

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Thanks 2017 Great American Cleanup of PA Participants**

**(June 21, 2017)** – Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful thanks the many Pennsylvania residents who participated in the 2017 Great American Cleanup of PA. From March 1 through May 31, individuals, families, civic groups, schools, organizations and businesses came together to renew parks, trails and recreation areas, plant flowers and trees, increase recycling and remove litter from our shared waterways and public lands. These events united communities and set an example for others to follow.

"Our Borough of Jefferson Hills Earth Day cleanup continues to grow every year thanks to the cooperation of our families, businesses, students, scouting and civic groups. In addition, we could not have pulled off an event of this size without the great support provided to us by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful," says Jane Milner, Borough Coordinator of Community Relations. "We are so proud of our beautiful, clean and green Borough."



Academy Neighborhood, Erie County volunteers.

"Keep Erie County Beautiful officially became an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful in early March, making the Great American Cleanup of PA our first large event. It was a great way for us to get our name out there, let folks know who we are and what we can do to help the community. We had an overwhelmingly positive response from the community with so many people reaching out to us for help coordinating community or school projects and we are very appreciative of their efforts. Making these great connections now with so many great people will help make it easier to find future volunteers for community projects like this," said Brittany Prischak, Sustainability Coordinator, Erie County Department of Planning and Keep Erie County Beautiful Coordinator.

"We want to thank each and every one of the Great American Cleanup of PA volunteers who joined together to create positive change and a lasting impact on our local environment. Whether events were large or small, they all made a difference! It is your commitment to being stewards of our communities that helps make this event a success year after year," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "Our work would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of local volunteers and the support of our partners. Thank you."

This annual event is held in conjunction with Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup and led by a coalition of non-profit, state agency and business partners such as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Weis Markets, Inc., Wawa, Inc., Sheetz, Giant Food Stores, Inc., ShopRite and The Fresh Grocer. Additional 2017 event supporters include: Pennsylvania Beverage Association, Steel Recycling Institute, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Giant Eagle Inc., Republic Services, Clean Earth and Wegmans Food Markets. During the three-month long initiative, registered participants received free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests from PennDOT district offices. During April 18th through May 8th, trash collected at registered events was taken to participating facilities for free or at a reduced rate.

All 67 counties in Pennsylvania were represented in the 2017 Great American Cleanup of PA. A complete report will be available late summer.

#### **About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keeppabeautiful.org](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org).