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Detention Center NARCAN vending machine saves lives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – The NARCAN vending machine that was installed in the Detention Center in August of 2022 is saving lives. In 2023, 1,006 boxes of NARCAN were taken from the vending machine. The vending machine holds 54 boxes and is stocked by the Charleston Center.

Additionally, Charleston County Sheriff's Office deputies on the road and in the Detention Center used NARCAN more than two dozen times when encountering people in crisis.

"Our community is in crisis, and we encounter sick people on a daily basis," Sheriff Kristin Graziano said. "Our agency will continue to do what it can to save lives as we work to expand our ability to get NARCAN to whoever is in need across Charleston County, not just those who are leaving our care. It is our goal to save as many lives as possible. I call on other elected officials to invest money in wrap-around resources for those trying to heal from substance use disorder, as well as public safety campaigns to educate people on the dangers of illegal drugs."

The vending machine was the first in South Carolina to be installed in a detention center with the specific purpose of providing free NARCAN to residents upon release. Residents departing from the Detention Center are welcome to take as many as they would like to keep themselves and others safe from drug overdoses. Before leaving, residents in the drug and alcohol program are trained by counselors on the correct usage of NARCAN; other residents have access to training materials within housing units.

The Charleston Center is Charleston County's Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. For more information, visit <https://charlestoncounty.org/departments/charleston-center/>. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office thanks the Charleston Center for its continued partnership in this effort.

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