



ANTI-DRUG COALITION



**ANTI-DRUG
COALITION**

For Immediate Release: Friday, October 22, 2021

Contact: Jodi Salvo, Tuscarawas County Anti-Drug Coalition Coordinator, 330-440-7319, jodi.salvo@ohioguidestone.org

Tuscarawas County Commissioners Declare October 23rd – October 31st, 2021, as Red Ribbon Week

(New Philadelphia, Ohio) – Tuscarawas County Commissioners have declared Red Ribbon Week October 23rd through October 31st, 2021.

Alcohol and other drug abuse in the United States has reached epidemic stages with more than 70,630 drug overdose deaths reported nationally in 2019, with 4,028 of those deaths being Ohio residents. So far this year in Tuscarawas County, there have been 18 overdose deaths and over 80 reported overdoses in the county. Addiction is a preventable disease, and prevention programs and efforts such as Red Ribbon Week, involving families, schools, and communities are effective in increasing the education and awareness needed to reduce alcohol and drug misuse or abuse.

This year's National Red Ribbon Week Theme is 'Drug Free Looks Like Me.' The theme is a reminder that everyday Americans across the country make significant daily contributions to their communities by being the best they can be because they live Drug-Free!

Six student representatives of the Tuscarawas County Youth-to-Youth, along with adult advisors and members of the Tuscarawas County Anti-Drug Coalition attended the Tuscarawas County Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, October 20th, where commissioners issued a proclamation for Red Ribbon Week. The Commissioner also pledged to light the Courthouse Red the week of October 23-31 in honor of Red Ribbon Week. This annual campaign focuses on youth substance use prevention.

The campaign is sponsored by The National Family Partnership and offers citizens and our youth the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles. Business, government, parents, law enforcement, media, medical, religious institutions, schools, senior citizens, service organizations, and youth come together to demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

For more information, contact the Tuscarawas County Anti-Drug Coalition or visit adctusc.org.