

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TAKE BACK EVENT APRIL 30 AT 11 LOCATIONS ACROSS UTAH COUNTY**

**Provo, Utah** – On April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Substance Misuse and Abuse Reduction Team (SMART) Coalition, local law enforcement, and partners will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by removing potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs from their home medicine cabinets.

“Bring your medications for disposal to one of the 11 sites listed below. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked,” said Officer Darrel Bingham, SMART Board Member.

The SMART coalition, hosted by the Utah County Division of Substance Abuse, held 17 take back events in 2010 that helped 347 families remove 68,220 prescription pain pills and 84,510 other abuseable pills from their medicine cabinets. “We are grateful to residents who take advantage of these events as studies suggest, 70 percent of teens abusing pain pills say they get them from friends or relatives for free,” said Dr. Stephen Nelson, SMART Board Chair.

The take back events are part of a National Prescription Drug Take-Back day coordinated through the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Local communities across the nation will host over 4,000 disposal sites.

The Utah State Legislature and Governor Gary Herbert, upon the initiative of Utah County Representative Mike Morley, recently designated April as Clean Out the Medicine Cabinet Month across the entire state. “We are grateful and excited for the support of Representative Morley, as residents follow the spirit of this legislation, our communities will be safer,” said Kevin Sholz, SMART Community Board Vice Chair.

Prescription drug overdoses are the number one cause of injury deaths in Utah, killing more people each year than car crashes. In Utah County, nine percent of residents over 18 have admitted to using medication to manage pain in a way that was not intended by their doctor. Utah has one of the highest rates of pain pill abuse in the nation. Leftover, unsecured pain pills in home cabinets are contributing to these problems.

“We are grateful to all the local law enforcement agencies who host an event in their city. Without law enforcement support, these events would not occur,” said Kye Nordfelt, SMART Coordinator. “We also appreciate the support of volunteers and local businesses like Walgreens, Associated Foods, Phillips 66, Intermountain Healthcare’s Community Councils, and Springville’s drug prevention coalition,” said Nordfelt.

#### ***Take Back Event Locations***

· Saratoga Springs Walgreens, 1410 N. Redwood Rd

- Lehi Fresh Market, 760 East Main St
- American Fork Fresh Market, 135 E. Main St
- Pleasant Grove Macey's, 931 West State St
- Lindon, Walker's C-Store - 25 South State Street
- Orem Macey's, 880 North State St
- Provo Macey's, 1400 North State
- Springville City Civic Center, 110 S. Main St
- Spanish Fork Macey's, 187 East 1000 North
- Payson Walgreens, 132 N. Main
- Woodland Hills, 5 South Woodland Hills Dr. (by the Mailboxes)

Salem City also has a drop box located in the Salem City Office and is available during regular business hours of the city office.

##