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## **Tuscarawas County Health Department Releases 2023 Annual Report**

DOVER—Just in time for the start of National Public Health Week (4/1-4/7/24), the Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) recently released its 2023 Annual Report which highlights the department's essential public health activities to prevent the spread of disease, promote healthy behaviors, and protect the Tuscarawas County environment. Noteworthy statistics from the report include 169 car or booster seats provided for area families; 1,030 food safety inspections completed; 4,205 medical appointments conducted; 4,997 birth and death certificates issued; 17 tons of scrap tires (equivalent to approximately 1,900 tires) collected; and \$1,580,764 in grant funds received.

In addition to details about each health department service bureau, the annual report notes the first year since the COVID-19 Pandemic began in March of 2020 when Tuscarawas County births exceeded deaths with 1,125 registered births in Tuscarawas County residents and 1,120 registered deaths. The report also lists the top five causes of death and includes numerous pictures and statistics regarding TCHD services and activities.

"With the official end of the Federal Public Health Emergency Designation for COVID-19 on May 11, 2023, much of the year was centered on restoring our connection with Tuscarawas County communities through a large number of events, presentations, and health fairs," explained Katie Seward, MPH, CHES, Tuscarawas County Health Commissioner. "During the past year, we also implemented initiatives in response to community need by adding medical appointment availability on two evenings per week and offering special services to help residents thrive, such as pet emergency preparedness bags during the summer and infection prevention bags beginning in cold and flu season."

Seward added, "I am thankful and honored to lead our talented, hard-working public health team in serving the valued citizens of Tuscarawas County. We remain dedicated to serving our community in keeping with this year's National Public Health Week theme of 'Protecting, connecting, & thriving: We are all public health.'"

To download a complete copy of TCHD's 2023 Annual Report, visit <a href="www.tchdnow.org">www.tchdnow.org</a>. A 2023 Community Impact Summary is also available for download at the website homepage under "Quick Links."

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