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ERIE COUNTY AUDITOR

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Dollar General Settlement Money Disbursed to Care & Share

Sandusky - Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost found a creative way to disburse nearly \$1 Million in settlement money he won from Dollar General's price discrepancies this past year. Yost asked each County Auditor to pick a food pantry in their county to award their share of the settlement dollars.

Erie County Auditor Richard Jeffrey thought of Care and Share in Sandusky which serves thousands of residents in Erie County to award his **\$7,613** of the settlement money.

Dollar General, a Tennessee-based discount retail chain with more than 980 stores throughout Ohio, displayed prices on its shelves for certain items but charged higher prices at its registers, and failed to correct prices at the point-of-sale to the lower shelf price. Yost's office won a settlement in his lawsuit against the company after working with Ohio's County Auditors who perform price verification at local stores.

"Most people don't shop at Dollar General because they have a lot of extra money to spend," Yost told County Auditors at their winter conference in November. "So, when a bottle of shampoo that should cost \$1 costs \$2 at the checkout, that's a real thing. And you all brought it to light."

The money was disbursed to each County Auditor based on the number of Dollar General stores located in their county. "I am glad Attorney General Yost fought quickly to have Dollar General change their practices and then thought of this creative way to get the funds to the people hurt by the company," said County Auditor Richard Jeffrey.

Jeffrey points to the Auditor's role as the Sealer of Weights and Measure with price verification as a needed check and balance. He praised Erie County's Certified Weights and Measures Inspector Andrew Gwinner for his service and attention to detail.

Inflation and higher prices have caused an uptick in residents seeking help from food pantries according to Care & Share Director Anita Kromer, "Care & Share in

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Secretary, Erie County Board of Revision
Secretary, Erie County Budget Commission
Member, Erie County Records Commission
Sealer, Weights & Measures

Erie County has seen an increase in individuals experiencing food insecurity. Many families are having to seek food assistance for the first time.”