

## **PRESS RELEASE**

4-18-08

To: All Media

From: Nurses Healing Our Planet (NHOP)

Re: **Delaware's First Pharmaceutical Take-Back Day**

Contact: Sarah Carmody (302) 368-2333

### **Delaware Nurses Association Sponsors Successful "Medicine Cabinet Clean-out Day"**

The Delaware Nurses Association's environmental task force Nurses Healing Our Planet collected over 10 gallons of pharmaceuticals and countless inhalers, liquid medications, ointments and pet medicine at its one-day medicine take-back event held at the Newark Senior Center.

All pharmaceuticals brought in were disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. In addition, all medicine boxes, containers and plastic bags collected at this event were recycled.

"The event was a huge success," says Michelle Lauer, RN, chair of the NHOP task force. "The amount of drugs collected documents the need for this type event in the community on an ongoing basis. Despite the short advertising lead time and only 4 hours to collect, we received over 43,000 pills." She also adds, "People want to do the right thing and dispose of their unused pills in an environmentally safe manner. I'm glad we could help to facilitate this. Not only does it keep them from being flushed down the toilet and ending up in our water supplies, but getting these medications out of households is important to prevent accidental poisonings and abuse. We look forward to holding additional events."

"It is unfortunate that we had to turn people away after the event ended," said Sarah Carmody, Executive Director of the Delaware Nurses Association. She recommends that individuals, who may have missed the event or have unwanted pharmaceuticals dispose of them according to federal guidelines-place medications in a bag or container with coffee grounds/kitty litter, seal and place in the trash, or store them in a secure, locked container until the next event. Do not flush!

With over 60 participants at this event, additional Medicine Take Back Events will be scheduled in the coming months in all three counties.

A special thank you goes out to the Newark Senior Center, the Newark Police Department, DNA members, the Office of Controlled Substances, DNREC, the Delaware Board of Pharmacy and the DuPont Company.

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The Delaware Nurses Association is a constituent of the American Nurses Association. The DNA supports all registered nurses in Delaware through workplace advocacy, education, legislation activities and by promoting a positive and realistic view of nursing. The Delaware Nurses Association is not a union organization.