



Operation UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment & Education) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation created in 2003 by U.S. Congressman Harold “Hal” Rogers (KY-5th) to provide a regional, community-based, anti-drug response to the prescription drug epidemic sweeping across southern and eastern Kentucky.

- More than **220,000 youth** have participated in UNITE-sponsored youth/education activities. This does not include participants in UNITE Coalition-sponsored youth programs.
- **UNITE Clubs** – School-based anti-drug education/prevention clubs featuring mentoring and community service components. Since 2005, there have been clubs at 317 different schools in 39 counties with 86,277 student members. (For the 2017-18 school year there are 110 clubs in 20 counties with 8,193 student members.)
- **“On The Move!” Prevention Program** – A one-of-a-kind initiative targeting students in 7th and 10th grades. This mobile prevention unit utilizes 5 interactive components related to distracted and impaired driving and provides real-time data collection that meets standards of the Kentucky Core Curriculum areas of Practical Living and Health. Launched in the fall of 2013, there have been 26,846 students from schools in 40 counties in 4 states (KY, TN, VA & WV) complete the program through Dec. 31, 2017.
- **UNITE Service Corps** – A nationally recognized AmeriCorps initiative with 54 full-time members providing math tutoring and drug abuse prevention education at 54 schools in 16 districts in 13 counties for 2017-18 school year. As evaluated by the University of Kentucky, during the 2016-17 school year, test scores increased 56.5% for the 2,564 students receiving math tutoring. In addition, drug education and healthy decision-making knowledge increased 51.4% among the 3,038 students receiving that curricula. In addition, members mentored 6,353 students, and volunteers provided 7,575 service hours for prevention education and disaster relief.
- **Camp UNITE** – A free week-long leadership/adventure program targeting youth who are at high risk of drug use, whose immediate family has been directly impacted because of substance abuse, or who are financially unable to afford a summer camp experience. Since 2007 there have been 2,155 middle school-aged youth participants. Approximately 180 youth and adult volunteers work in conjunction with UNITE staff to present the program.
- **“I Am UNITE” Scholarship Program** – Using privately-raised funds, the “I Am UNITE” scholarships provide \$1,500 for post-secondary education expenses to youth who have been actively involved in their school’s UNITE Club, been a participant or volunteer youth leader at Camp UNITE, or who have been impacted (directly or through their family) by substance abuse. In the last five years, UNITE has awarded 112 scholarships.
- **“Give Me A Reason” Prevention Initiative** – In partnership with Appalachia HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), parents/caregivers can obtain free saliva-based drug testing kits. This voluntary program is designed to help youth make positive life choices by giving them a reason to resist peer pressure to use drugs. Kits are currently available in 16 Kentucky counties plus counties in Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.
- **Shoot Hoops Not Drugs** – A summer drug prevention initiative utilizing basketball skills instruction under the direction of Jarrod Polson, a four-time All-SEC Academic Team member from the University of Kentucky. Since 2006 there have been 67 camps attended by 8,860 youth from 58 Kentucky counties and 20 other states. In addition, more than 1,752 parents/caregivers have attended drug awareness education programs during camp.
- **National Archery in the Schools® Program** – With UNITE’s assistance, 181 schools or programs in 33 counties have received funding to start or continue NASP, presented in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources.
- **Hooked On Fishing-Not On Drugs®** – More than 9,000 youth have participated in this year-round mentoring program of the Future Fisherman Foundation since 2005 in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources.
- **“Life With A Record” Prevention Program** – Targeted to 7th grade and above, this prevention program examines the criminal justice system and how the seemingly harmless acts– many of which are actually crimes – engaged in by youth can impact their futures. Program includes pre- and post-program surveys. This program has been presented 61 times to 9,666 students at 38 schools in 18 counties through December 31, 2017.
- **“WISE” (Why Internet Safety is Essential) Prevention Program** – A classroom awareness program designed for students in grades 4-6. Includes pre- and post-program surveys. This program has been presented 21 times to 1,280 students at 19 schools in 9 counties through December 31, 2017.



- **“The First Tee”** – This youth development program builds character, instills life-enhancing values, and promotes healthy choices through the game of golf. A Bell County UNITE Coalition member developed the drug prevention component that is now being used internationally.
- **Community Coalitions** – Volunteer community-based anti-drug coalitions work to implement drug prevention, education and recovery initiatives within their individual counties. More than \$5.1 million in funding has been provided through an “Action Plan” application process requiring approval of the UNITE Board of Directors through December 31, 2017. These projects are implemented by hundreds of community volunteers throughout the region.
- **Treatment Vouchers** – Financial assistance provided to individuals (youth and adult) for residential substance treatment for a drug addiction. Since 2005, UNITE has provided \$13.9 million in vouchers to enable more than 4,322 individuals to enter a treatment program through November 30, 2017.
- **Treatment Lines** – UNITE operates a toll-free Treatment Referral Help Line (**1-866-908-6483**) that connects addicts and their families to treatment and support options. That line receives approximately 1,200 inquiries per month. In December 2017, UNITE began offering a statewide KY HELP Call Center (**1-833-859-4357**) in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Justice to connect individuals to resources for substance abuse disorders. That line received 175 inquiries during the first month.
- **Medication Drop Boxes** – There are 42 locations throughout UNITE’s service region for citizens to properly dispose of unwanted or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications. More than 21,298 pounds (10.6 tons) of drugs have been collected since October 2012, keeping these medications from being diverted or abused.
- **Hope Wall** – This 20-foot wall features approximately 200 photos with information on individuals who are now in recovery and living sober lives. The Serpentine display is set up in courthouses, judicial centers and large events to raise awareness about recovery.
- **Drug Court Program** – Before UNITE was launched in April 2003, there were only five Drug Court programs serving 10 counties in the Fifth Congressional District. Drug Courts now cover all counties within our region. UNITE and its coalitions support the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts by providing vouchers for treatment, assisting families, and reaching out to participants’ children through UNITE’s youth prevention and education initiatives.
- **Community Education Kits** – Created three self-contained educational kits for use by trained community coalitions to educate youth and adults about drugs:
 - **Addicted: A Dose of Reality** – An education program for parents, caregivers and teachers about current drugs of abuse and drug trends
 - **Accidental Dealer** – An education program on the importance of properly storing prescription and over-the-counter medications to prevent diversion or theft.
 - **One-Step Misery: Kentucky Meth Epidemic** – An education program about methamphetamine production and use and its impacts on individuals and the environment.
- **Drug-Free Workplace Training** – UNITE staff has provided free drug-free workplace trainings for employees and staff at nearly two dozen different companies.
- **UNITE Law Enforcement** – UNITE employs two detectives assigned to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as Special Agents. These detectives have been involved in some of the largest state and federal cases involving pill-mill operators and drug trafficking organizations. Detectives have:
 - Removed nearly \$12.6 million worth of drugs from the street.
 - Arrested nearly 4,500 individuals with a conviction rate of 97.2%
- **Drug Tip Line** – Toll-free line to report suspected drug activity. More than 22,200 calls have been received.

National Impact

- In 2012, UNITE created the **National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit**. Now in its seventh year, the Summit is 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 addressing the opioid crisis.