



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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News Release

Savings Reach Close to \$1.2 Million

August 28, 2012, Monroe, NC – Union County residents have saved a combined total of \$1,192,585 on more than 71,000 prescription drug purchases over the past seven years by using the free prescription drug discount card. By participating in the program sponsored by Union County and the National Association of Counties (NACo), more than 36,000 participants have saved an average of \$12.96 or 26 percent off the retail price of prescription drugs.

The free discount cards are available to every family residing in Union County with no age, income or health restrictions. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card whenever prescriptions are not covered by insurance. All commonly prescribed prescription medications, including pet medications, are eligible for discount. The cardholder pays the negotiated discount price or the pharmacy's retail price, whichever is lower.

“This is a program that has saved Union County residents a lot of money over the past seven years,” said Brett Vines, public information officer for Union County. “The great thing is there is no cost to Union County, county taxpayers or consumers to participate in the program.”

The program has a safety feature that alerts pharmacists when one drug may have a drug interaction with another medication the cardholder is taking, if the prescriptions were obtained with the prescription discount card. The card is also a useful option now that Medicare Part D has been implemented. The card can be used when a Medicare Part D plan doesn't cover a drug.

More than 1,350 of the nation's 3,068 counties are participating in the program and more than 60,000 retail pharmacies accept the card. In Union County, Bi-Lo pharmacies, CVS pharmacies, Harris-Teeter pharmacies, K-Mart pharmacies, Target pharmacies, WalGreen pharmacies, Walmart pharmacies, Rite-Aid pharmacies, Indian Trail Pharmacy, Franklin Street Pharmacy, Faulkner's Drugs, Family Care Specialty Pharmacy, Sun Valley Pharmacy and Medicap Pharmacy accept the discount card. CVS Caremark negotiates the discounts directly with the pharmacies and drug manufacturers. Neither NACo nor Union County receives any revenue from the program.

To find out more information about the card and view a list of card distribution sites, visit the Union County Web site at www.co.union.nc.us/HumanServices. Additional assistance with the program can be received by calling toll-free 1-877-321-2652 or visiting <https://naco.advancerx.com>.

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