

'Drug Take Back Day' will be held Saturday, September 27th at Union Hospital from 10:00-2:00 at the South Entrance. The Sheriff's Department, Union Hospital, and Anti-Drug Coalition of Tuscarawas County encourage our community members to take advantage of this convenient, responsible and safe way to dispose of expired or unused prescription medications. This event will help keep potentially dangerous medications out of the hands of children. By participating in Drug Take Back Days, citizens help in the effort to reduce drug abuse and theft of drugs from homes. In addition, it is a great way to protect our environment.

This is to coincide with the DEA'S National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The DEA has implemented the National Drug Take-Back Days to address a growing need in our Nation. It is important because the non-medical use of controlled substance medications is at an all-time high, with 6.8 million Americans reporting having abused prescription drugs in 2012, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) released in 2013. That same study revealed more than 54 percent of people who abuse prescription pain relievers got them through friends or relatives, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet.

This program is anonymous. Personal information can be removed from any containers. Medications also may be removed from containers and placed in transparent plastic bags for disposal. "Sharps" — needles, syringes, hypodermics or lancets — along with illegal drugs will not be accepted.

In addition to the September 27th event being held at the South Entrance of Union Hospital there is a permanent mailbox-style bin Located in the lobby of the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office located at 2295 Reiser Ave. SE, New Philadelphia. This disposal site is available 24 hours a day including weekends and holidays so the public can safely dispose of medications at any time. For more information, call 330-339-2000.