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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy and Union County Join Forces to Bridge Healthcare Disparities for Underserved Residents**

**Red Bank, NJ, November 3rd, 2023** — Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy (RSCP) has continued to expand its impact statewide by entering into a recent strategic partnership with Union County, marking a significant step in its mission to improve healthcare access for uninsured and underserved residents. This memorandum of agreement represents a pivotal moment in its commitment to reducing healthcare inequalities within the community.

The County of Union has launched a new pharmacy program at the Union County Immunization Center in Elizabeth, focusing on providing medication for chronic conditions. The program operates on weekdays, collecting and distributing prescriptions to participants, who are required to obtain their prescriptions from a designated medical center. Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy fills prescriptions at no cost, offering remote pharmacist consultations for guidance and support. Additionally, RSCP hosts educational events to empower patients with health-related knowledge.

The mission of RSCP is anchored in creating a healthier and more equitable community. It aims to increase access to medications, immunizations, health education, and pharmacy services for uninsured and underserved patients.

The genesis of Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy is a tale of love, dedication, and a profound desire to make a difference. It all began with Ritesh Shah, a renowned pharmacist and CEO of the Legacy Pharmacy Group, who was inspired by the memory of his sister Rena. Her untimely passing due to health complications and COVID became the driving force behind the creation of New Jersey's first charitable pharmacy. Rena's brother, Ritesh, transformed his grief into a lasting tribute to his sister. Supported wholeheartedly by his wife, Asha, who returned from retirement to assist in this noble endeavor, Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy opened its doors to serve the community in the Spring of 2022.

Ritesh Shah, Founder of Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy, shared his thoughts on this partnership, saying, "Honoring the memory of Rena is always at the forefront of this undertaking. This partnership with Union County is a significant step in our commitment to make healthcare accessible to all."

In its short existence, the pharmacy has already made a profound impact, providing essential medications and support to over patients who meet the financial criteria, ensuring that pain, irrespective of economic status, receives the same compassionate response. Personal funds, community donations, and support from pharmaceutical companies, such as Eli Lilly, have played a pivotal role in sustaining this initiative.

Union County, located in the northern part of New Jersey, is a region known for its prosperity, with a diverse and growing population of nearly 600,000 residents. This strategic partnership with Union County reflects the shared commitment to bridging the healthcare gap and ensuring that vital healthcare services are accessible to all.

Together, RSCP and Union County are dedicated to making healthcare a reality for underserved residents, contributing to a brighter, healthier future for the entire community.

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Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy is located at 224 Shrewsbury Ave, Red Bank NJ 07701. It is open on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11 am to 4 pm, and on Friday from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information on the pharmacy, please visit <https://rscprx.org/>.

