



For Immediate Release

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National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Event Collects Approximately 50 pounds

Fulton County residents participating in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 29 turned in approximately 50 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 2 take-back sites that were available in Wauseon. The amount collected at this Take Back Day doubles the amounts collected at previous events.

“The amount of prescription drugs turned in by Fulton County residents during the Take-Back Day event speaks volumes about the need to develop a convenient way to rid homes of unwanted or expired prescription drugs,” said Wauseon Police Chief Keith Torbet. “DEA remains hard at work to establish just such a drug disposal process, and will continue to offer take-back opportunities until the proper regulations are in place.”

“With the continued support of Healthy Choices Caring Communities and the hard work of local law enforcement, community partners and volunteers, this event has dramatically reduced the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse, and increased awareness of this critical public health issue,” said Chief Torbet.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, enough prescription painkillers were prescribed in 2010 to medicate every American adult around-the-clock for one month. Often, some of these medicines languish in the home and are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high—more Americans currently abuse prescription

drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, heroin, and inhalants combined, according to the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Studies show that the majority of teens who abuse prescription drugs obtain them from family and friends for free, including from the home medicine cabinet. Many Americans simply do not know how to properly dispose of their unused or expired medicine, often flushing it down the toilet or throwing it away. These methods can pose both safety and environmental hazards

Healthy Choices Caring Communities, an initiative of the Fulton County Family & Children First Council, is a group of community members working together to prevent and reduce youth use of alcohol and other drugs in Fulton County. To become a member of the HC3, or for more information, contact Lou Moody, Project Director, at 419-337-0915.