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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 10/19/17

### **PCSO 3<sup>rd</sup> Law Enforcement Agency in the Country to Carry Epinephrine Auto-Injectors**

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN –October 9, 2017, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office has become the third law enforcement agency in the country equipped with epinephrine thanks to a gift of 100 epinephrine auto-injectors from Dr. Charles Womack, the Cookeville Regional Medical Center Foundation and the County Executor's Office. While allergies affect 30 percent of adults and 40 percent of children in the United States, according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, the most common cause of allergy related deaths involve medicines, food and insect stings. About 43 million people are at risk of going into anaphylactic shock. That's where epinephrine auto-injectors come in. Epinephrine auto-injectors, made popular in recent years by the brand EpiPen, are devices that deliver a pre-measured dosage of epinephrine (also known as adrenaline) when injected into a person's thigh. The epinephrine increases blood pressure, reduces wheezing, increases heart rate and reduces hives and swelling.

"Since the Sheriff's Office serves the entirety of Putnam County, it is essential to empower our Deputies with resources necessary to protect the lives of those at risk of suffering a life-threatening allergic reaction, whether that be a food allergy or a sting," says Sheriff Eddie Farris.

"We are grateful to the Cookeville Regional Foundation and Dr. Womack for their generous donation and to Randy Porter's Office for helping secure the funding for these devices."

PCSO has 71 commissioned Deputies and patrols approximately 403 square miles of road within Putnam County. At any given time, they could be out at remote locations throughout the county on a call and it could take precious time for medical assistance to arrive. Training will be conducted annually so that Deputies can confidently and effectively utilize this tool when the need arises.

Dr. Womack is passionate about serving his community and saving lives. He practiced medicine for 38 years, and now he has been assisting his community by helping first responders. He was instrumental in getting Cookeville Police Department's patrol vehicles outfitted with epinephrine auto-injectors as well. Dr. Womack has currently been working with the Cookeville Regional Medical Foundation to ensure all schools in the Upper Cumberland region have access to epinephrine. They emphasize the importance of having life-saving epinephrine on school campuses and how they can access it for free. (There is a grant available for this purpose.) They have almost achieved their goal at this point. Seven out of the 14 counties in the region have epinephrine auto-injectors at their disposal.

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“We have contacted the Boy Scouts in Nashville, and we are in talks to supply scout troops in our region with epinephrine,” says John Bell, Director of the CRMC Foundation.

If anyone is interested in sponsorship opportunities or more information on the Cookeville Regional Medical Foundation, they can visit [cookevilleregionalcharity.org](http://cookevilleregionalcharity.org)

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