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ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athens County Diversion Members Participate in Tire Collections

Members of the Athens County Prosecutor's Diversion Program took part in the collection of tires in Athens County on Saturday, April 11, 2015. A total of sixteen (16) participants worked at four (4) separate areas as part of their community service obligations. Events were held in Athens, Amesville, Guysville and the Wayne National Forest Headquarters and were hosted by the Alexander, Lee, Ames, Bern and Lodi Township Trustees, the Athens City-County Health Department, the Ohio EPA and the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District. Over two thousand tires were collected. The Athens County Empowerment (ACE) diversion program is part of Prosecutor Blackburn's Community Justice Initiative. Through the ACE program, offenders are given the opportunity to contribute to the community through events such as this. In turn, each individual receives the training necessary in order to become a productive citizen of Athens County



Ann Cunningham, Ames Township Trustee said "I've worked with the Prosecutor's Office on four (4) occasions so far for this type of support and it's ALWAYS gone well. I've had two (2) tire disposals, painted the township community room, and had diversion workers help us trim trees along the road. The workers show up, they're motivated, physically able, polite, and willing to participate in a team environment. I hope that it shows them that they made a poor choice, but they'll not be condemned for it. They have a chance to work their way out of a bad situation, and move on."

Athens County Prosecutor Keller J. Blackburn stated that "Both Athens County and our ACE participants benefit from these activities: the participants engage in community service opportunities while cleaning up Athens County."

