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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Registration Open for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Great American Cleanup of PA 2018

(February 7, 2018) – Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has announced that registration for the 2018 Great American Cleanup of PA is open. This annual event begins on **March 1st and ends on May 31st**. During this period, registered events can get free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests from PennDOT district offices, as supplies last. Events can be litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, beautification projects, special collections, and education events and must be registered through the Great American Cleanup of PA website, www.gacofpa.org, to receive free cleanup supplies. As part of this event, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring Let's Pick It Up PA – Everyday from April 7th through April 30th. During this time, trash collected at registered events can be taken to participating landfills free or for a reduced cost with prior approval.

Groups, individuals and local governments anticipate the annual initiative as a way to rally volunteers, reduce cleanup costs and be connected to a larger movement.



2017 Jack Sedlak Community Cleanup Days volunteers.

Residents of Monroeville have been participating in the Jack Sedlak Memorial Cleanup Day, as part of the Great American Cleanup of PA, for more than 20 years. The event was initially organized in remembrance of Councilman Jack Sedlak, who initiated community cleanup days before his death in the mid 1990s. His son Joe, who works for the municipality, has assumed the coordination responsibility.

“The Annual Municipality of Monroeville Jack Sedlak Memorial Clean Up Day would not have become one of the largest clean up events in western Pennsylvania without the support and structure of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and the Great American Cleanup of PA program,” said Joe Sedlak, Director of Human Resources, Municipality of Monroeville.

During the 2017 Great American Cleanup, the value of costs avoided or money saved by municipal, county and state governments was \$13 million due to generous donations of supplies, services and manpower. **The event engaged 132,695 invaluable volunteers in 7,280 events across the state.**

“We are so grateful to our volunteers and sponsors who help make the Great American Cleanup of PA, Pennsylvania’s premier community improvement initiative possible,” said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. “Many communities depend on volunteers to clean up litter. This initiative provides the tools and resources our residents need to keep our communities clean and beautiful. This year we hope to inspire even more Pennsylvania’s to come out between March and May to participate in the Great American Cleanup of PA.”

Register your 2018 event at www.gacofpa.org. Questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Great American Cleanup of PA Program Coordinator, at 1-877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keepbeautiful.org.

This annual event is a program of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and is held in conjunction with Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup. The initiative is led by a coalition of non-profit, state agency and business partners such as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, ShopRite and The Fresh Grocer, Wawa, Inc., Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Giant Food Stores, LLC, BioHiTech, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Mahantango, Republic Services, Steel Recycling Institute, Wegmans Food Markets and Weis Markets, Inc.

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to keep 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.keppabeautiful.org.

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