

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2018

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Howard County Honors Lives Lost to Substance Misuse on Overdose Awareness Day

The Howard County Health Department has partnered with James' Place Inc. and the Howard County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) Committee to host the third annual International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) Candle Light Vigil & Recovery Celebration Friday, Aug. 31 from 5:30-8 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City. This free event will include behavioral health resources, Narcan® training, an overdose response demonstration and conclude with a program of celebration. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about the actions being taken to prevent further drug-related deaths and are encouraged to bring a 4x6 photo to honor those lost to any substance use disorder cause.

IOAD is a global event held on Aug. 31 each year and aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose. For more information about this event or to pre-register, visit load-hoco.eventbrite.com. To learn more about the global IOAD celebration, you can visit www.overdoseday.com.

- WHO:** Honorable Allan H. Kittleman (Howard County Executive)
Major Ellsworth Jones (Howard County Police Department)
Dr. Maura Rossman (Health Officer, Howard County Health Department)
Dr. Matt Levy (Medical Director, Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services)
Barbara Allen (Executive Director, James' Place Inc.)
Reverend Ann Ritonja (St. John's Episcopal Church)
- WHAT:** International Overdose Awareness Day Candle Light Vigil & Recovery Celebration
- WHERE:** St. John's Episcopal Church
9120 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042
- WHEN:** Friday, Aug. 31, 2018, 5:30-8 p.m.
5:30-7 p.m. – Access to resource tables & demonstrations
7-8 p.m. – Program & Candle Lighting ceremony
- WHY:** To honor those lost to substance use disorder.

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