



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Home Safety Kits Available to Help Prevent Overdose and Suicide**

**June 28, 2022 (Springfield, MO)** – Community Partnership of the Ozarks is offering Home Safety Kits to provide resources to help prevent suicide as well as prescription drug misuse and overdose. Each kit includes a medication lock box, medication destruction pouches, a firearm cable lock along with related prevention awareness and educational resources.

Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Missouri and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among Missouri youth ages 10-18. In 2022, 13.9% of Greene County 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported seriously considering suicide in the past year. Among those same students, 6.7% reported attempting suicide which is higher than the Missouri rate of 4.3%. 57% of suicides in Missouri involve a firearm, which is the most lethal means of suicide.

In 2021 there were more than 1,600 opioid overdose deaths for Missouri residents. These deaths happened in the home more than all other locations combined. Additionally, the vast majority of youth who misuse prescription drugs access them at home.

Safely storing medications and firearms reduces access and can prevent prescription drug misuse and overdose as well as suicide. Through funding provided by the Missouri Department of Mental Health and Missouri Foundation for health, Community Partnership of the Ozarks is working with (PARTNERS) to make Home Safety Kits available in Greene, Christian, Taney and Howell counties. To obtain a home safety kit visit [www.cpozarks.org/suicideprevention](http://www.cpozarks.org/suicideprevention).

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**ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS**

The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming, and resource development. For more information on the Partnership's collaborative efforts and programs, visit [www.cpozarks.org](http://www.cpozarks.org).