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TO: DeKalb County News Media
FROM: DeKalb County Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DeKalb County Health Department Conducts Drill using Personal Hygiene Items

On Friday, February 22\textsuperscript{nd}, the DeKalb County Health Department conducted an Emergency Preparedness drill to simulate the collection, sorting, inventorying, and distribution of the items from the personal hygiene collection. Over 25 DCHD staff and Northern Illinois University, School of Nursing, volunteers participated in the drill at the DeKalb County Health Department.

This was the first-year donations for personal hygiene items were requested as part of a community effort to not only prepare staff for a public health emergency, but also to stock DeKalb County Food Pantries with essential items. “Not only did local food pantries receive hygiene items, but we were able to test critical public health emergency capabilities and receive valuable input on areas of improvement for planning future drills,” said Cindy Graves, Emergency Preparedness Director at the DeKalb County Health Department.

The amount of donations for the first year of collections was overwhelming! During the four-hour drill, staff and volunteers sorted, counted, and packed the over 6,400 items for community food pantries!

Although not all agency donations are known, among businesses who donated or spearheaded donations included:

All About Eyes  DeKalb Elks BPOE #765  Joseph Sullivan Family Dentistry
America’s Best Contacts  DeKalb Rotary Club  Mark Weinhold Family Dentistry
Barbara Runne Family Dentistry  Dr. Jeffrey Caron Office  Midwest Dental
Dean Foods  First Congregational United  NIU College of Health and Human Science
DeKalb County Administration  Church of Christ  NIU School of Nursing
DeKalb County Community Foundation  First Lutheran Church  Prairie View Dental
DeKalb County Highway Department  Fredrichs Eye Care  Salem Lutheran Church
DeKalb County Sheriff’s Office  Genoa Smiles  Spex Expressions
DeKalb County State’s Attorney’s Office  Heather Breuer, D.M.D. General  Target
Attorney’s Office  Jewel-Osco, Sycamore location  Walmart

In addition to the known agency donations, community members throughout the county also filled the six barrels at the Health Department, DeKalb Public Library, Genoa Public Library, Kishwaukee Family YMCA, Sandwich Family YMCA, and Sycamore Public Library. These agencies were published community collection sites. Among the list of agencies who donated was Salem Lutheran Church whose Youth Group took initiative to collect over 1,200 items towards donation efforts!

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This was the first hygiene collection drill the health department has facilitated and the support was overwhelming! Many thanks to the DeKalb County businesses and community members who helped in the collection efforts, we hope to continue the collection efforts in future years.

If your agency would like to be added to the email list for future collection drills, please email Melissa Edwards at medwards@dekalbcounty.org

Salem Youth Group organized their own collection for the donation efforts and collected over 1,200 items!

DeKalb County Health Department Staff and Northern Illinois University School of Nursing students packed over 6,400 items for DeKalb County Food Pantries.

Visit the DeKalb County Health Department’s website, or social media sites, for information about health department services. https://health.dekalbcounty.org/

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