

# Dutchess County's Great Halloween Candy Exchange

*Children can learn about good health and support US troops serving overseas*

**Poughkeepsie, NY... Poughkeepsie...** Attention Halloween Trick-or-Treaters! Share some of your Halloween candy with United States Armed Forces troops serving as part of the *Great Halloween Candy Exchange* and be rewarded with fun prizes of fitness and literacy!

Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro has announced the Dutchess County Department of Health will once again partner with All Sport Health and Fitness, Children's Medical Group, Learning Insights and All Access Dental for the *7th Annual Great Halloween Candy Exchange Program* on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 2:30pm to 6:30pm at various locations throughout the county.

"The *Great Halloween Candy Exchange Program* gives families a great way to promote important values of literacy, physical activity and sharing.

It also helps bring a little bit of home to our US troops serving overseas," said County Executive Molinaro. "So share the fun of Halloween by supporting our soldiers and be rewarded with good health and a love of reading."

The program is simple. Children can donate a pound or more of Halloween trick-or-treat candy to be shipped to U.S. troops serving overseas. For every pound of candy donated at one of the designated drop-off sites, children will receive a free, age-appropriate new book, a fun pass to East Fishkill Golf Center or Fun Central for mini-golf or a fun pass to McCann Ice Arena, the Mid Hudson Children's Museum or All Sport Health and Fitness.

In 2011, more than 2,200 pounds of candy were collected and shipped to troops serving overseas. Children are also encouraged to include a friendly letter with their candy donations. Participants who bring a letter will be entered in a drawing to win two tickets to Splashdown Beach. Both the candy and the letters are welcome reminders of home for soldiers and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Candy can be dropped off from 2:30pm to 6:30pm on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at the following locations:

- **Children's Medical Group**  
104 Fulton Avenue, Poughkeepsie
- **All Access Dental**  
11 Crum Elbow Road, Hyde Park
- **Learning Insights**  
20 Milton Avenue, Highland
- **All Sport Health and Fitness**  
17 Old Main Street, Fishkill

Joseph F. Heavy, FACHE Chief Executive Officer of The Children's Medical Group stated, "The Children's Medical Group is once again pleased to participate in this candy exchange. It's such a great way to have families participate in healthy activities such as reading with their children and fun physical alternatives to TV and video games."

The Great Halloween Candy Exchange is a community project organized by All Sport Health and Fitness, The Children's Medical Group, Dutchess County Health Department, Learning Insights, and it's newest partner, All Access Dental. The Shipping Place in Hyde Park is generously packaging and shipping the candy. Other sponsors include East Fishkill Rotary, Henry Schein, Inc., Herb Redl Properties, Sunshine Orthodontics, Splashdown Beach and United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. Family fun passes were generously donated by All Sport Health and Fitness, East Fishkill Golf Center, Fun Central, McCann Ice Arena and the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum.

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