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718 Pounds of Drugs Collected at HC DrugFree's Drive-Thru Collection on Saturday, October 22, 2016

**HC DrugFree thanks you for removing medications and sharps from our
community!**



Joan and Dr. Angelino with medications

Open Facebook at Top of This Page for More Take Back Event Photos

In an effort to remove unwanted and expired medications from homes and businesses throughout our community, **HC DrugFree has partnered with the Howard County Police Department since 2013** to hold semi-annual medication Take Back events at our Wilde Lake Village Center location.

When HC DrugFree saw the need, we added a "sharps" (needles, syringes, and EpiPens) collection and moved our team outdoors to offer a convenient drive-thru collection site.

A special thank you to the **Howard County Police** for guarding, weighing, and transporting the drugs. Thank you to Chief Gary Gardner, HC DrugFree's board member Sgt. Tom Claxton, Pfc Andre Lingham, Officer Harrison and many others for working with

us throughout the year. We couldn't do what we do without all of you.

Thank you to HC DrugFree's board member, **Dr. Andy Angelino from the Howard County General Hospital** for sorting and transporting the sharps.



Joan and Dr. Angelino with Sharps

In total, HC DrugFree's team collected **718 pounds of medications** and filled **40 large bins** (27 bins of drugs and 13 bins of sharps).



40 bins of medications and sharps collected

Throughout the years, these events have come to mean so much more to our HC DrugFree family. We look forward to coming together as a community for 4 hours twice a year to wear our bright green shirts, proudly hold HC DrugFree signs, and join together to educate about medication misuse.

We laugh a lot, and yes, we cry a little too. Far too many of the medications were no longer needed because loved ones did not survive their illnesses.

For many residents, disposing of these medications and sharps brings closure or

ongoing grief. Some residents held onto medications and sharps for years because they couldn't face removing them from their homes and dealing with the pain of letting go. Yet, others lost loved ones just this week and were moving forward on auto-pilot doing what they must to get through this difficult time.

We have watched your children grow since 2013, listened as you have talked about your beloved pets' medical conditions, and have celebrated the illnesses you have beaten.

We enjoy being with you, seeing many of you every 6 months like clockwork, and receiving calls from you between collections. We're total strangers and yet, old friends spending a few minutes together. We look forward to your many hugs and even a few kisses.

We were pleased to have a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) representative at our location throughout Saturday's event. The DEA coordinates this national semi-annual event and through their ads and website, guides everyone back to local collection sites such as ours.



A thank you filled with love and pride goes to our **Teen Advisory Council** and numerous **adult volunteers** for standing in the cold wind to safely guide cars through the parking lot. Their commitment to stand for 4 hours while trying to stay warm did not go unappreciated.

If the anonymous couple returning with hot chocolate for our volunteers reads this, please email me. We'd like to thank you for your generosity.

We can't name all our volunteers, but here are a few special people who can't go unmentioned: Dr. Clarence Lam (State Delegation), Dr. Calvin Ball (County Council), Ellen Flynn-Giles (Board of Education), Kevin McAliley (Wilde Lake Village Board), Meghan Skaggs (Howard County State's Attorney's Office), Matthew Stevens (Howard County General Hospital), Kathy Corley-Murray (Friend of HC DrugFree), John Scornaienchi (HC DrugFree's go-to guy), and many many others.

Thank you to our private donor for paying for our air time to run the commercial created by Atholton High School senior Harsh Patel on behalf of our Teen Advisory Council.

Thank you to the **Howard County Health Department** for paying for the event print ads and supporting our work in a variety of ways throughout the years.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to **County Executive Allan Kittleman** and his dedicated staff for their commitment to openly address the increase in opioid misuse

and heroin use in Howard County and Maryland and for tirelessly working with us. Together, we can make a difference and save lives.

Remember, do not bring medications into your home that you do not need, secure the medications remaining in your home, and properly dispose of what you no longer need. Keep your family safe.

Visit HC DrugFree's website for more information on how to dispose of your medications throughout the year.

HC DrugFree Teen Advisory Council Meeting - November 14

HC DrugFree's Teen Advisory Council will meet on Monday, November 14 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Barn (The Columbia Association's Teen Center) in the Oakland Mills Village Center. Pizza provided.

For more information or to register for the 2016-2017 school year go to <http://www.hcdrugfree.org/teen-advisory-council-1/>.

Thank you to our TAC 2016-17 sponsor [Shapiro Zwanetz and Associates -Attorneys at Law.](#)

Substance-Free Pledge Form: One More Tool to Share with Your Child

Parents, please visit the "For Parents" page on HC DrugFree's website to print the Howard County teen-created substance-free sample pledge forms.

These pledge forms are a guide for you and your child to use when discussing your expectations of your child not misusing drugs or drinking alcohol. This is just one of many ways to begin these necessary conversations.

Howard County high school students created these pledge forms for middle and high school students and their parents.

[Click here to go to our For Parents web page.](#)

This Week is National Red Ribbon Week

HC DrugFree encourages you to read more about national Red Ribbon Week, sponsored by the National Family Partnership. This is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation.

Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

In a previous newsletter, we encouraged families and schools to enter the Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest by visiting www.redribbon.org.

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