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Community Invited to Observe International Overdose Awareness Day in Shelby

SHELBY, NC – Community members are invited to join local organizations in recognizing **International Overdose Awareness Day** on **Monday, August 31, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the **Totally Free Clothes and Thrifty Thrift Store**, located at **318 Gidney Street, Shelby, NC**.

This free community event is open to everyone and is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives to overdose, supporting individuals and families affected by substance use, and raising awareness about overdose prevention and recovery resources.

The event will feature guest speakers, community resource information, free food, door prizes, naloxone training, a remembrance wall, and a moment of silence to honor the lives lost to overdose. Attendees will also have the opportunity to connect with local organizations offering prevention, treatment, recovery, and support services.

International Overdose Awareness Day is observed around the world to reduce the stigma surrounding substance use and overdose, remember those who have died, and encourage action that helps save lives.

"This event is an opportunity to bring our community together in hope and remembrance," organizers said. "By honoring those we have lost, supporting those in recovery, and increasing awareness of lifesaving resources, we can help prevent future overdoses and strengthen our community."

Attendees are encouraged to **wear purple** as a symbol of remembrance and solidarity with individuals, families, and communities impacted by overdose.

Event Details

What: International Overdose Awareness Day Community Event

When: Monday, August 31, 2026, 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.

Where: Totally Free Clothes and Thrifty Thrift Store, 318 Gidney Street, Shelby, NC

Cost: Free and open to the public

Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend, learn about available resources, honor those who have been lost, and stand together in support of recovery and overdose prevention.

For additional information about the event, please contact Yanet Cisneros, Coordinator of Health Services, Cleveland County Health Department: Yanet.cisneros@clevelandcountync.gov or 980-484-5335.

To learn more about local substance use treatment and recovery resources and to access local data, you may visit www.recoveryconnectcc.com.

Recovery is possible, and help is available. Call or text 980-880-CARE (2273) to connect with a local Peer Support Specialist with lived experience for free assistance with navigating your path to recovery and support.

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