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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LOCAL MEDICATION TAKE-BACK DAY A SUCCESS**

Saturday's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in Lawrence was a great success. Douglas County residents took advantage of the opportunity to rid their homes of unused and unwanted medications. The Lawrence Police Department, Kansas University Public Safety, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office all sponsored drop off locations for receiving the drugs. This year's spring event proved to be a banner year for collections with over 300 participants disposing of over 875 pounds of medications.

These Drug Take-Back days are national events organized and coordinated by the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Saturday's was the sixth such event sponsored by the DEA. The first was held in the fall of 2010. There have been two events each year since then, one in the spring and a second in the fall. All items collected are placed in secure boxes and picked up by the DEA for destruction.

The service is free to the public and anonymous with no questions asked. We collected expired, unused, and unwanted prescription and over the counter drugs, as well as veterinary medicines. The best part is that by removing unwanted medicines from home cabinets we reduce the opportunity for abuse, and decrease the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses. It also gives participants a way to properly dispose of unwanted medicines in a safe, legal, and environmentally sound way, instead of flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away. It has been a "Win-Win" for everyone involved.

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