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CHI "Take Back" Prescription Drug program to be held on April 30

The Chemical Health Initiative of Goodhue County and local law enforcement will participate in the upcoming Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) second annual national "Take Back" Prescription Drug Program. Each of the participants will host a collection site that seeks 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.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the following Goodhue County collection sites (unless otherwise noted the event will be hosted by the Police department in that city):

Red Wing: Goodhue County Law Enforcement Center, 430 W. 6th Street, Red Wing, MN 55066

Kenyon: Kenyon Police Department, 713 2nd Street, Kenyon, MN 55946

Wanamingo: City Hall, Good-hue County Sheriff's Office, 401 Main Street, Wanamingo, MN 55983, hosted by the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office.

Zumbrota: City Hall Police Department Lobby, 50 W. 2nd Street, Zumbrota, MN 55992

Pine Island: Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, 509 Main Street, Suite A, PI MN 55963, hosted by the Goodhue County Sheriff's Office

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

Prescription drug abuse in the United States is increasing at an alarming rate. 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 of 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 CHI of Goodhue county at 651-385-3307 or visit www.chi-goodhue.org.