**Blue Star Healthy Colon Initiative**

**Purpose**
The occurrence of colorectal cancer in Meigs County is 17.6% higher than that for Ohio, and death from colorectal cancer in Meigs County is 35% higher than Ohio. The Blue Star Healthy Colon Initiative will increase knowledge about prevention and early detection of colon cancer among adult residents in Meigs County. This collaborative effort will:

- Raise awareness about the burden of colon cancer
- Provide education on prevention and early detection of colon cancer
- Develop personalized wellness plans for residents at risk for colon cancer
- Encourage participation in classes through OSU Extension to help residents adopt a healthy lifestyle

**Impact**
Colon cancer screening is recommended for everyone 50 and over. Although, less than 42% of Meigs County residents age 50 and over have been screened for colon cancer in the last five years.

An inflatable walk-through colon (Super Colon) will be exhibited to provide an interactive educational tool at the Meigs County Fair on August 15 and Racine Party in the Park on September 14.

Personalized wellness plans will be provided for at least 100 residents in Meigs County at high-risk for colon cancer including suggestions to help prevent and detect colon cancer.

**Contact**
Darla Fickle
Program Director
OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center
Division of Population Sciences
darla.fickle@osumc.edu
http://www.accnweb.com
http://meigs.osu.edu

**Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved**
Comprehensive Cancer Center
College of Medicine
College of Nursing
School of Communications
Buckeyes without Borders
OSU Extension - Meigs County

**Community Partners Involved**
Meigs County Cancer Initiative
Meigs County Health Department
Appalachia Community Cancer Network