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You're Invited:

**Milwaukee's International Overdose Awareness Day Remembrance Events
Support Loved Ones and Survivors Impacted by Overdose
Veterans Park | Saturday, August 31 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Milwaukee—For more than 20 years, International Overdose Awareness Day events have been held around the world to raise awareness of overdose, a public health crisis trampling through our communities. With a mission to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths and create change that reduces the harm associated with drug use, organizations, advocates and community members gather on August 31.

According to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, there were an estimated 107,543 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2023. Of those fatal overdoses, 668 were in Milwaukee County.

The RISE Drug Free MKE community coalition is a proud title sponsor for Healing Starts Today's Rhythm & Soles 5K Walk/Run honoring International Overdose Awareness Day on Saturday, August 31, at Veterans Park, 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, for friends and family members of those lost to overdose, as well as those who have survived overdose. The event provides a safe, healing space to remember, to heal, and to commit to preventing another overdose from stealing a loved one's life. Rhythm and Soles 5K Walk/Run is a victory lap for everyone who has overcome life obstacles and aims to encourage the community to continue taking steps toward their goals.

Activities include:

- Grief support, testimonials, and tributes
- Free Narcan and training
- Yoga and meditation
- Children's corner
- Free music and food
- Raffles and games
- Local resources

Resources will be available from: Celebrate Recovery, Community Medical Services, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Fire Department/MORI, Nar-Anon Moms, Nystrom & Associates, Pathfinders, The Phoenix, Rogers Behavioral Health, Safe & Sound, Samad's House, UMOS, Vin Baker Recovery, Vivent Health, Wauwatosa Health Department, Wisconsin Community Services, and Healing Starts Today. RISE Drug Free MKE is supported by Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Services.

Shuttles between Veterans Park, Washington Park (Senior Center north lot) and Mitchell Park (behind the Domes) will be available every half hour from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, go to RISEdrugfreemke.org.

Participation is free and all are welcome to enjoy this family-friendly event. In-person registration begins at 9 a.m. For details and to register, go to healingstartstoday.com.

Additional International Overdose Awareness Day Observances in Milwaukee

In addition to the Veterans Park events, these community observances will be held:

- A memorial tree will be placed in the Milwaukee City Hall Rotunda from August 26 to September 5. Friends and families of loved ones lost to overdose are welcome to stop by, write their loved one's name on a ribbon, and place it on the tree to honor their loss.
- The Hoan Bridge will light up with 668 purple lights on August 31 to honor the lives lost to overdose in Milwaukee County in 2023. To learn more about lighting Milwaukee's iconic bridge, go to LightTheHoan.org.

The RISE [Drug Free MKE coalition](#) raises awareness on substance (mis)use, and, through inclusive education, elevates our entire community, from our youth to our elders, out of the harms caused by substance (mis)use. RISE Drug Free MKE prioritizes policies, practices, and programs that address major substance use issues in our community, including marijuana use among youth, problematic drinking, and prescription drug (mis)use. The coalition is convened by [Community Advocates Public Policy Institute](#).

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