



**KELLER J. BLACKBURN**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATHENS, Ohio** - Participants of the Athens County Empowerment (A.C.E.) Program assisted in the clean-up efforts in both Ames and Alexander Townships on Saturday, April 15, 2017.

Reuben Kittle, Director of Prosecutor Blackburn's A.C.E. Program, supervised nine (9) individuals at the Ames Township Clean-up Day. The participants helped by sorting trash and recycling brought in from the community along with helping to properly dispose of tires. Kittle stated, "It's important to our program to make sure the participants are giving back to the community, and everybody works really hard." Blackburn believes in the importance of community pride and it is events like this that create that sense of accomplishment for those that come out and serve.

Across the county, Trent Eskey, an A.C.E. Officer, was overseeing the Alexander Township Clean-up Day with six (6) program participants. The goal for Alexander was to help residents bring trash and recyclables to a single location along with the ability to dispose of tires safely. Eskey was happy with the group that came out to serve their community service hours, "It's nice to see those in our program that have the initiative to come out to these events on a weekend like we have today."

The A.C.E Program is part of Prosecutor Blackburn's Community Justice Initiative which allows those on the wrong side of the law an opportunity to make things right in Athens County. A.C.E. participants that live outside the county are encouraged to do their community service hours at events like a clean-up day in Athens County. The A.C.E. Program is a rehabilitation program and the success is dependent on the individuals and their opportunity to take responsibility. Following the days success, Ann Cunningham, an Ames Township Trustee said, "Ames Township thanks the Athens County Diversion Program workers for their excellent community service. I couldn't have done it without them! Much appreciated."

Prosecutor Blackburn was happy to see fifteen (15) people putting in long hours to clean-up Athens County and making a difference.

The Prosecutor's Office would like to thank Ames Township and Alexander Township for providing equipment to assist in the community service event.

*Pictures included with email.*