



# Operation UNITE

www.operationunite.org

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## Overview

Operation UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment & Education) is a 501(c)(3) non-stock, not-profit corporation created in 2003 by U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-5<sup>th</sup>) to provide a regional, community-based anti-drug response to the prescription drug epidemic sweeping across southern and eastern Kentucky. Serving a 32-county region, UNITE is engaged in numerous education, treatment and law enforcement initiatives – many with state and federal partners – designed to empower citizens groups and community leaders to no longer accept or tolerate the drug culture. This is achieved through expanding youth-focused anti-drug and education programs, community campaigns about the dangers of drugs, coordinating treatment and outreach programs for those struggling with addiction, providing support to families and friends of substance abusers, and conducting undercover narcotics investigations. UNITE also advocates for changes in state and national legislation aimed at curbing prescription abuse and diversion. Additionally, UNITE organizes an annual [National Rx Drug Abuse Summit](#) – the largest national collaboration of professionals from local, state, and federal agencies, businesses, academia, clinicians, treatment providers, counselors, educators, state and national leaders, and advocates impacted by prescription drug abuse.

## Initiatives

- "On The Move" Prevention Program – A one-of-a-kind initiative with five components: A) Interactive mobile drug education classroom with real-time data collection program in line with Kentucky Core Curriculum; B) Simulated impaired driving experience using a go-kart; C) Fatal Vision impaired driving experience using tri-cycles; D) Fatal Reaction distracted driving classroom program; and Fatal Reflections personalized multi-media presentation. Piloted in Fall 2013 with 773 middle and high school students in two counties.
- UNITE Service Corps – Nationally recognized AmeriCorps initiative with 44 full-time members providing math tutoring and drug abuse prevention education at 42 schools in 11 counties. During the 2012-13 school year student test scores increased 42.5% in drug education knowledge and 38.2% in healthy decisions knowledge.
- Camp UNITE – Free 4-day, 3-night adventure/leadership program held at the University of the Cumberlands. Since 2007 there have been 1,325 middle school-aged youth participants from 31 counties. Each camp features approximately 100 youth and adult volunteers.
- Shoot Hoops Not Drugs – Regional basketball camps held each summer with a drug education and awareness theme. Since 2006 there have been 51 camps attended by 6,749 youth from 55 Kentucky counties and 15 other states. In addition, more than 1,100 parents/caregivers have attended education programs during these camps.
- UNITE Clubs – School-based anti-drug education/prevention clubs featuring mentoring and community service components. Since 2005, there have been more than 300 clubs in 37 counties with 55,800 student members.
- Hope Wall – A 20-foot wall featuring more than 150 photos of individuals who are now in recovery and living sober lives. Display is set up in courthouses and judicial centers throughout region.
- Treatment Vouchers – Financial assistance provided to low-income individuals (youth and adult) for substance abuse treatment. Since 2005, 3,260 individuals have entered a treatment program using these vouchers.
- Medication Drop Boxes – Provides 41 locations throughout the service region for citizens to properly dispose of unwanted or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications. More than 4,600 pounds of drugs have been collected since October 2012.
- Community Coalitions – More than \$4.1 million has been allocated to assist 32 volunteer citizen groups to implement education and treatment initiatives specific to their community's needs.
- Drug Task Force – Accredited law enforcement task force that has removed more than \$12.2 million worth of drugs from the street since 2003. More than 4,216 individuals have been arrested with a conviction rate of 97.2%.
- Drug Tip Line – Toll-free line to report suspected drug activity. More than 20,700 calls have been received.