

'Take Back' Prescription Drug Program

Posted: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 5:27 pm

 [Email](#)  [Print](#)

The Chemical Health Initiative of Goodhue County will participate in the upcoming Drug Enforcement Agency's second annual national "Take Back" Prescription Drug Program. Local police departments as well as the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office will each host a collection site to prevent increased prescription and over-the-counter medication abuse and theft by collecting unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs. There is no cost for the service, which is part of a national day to recognize the importance of keeping unused medication out of the hands of children and drug dealers, and to protect the environment.

This national event will take place 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday at the following locations:

- Kenyon Police Department, 713 Second St., Kenyon, hosted by the Kenyon Police Department.
- Wanamingo City Hall, Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, 401 Main St., Wanamingo, hosted by the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office.

Approximately 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation participated in the 2010 event, with more than 121 tons of pills turned in on the first National Take Back Day.

Controlled, non-controlled and over-the-counter substances may be collected. No questions or requests for identification will be made. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container. All solid dosage pharmaceutical product and liquids in consumer containers will also be accepted. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. Intravenous solutions, injectibles and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.

Prescription drug abuse in the United States is increasing. A majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many do not know how to properly dispose their unused medicines, often discarding them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet — both potential safety and health hazards. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue.

For more information, call the Chemical Health Initiative of Goodhue County at 651-385-3307 or visit www.chi-goodhue.org.