion relief, cold medicine, first-aid and vitamins. NC MedAssist’s overall goal is to help ease the burden for those who are making the choice between buying food or purchasing medication.

The OTC program is completely volunteer run. Serving close to 1000 individuals in one day takes many hands to make sure the program runs smoothly and ensures that all patients are served before the door closes. NC MedAssist is collaborating with the Warren County Health Department, Cardinal Healthcare Innovations, Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, The Help Center of North Carolina and other safety-net organizations to recruit community members to serve in roles such as pharmacy consultation, client ‘personal shoppers’, and OTC sorters. If you would like to volunteer, please visit www.medassist.org to sign up.

“NC MedAssist is excited to work with Triangle North Healthcare Foundation, the Warren County Health Department and our event partners to give back to our neighbors in need,” stated Executive Director Lori Giang. “Through our partnership we are able to reach more and more individuals and educate them on our free resources. No one should go without medicine and this program is enabling us to reach those who are unaware of our services.”

Last fiscal year, NC MedAssist distributed more than \$1.9 million dollars of donated OTC medication to North Carolina individuals and clinic partners. This fiscal year, the organization plans to distribute more than \$2 million.

There are currently more than 1,500 people in Warren County that live below the Federal Poverty Level and do not qualify for insurance. For more information on the OTC Program and NC MedAssist, please visit www.medassist.org.

About NC MedAssist: Founded in 1997, NC MedAssist is a statewide non-profit pharmacy that provides free prescription medicines to low-income, uninsured North Carolinians. MedAssist offers three programs that address the needs of children and adults: the Free Pharmacy program, the Over-The-Counter (OTC) Medicine program, and the Senior Care program. MedAssist dispenses more than \$39 million worth of free prescription medication to 14,000 low-income North Carolinians each year. To learn more about NC MedAssist and find out how to get involved, visit www.medassist.org, like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/medassist.org) or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/medassist.org).

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