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DETROIT LOCATIONS TO ACCEPT UNUSED PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FOR DISPOSAL AS PART OF NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY ON SATURDAY

Event hosted by The Prevention Collaborative and its partners will feature drop-offs for proper disposal of unused or expired prescription drugs

October 25, 2018, Detroit, MI – The Prevention Collaborative, a coalition of non-profit agencies whose goal is to reduce substance abuse in Detroit, and The Youth Connection are hosting a National Prescription Drug Take Back event at Conner Creek Health Center on Saturday, October 27th, from 10am to 2pm, to allow metropolitan Detroit residents a place to safely turn in their unused or expired medication for proper disposal. (Note – we cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

The event, held in partnership with the Detroit Police Department, Love Detroit Prevention Coalition, Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority, and the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration, is being held at:

- **The Youth Connection** - 4777 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48234

Detroit Police Department precincts will also be hosting Drug Take Back Day events on Saturday.

The Youth Connection drug take back site will have members of the Detroit Police Department present to oversee the drug take back process and help properly dispose of the medications. For proper disposal of medications at the events, please remove pills from their bottles and put them in a clear plastic bag. Please put all controlled substances (pain relievers and other narcotics) in a separate plastic bag.

Members of The Prevention Collaborative will also be joined by members of The Love Detroit Prevention Coalition Youth Committee – a group of high school students committed to reducing prescription drug abuse in our community.

On the last prescription drug take back day in April, Americans turned in 474 tons (almost 950,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at almost 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. In Michigan, over 23,000 pounds of prescription drugs were collected! **Locally in Detroit, we collected over 11 pounds of prescription medication at The Youth Connection and over 111 pounds city-wide!**

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority

of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

“We need to educate the people of Southeast Michigan, especially our senior citizens, on the dangers of non-medical use of prescription drugs and what they can do to dispose of expired or unused medication,” said Grenaé Dudley, President and CEO of The Youth Connection, one of the coalition’s partners.

The Prevention Collaborative is funded through the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority. Its organizational members include The Youth Connection, Adult Well Being Services, and People’s Community Services.

For more information on prescription drug take back events locally, please visit the DEA’s website at <https://takebackday.dea.gov/> to search for a location near you.

About The Youth Connection: *The Youth Connection is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to connecting our youth to a brighter future through career exploration, job training, internships, after-school programs and academic assistance for metropolitan Detroit area youth. For more information about The Youth Connection, visit www.theyouthconnection.org or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TYCDetroit.*

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