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

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

October 22, 2019, Detroit, MI – The Youth Connection, a local non-profit agency working on reducing substance abuse in Detroit, and the Love Detroit Prevention Coalition are partnering with the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back event at every Detroit Police Department Precinct headquarters and Conner Creek Health Center on Saturday, October 26th, from 10am to 2pm, to allow metropolitan Detroit residents a place to safely turn in their unused or expired medication for proper disposal. (Note – takeback sites cannot accept liquids or needles/sharps.) The service is free and anonymous – no questions asked.

Other partners for the event include the Detroit Health Department, Detroit Police Department, and Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network. The takeback events are being held at:

- **All Detroit Police Precincts** – For a list of precinct headquarters, please visit <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/police-department/precincts-and-neighborhood-police-officers>
- **The Youth Connection** - 4777 E. Outer Drive, Detroit, MI 48234

TYC drug take back sites will have members of the Detroit Police Department present to oversee the drug take back process and help properly dispose of medication.

The Youth Connection and Love Detroit Prevention Coalition will also have Deterra Drug Deactivation bags available at each site that people can take home with them to safely dispose of prescription medication throughout the year. DEA drug takeback days occur twice a year – once in the spring and once in the fall.

On the last prescription drug take back day in April, Americans turned **over 468 tons (almost 915,000 pounds) of prescription drugs** at over 6,300 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! **The Love Detroit Prevention Coalition collected 67 pounds of prescription medication at The Youth Connection site alone and 227 pounds at all Detroit locations!**

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

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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 parents and 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 Youth Connection is funded through the Drug Free Communities Program at the federal level and the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network locally.

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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