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## FAMILY FIRST CAREGIVERS AND PHNR TEAM UP FOR DRUG SAFETY

### A community partnership for Drug Safety and Awareness

North Royalton, Ohio May 23, 2017– Family First Caregivers, Inc. and Partnership for a Healthy North Royalton (PHNR) are providing local families with Vaultz® brand medication lock boxes in an effort to help curb the rise of prescription drug abuse in our communities. At a recent event hosted by PHNR, the three companies were represented and forged a way to help keep prescription medications off the street. Vaultz® is a retail partner with the “Lock Your Meds” national campaign created by the National Family Partnership (NFP). The NFP along with their partners encourage households not to be an “unwitting supplier” of prescription medications being used in unintended ways, especially by young people. To learn more about the “Lock Your Meds” visit [www.lockyourmeds.org](http://www.lockyourmeds.org).

In this joint initiative, the companies will purchase the lock boxes to be used with the home care clients so that the families will incur no expense. Family First is working on making the lock box a requirement of care and PHNR will create an instructional pamphlet to educate families on the dangers of unsecured drugs in the home to accompany the box.

*“Our Families are the most important asset we have and caring for the entire Family is part of our services. We can’t be blind to the potential risk of available drugs to anyone coming into their home for care. This includes our professional caregivers, medical and therapeutic personnel, and even numerous family members”*

*Jim Nowak, Founder and CEO*

Local police and safety personnel have been working to educate the public on the dangers of abuse of the prescription drugs from parents, grandparents, and friends’ homes and either using or selling the medications in the schools. This initiative is a step in the right direction to help keep opioids, narcotics and other drugs that can be misused out of the hands of the wrong people.

*“Knowing that about 60%-70% of the current heroin addicts started with abusing prescription medications, this is a great step in getting the communities that are served by PHNR and Family First Caregivers involved in part of a solution. Helping get*

*drugs with a potential of abuse safely stored and locked up so they cannot be distributed in our homes and to our youth is the over-arching goal to this project. The lock boxes ensure the safety of everyone involved with the medications and even has the potential to help our broader community.”*

*From Amy Kuntz, PHNR Coalition Director*

If you would like more information about this topic, or would like purchase a medication lock box for your home, please contact Jim Nowak at 440 268 8333 or email at [jim@familyfirstcares.com](mailto:jim@familyfirstcares.com).