



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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# National Take-Back Coming to Middlesex County on April 30th

*Due to strong community support, Middlesex County municipalities and Rutgers University will again participate in event designed to dispose of unused medication*

**East Brunswick, April 5, 2011.** On April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every municipality in Middlesex County, along with Rutgers University, will provide the public another opportunity to prevent prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted drugs.

Middlesex County residents are urged to bring their medications for disposal to sites available in their own municipality. A link to locate a collection site near you is now posted on the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website at [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov). The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last September, Americans turned in 242,000 pounds—121 tons—of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,000 state and local law enforcement partners, including the Coalition for Health Communities.

The Coalition, an initiative of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc., is the lead organization assisting in the implementation of this event in Middlesex County.

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Statewide, *National Take-Back* is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration New Jersey Division, Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey, the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the New Jersey Prevention Network, and the New Jersey Chiefs of Police Association. Members of local Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) will also participate.

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—posing potential safety and health hazards.

“Proper control and disposal of potentially dangerous medication is vital, due to the trend of prescription drug abuse with youth,” said Coalition Coordinator Linda Surks. Linda Surks’ son Jason experimented with prescription pills and overdosed, leaving his parents' world in shambles.

Prescriptions collected during *National Take-Back* will be taken to a central location to be incinerated.

Anyone seeking additional information or volunteer opportunities for *National Take-Back* in Middlesex County should contact Linda Surks at 732-254-3344.

### **About Coalition for Healthy Communities**

*The Coalition for Healthy Communities is a program of NCADD of Middlesex County, Inc. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. is a private, non-profit health education organization. Established in 1980, NCADD is recognized as the leading resource in Middlesex County for information, education and prevention services on alcohol and drug abuse. Services include: the Jason Surks Memorial Prevention Resource Center, information and referral help line, training, community education programs, early childhood prevention programs Footprints for Life™ and Forest Friends, advocacy for alcoholics and other drug dependent persons and their families, and public awareness campaigns. Additional information is available at [www.ncadd-middlesex.org](http://www.ncadd-middlesex.org).*