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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATHENS, Ohio – The Athens County Prosecutor’s Office gathered participants of the Athens County Empowerment (A.C.E.) Program on Saturday, April 7, 2018 for Spring clean-up in Ames and Alexander Townships.

Ten (10) A.C.E. participants gathered to work alongside the Ames Township community. The biggest to-do of the day was tire disposal; the township collected over one thousand (1,000) tires along with other miscellaneous garbage. Ann Cunningham, of Ames Township was thankful for the additional help Saturday, “the A.C.E. Program is a great way for offenders to give back to the Athens County communities in and around where they committed their crimes. This program and the support of taxpayers allows me an opportunity to get over a thousand tires off our roads and properties.”

Despite the cold temperatures on Saturday, Alexander Township also kept their clean-up as scheduled. Twelve (12) individuals in the A.C.E. Program completed community services hours as part of their Program requirements. Brian Grubbs, a long-standing helper in the township clean-up efforts talked about the value in extra volunteers, “I’ve done this for 13 years and the A.C.E. program through the Prosecutor’s Office is wonderful. We always appreciate the help.”

Prosecutor Keller Blackburn started the A.C.E. Program with the community in mind. It helps to divert non-violent and low-level felony offenders to the Program and gives them the chance to right their wrongs. One aspect of A.C.E. is to complete community service here in the county. Blackburn reminds people why it is important to have these service hours completed locally, “this is where the crime was committed, we make it a priority to have the hours completed in Athens County even when people resides out of town. To have twenty-two (22) people donate their time on a Saturday creates a positive impact on our area and that is why community service is part of the A.C.E. Program.”

The Prosecutor’s Office looks forward to assisting Ames and Alexander Townships again in the future along with other townships that may need assistance with events like a clean-up day.