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PRESS RELEASE

**Naloxone: Saving Lives
in Chester County**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced that the global health service company Cigna has donated \$7,500 to pay for Chester County to restock supplies of naloxone. Naloxone, sold under the brand name Narcan, is the lifesaving medication used by first responders to reverse the effects of overdoses caused by heroin and prescription opioids. This is the latest in a series of Chester County accomplishments involving naloxone.

In 2014, seeing the growing toll of heroin overdose deaths in the region, the Chester County District Attorney's Office teamed up with state legislators and other prosecutors to create the "Good Samaritan Law," allowing police and other first responders to carry naloxone.

The District Attorney's Office then quickly turned to the Good Fellowship Ambulance Club ("GFAC") in West Chester to administer the program. Ethan Healy of GFAC spearheaded the effort. GFAC provided training on how to administer naloxone and supplied the life-saving drug to law enforcement throughout Chester County. The grant from Cigna allowed GFAC to restock supplies of naloxone across Chester County.

Cigna is a health service company that provides 26 million customers with behavioral health benefits. In May of 2016, Cigna committed to reducing its

customers' opioid use by 25% over the next three years. The Cigna Foundation has donated \$50,000 to make naloxone available for use by first responders in Pennsylvania.

At this point, 46 out of the 47 law enforcement agencies in Chester County have agreed to carry naloxone, including municipal departments and the Pennsylvania State Police. The attached map shows the areas in Chester County where law enforcement is carrying naloxone.

The results of this teamwork are impressive. There have been 58 saves by police using naloxone in Chester County.

Ethan Healy of GFAC, the leader of Project Naloxone, stated, "Good Fellowship has partnered with several agencies including the Chester County Chiefs of Police Association, Chester County Department of Health, Chester County Drug and Alcohol Services, and the Chester County District Attorney's Office to offer the most comprehensive care, recovery options, and community support to battle this epidemic."

Tredyffrin Township Police Superintendent and President of the Chester County Police Chiefs Association Anthony Giaimo stated, "The naloxone initiative is indisputably the most monumental lifesaving program of the 2000's. For saving lives, it is on par with the acquisition and use of AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) by law enforcement officers in the early 1990's. These impactful public safety programs allow law enforcement officers and other first responders the critical lifesaving tools necessary in emergency interventions. The Chester County Police Chiefs Association wishes to thank all those who pushed for legislation, funding, and implementation to make the Naloxone Program a true success. We know that the family and friends of the survivors certainly do!"

Pam Moules, a parent who runs the Steps 4 Hope Foundation to raise awareness of substance abuse issues, stated, "In 2014, 82 people in Chester County died from a drug related overdose. Tragically, that statistic includes my son, Jonathan. After passing the Good Samaritan Law and the signing of the standing order to make naloxone available over the counter, Chester County wasted no time using all the tools available to them to address the opioid epidemic. Increased access to naloxone is saving lives, giving families and those suffering with the disease of addiction hope that they will have a second chance to get the help they need for recovery. I speak for all parents who have lost a child to this disease and all parents who do not want to lose a child in the future."

District Attorney Hogan added, “Chester County has been recognized as a leader across Pennsylvania in dealing with the opioid epidemic. We have a strong naloxone program, prescription drug drop boxes, a robust drug court, the Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education programs in the high schools, and a multidisciplinary task force to address these issues. Chester County law enforcement also crushes any heroin dealers foolish enough to visit our county. We realize that the scourge of opioids strikes everybody and we are committed to saving lives. We deeply appreciate Cigna’s generosity in helping Chester County to achieve this goal.”

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan