



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 04-21-16**

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Mid-Michigan District Health Department

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## **Medication drop-off day to be held Saturday, April 30**

Stanton- YOUTHINK Montcalm and the Medication Disposal Coalition of Montcalm County will be hosting a medication drop-off day on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Dr. O'Donald, D.D.S., located at 1330 W. Washington Street/M-57, Greenville. Just look for the big red collection box!

Those with unwanted, unneeded or expired medications are encouraged to take advantage of this free, no questions asked service. All medication collected will be properly disposed of.

Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, including creams, ointments, inhalers, and more; will be accepted. Bottles containing liquids should be placed in a ziploc bag. Those dropping off medications may blacken out their name on pill bottles for added privacy, but it is not required.

Sorry, but sharps will not be accepted at the drop-off day on April 30. If you have sharps to dispose of, you may take them to the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (615 N. State Street, Stanton) Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sharps must be in a medical sharps container or other puncture-resistant, leak-proof container. Please call 989-831-3669 with any questions. Empty sharps can also be taken to United Lifestyles (701 S. Greenville West Drive, Greenville), but please call 616-754-6185 first for program specifics.

This medication take-back initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Americans spend approximately \$200 billion annually on prescription drugs, many of which remain in our medicine cabinets, unused or expired, making them easily accessible to youth and those whom they were not intended. Sadly, 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 the majority of abused prescription drugs are found in the home medicine cabinet or obtained from family and friends.

This initiative also addresses an environmental concern as well. American were once told that it was completely safe to dispose of medications by throwing them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet. We now know this is not the case; that doing so is not safe for people or the environment. By properly disposing of unwanted or unneeded medications, residents not only help reduce substance abuse and prevent childhood poisonings, but also protect the environment we all share.

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## 2- Medication Take-Back Day

This event is being held in partnership with YOUTHINK Montcalm, Medication Disposal Coalition of Montcalm County, Michigan State Police, Montcalm County Sheriff Department, Greenville Department of Public Safety, Montcalm County Emergency Medical Services, Montcalm Care Network, Ionia and Montcalm Families Against Narcotics, and the Mid-Michigan District Health Department.

For additional information on Montcalm County's medication disposal program, please visit the Medication Disposal Coalition of Montcalm County's Facebook page. If you would like to become involved in the county's substance abuse prevention efforts, please call 989-287-0527.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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