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## **Open Gate Expands November Event with Health Fair Provided by Rhodes State College**

Lima, OH – Open Gate is partnering with Rhodes State College to add a health and wellness fair to its November 25 event. Students from Rhodes State will provide several health check services including:

- Occupational Therapy Assistant - Upper extremity strength testing
- Physical Therapist Assistant - Balance testing
- Medical Assisting - vision, glucose and cholesterol testing
- Emergency Medical Services - vital signs
- Respiratory Care - Pulmonary Function Screenings, Drive for COPD screenings
- Exercise Science - Body fat analysis, BMI testing
- Dental Hygiene - education on dental health

Open Gate is a program through the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties. People can come to the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center in Downtown Lima, Ohio and receive information from up to 35 agencies ranging in services in education, health care, social service, employment and other first step opportunities for anyone who is in need of help. Open Gate is available the last Tuesday of every month from 1- 3 p.m. All citizens are invited, with veterans encouraged to attend and take advantage of the services available in the community.

According to Sandy Monfort, coordinator of Open Gate, agencies at Open Gate are requested to provide direct support to help individuals become active, healthy and employed members of the community. “Open Gate is a first step in whatever issue an individual needs help in. It is a hand-up for individuals to become balanced for themselves, their family and community, and move forward. Support includes health, housing, utilities, social services, education, employment, dental and much more by up to 35 agencies,” stated Mrs. Monfort.

As an educational institution that trains healthcare professionals, Rhodes State College understands the importance of preventive medicine and playing an active role in the community. The Rhodes State Division of Allied Health has partnered with Open Gate on other occasions in order to provide screening services as part of the Division’s community outreach mission. According to Tish Hatfield, Dean of Allied Health at Rhodes State, “Rhodes State College is excited to once again partner with Open Gate and the VMCC. Our students gain valuable experience with patients while at the same time enabling the public to receive health screenings at no cost. ”

The VMCC as part of its charitable use policy is partnering to provide space for the fair. According to Cindy Wood, CEO, the charitable use policy is a way for the facility to assist the community. Mrs. Wood commented, "The Board of Trustees wants to provide support as possible and gives priority to activities that support veterans. Open Gate does this."

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