



## News Release

April 29, 2013

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### **Clark County Prescription (Rx) Drug Take Back Collects Half Ton of Medications**

The Clark County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Clark County Environmental Services, PREVENT! Coalition, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Battle Ground Police Department and Prevent Together: Battle Ground Prevention Alliance are cheering another successful Prescription (Rx) Drug Take Back on April 27, 2013. The final numbers are in and, with the help of over 50 volunteers at two locations, Clark County was able to service 502 households and collect over 1,030 pounds of medical waste in four hours.

This year's event expanded to provide two drop off locations in the county, Clark College and Battle Ground Police Department. The expansion of services allowed easier access for community members, increased awareness, additional volunteers, and resulted in a 120% increase in collection.

The DEA sponsored Rx Drug Take Back event is part of a larger effort to reduce and prevent prescription drug abuse in America. The 2012 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey found that one in 10 high school seniors admitted misusing prescription drugs in the previous 30 days and the Partnership at Drugfree.org reports one in four teens has misused or abused a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime. More than 70 percent of youth who abuse prescription drugs get them from someone they know.

Responsible medication ownership is a critical component to reduce this misuse and abuse. Proper disposal of medications reduces access for our youth and keeps these medications out of our landfills and water supply. The National Rx Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of these medications. Clark County community members can dispose of their unwanted or out-of-date medications anytime throughout the year at all law enforcement agencies during normal business hours. Visit [www.rxreturnclarkcounty.org](http://www.rxreturnclarkcounty.org) to find your nearest drop off location.

The PREVENT! Coalition would like to specially thank Sergeant Shane Gardner with the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Jim Mansfield with Clark County Environmental Services, Police Chief Bob Richardson and staff of the Battle Ground Police Department, Colleen Dunegan and the Vancouver Public Schools Medical Magnet Students, Strong Teens Against Substance Hazards and Abuse (STASHA), Mt. View High School Prevention Club, Addiction Counseling Education Students of Clark College (ACES), Restorative Community Services, Battle Ground High School Health and Science Occupations Students, BGHS and Prairie HS ROTC cadets, Rocksolid Teen Center, Students of Ridgefield and Hockinson High Schools, the US Forest Service, Ridgefield Police Department and members of the Prevent Together: Battle Ground Prevention Alliance. In addition to these amazing volunteers we would like to thank these local businesses for their support: Central Park and Battle Ground Burgervilles, Battle Ground McDonalds, Fred Meyer, Albertsons, Rocky's Pizza, Detroit Pizza, Starbucks, and Pizza Hut.

To learn more about these efforts please visit our website at [www.preventclarkcounty.org](http://www.preventclarkcounty.org).

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