



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

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OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET COMING NOVEMBER 14TH

All Middlesex County municipalities and Rutgers University will participate in event designed to dispose of unused medication

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2.2 million Americans 12 and older abused pain relievers; those treated for opiates other than heroin surged from 16,121 in 1995 to 67,887 in 2005, a 321 percent increase; and, the misuse of opioids (a range of drugs used for pain control) were responsible for more deaths than cocaine and heroine combined. Prescription drugs are the fourth most abused substances behind only marijuana, alcohol and tobacco.

To help reduce prescription drug abuse in New Jersey, *Operation Medicine Cabinet* has been scheduled for Saturday, November 14th, between 10am and 2pm. In Middlesex County, **every municipality** will be participating, as well as Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick.

Operation Medicine Cabinet will provide individuals in the County with a safe way to properly dispose of unused and potentially dangerous medication. The goal of *Operation Medicine Cabinet* is to enlighten the community on the dangers of prescription drug abuse and to provide a safe means to curtail it.

“Proper control and disposal of potentially dangerous medication is vital, due to the trend of prescription drug abuse with youth,” said Middlesex County Coalition for Healthy Communities Coordinator Linda Surks. Linda Surks’ son Jason experimented with prescription pills and overdosed, leaving his parents’ world in shambles.

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The Coalition is the lead organization assisting in the implementation of this event in Middlesex County. The Coalition is an initiative of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. Statewide, *Operation Medicine Cabinet* is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration New Jersey Division, Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey, the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the New Jersey Prevention Network and, the New Jersey Chiefs of Police Association.

Every day 2,500 youngsters age 12 to 17 try a painkiller for the first time and prescription drugs are more abused by teens than any illicit street drug, except for marijuana. This is according to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“Kids think that taking prescription drugs and over-the-counter medication for their next high is safer than street drugs,” noted NCADD CEO & Executive Director Steven G. Liga. “We need to make these items less accessible, especially since The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) recently found that one in five teens can get prescription drugs within an hour and the most common source is their own home or friends.”

Plastic containers will be provided at each of the drop-off stations for expired or unwanted prescription medicines. A deputy or an officer from participating police departments will be working each station as well as Coalition volunteers, answering questions and providing information about the program.

Prescriptions collected during *Operation Medicine Cabinet* will be taken to a central location to be incinerated.

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Anyone seeking additional information or volunteer opportunities for *Operation Medicine Cabinet* in Middlesex County should contact Linda Surks at 732-254-3344. Additional information on this event can be found online at <http://www.operationmedicinecabinetnj.com>. List of all participating municipalities and locations is located at the end of this release.

About Coalition for Healthy Communities

The Coalition for Healthy Communities is a program of NCADD of Middlesex County, Inc. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. is a private, non-profit health education organization. Established in 1980, NCADD is recognized as the leading resource in Middlesex County for information, education and prevention services on alcohol and drug abuse. Services include: the Jason Surks Memorial Prevention Resource Center, information and referral help line, training, community education programs, early childhood prevention programs Footprints for Life™ and Forest Friends, advocacy for alcoholics and other drug dependent persons and their families, and public awareness campaigns. Additional information is available at www.ncadd-middlesex.org.

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Participating Middlesex County communities

<p>Carteret Carteret Police Headquarters- Front Lobby 230 Roosevelt Avenue Carteret, NJ 07008 732-541-4181</p>	<p>Cranbury Township Cranbury Township 1 Logan Drive Cranbury Township, NJ 08512 609-395-0031</p>	<p>Dunellen Borough Dunellen Borough Police Department 355 North Avenue Dunellen Borough, NJ 08812 732-968-3000</p>
<p>East Brunswick East Brunswick Police Department Lobby (area in front of courtroom) 1 Civic Center Drive East Brunswick, NJ 08816 732-390-2972</p>	<p>Edison Edison Municipal Complex 100 Municipal Blvd. Edison, NJ 08817 732-248-7400</p>	<p>Helmetta Borough Police Headquarters/Boro Hall 60 Main Street Helmetta Borough, NJ 08828 732-521-1805</p>
<p>Highland Park Highland Park Senior/Youth Center 220 South 6th Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904 732-572-3800</p>	<p>Jamesburg Jamesburg Police Department 131 Perrineville Road Jamesburg, NJ 08831 732-521-0011</p>	<p>Metuchen Metuchen Borough Hall 500 Main St. Metuchen, NJ 08840 732-632-8500</p>
<p>Middlesex Borough Middlesex Borough Municipal Building 1200 Mountain Ave. Middlesex Borough, NJ 08846 732-356-1900</p>	<p>Milltown Milltown Municipal Building 39 Washington Ave. Milltown, NJ 08850 732-828-1100</p>	<p>Monroe Township Monroe Township Police Department 3 Municipal Plaza Monroe Township, NJ 08831 732-521-0222</p>
<p>New Brunswick Police Headquarters- New Brunswick Police Department 25 Kirkpatrick Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901 732-745-5200</p>	<p>New Brunswick - Rutgers University Rutgers Student Center - Graduate Student Lounge 126 College Ave. New Brunswick - Rutgers University, NJ 08901 732-932-7211</p>	<p>North Brunswick Township North Brunswick Township Police Department 710 Hermann Road North Brunswick Township, NJ 08902 732-545-3200</p>
<p>Old Bridge George Bush Center for Human Services 1 Old Bridge Plaza Old Bridge, NJ 08857 732-721-5600</p>	<p>Perth Amboy YMCA / Police Department 365 New Brunswick Ave. Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 732-442-4400</p>	<p>Piscataway Public Safety Building 555 Sidney Road Piscataway, NJ 08854 732-562-2319</p>
<p>Plainsboro Township Main Lobby - Municipal Complex 641 Plainsboro Rd. Plainsboro Township, NJ 08536 609-799-2333 Ext. 0</p>	<p>Sayreville Sayreville Police Department 1000 Main Street Sayreville, NJ 08872 732-525-5420</p>	<p>South Amboy South Amboy Senior Center 108 South Stevens Avenue South Amboy, NJ 08879 732-721-0111</p>
<p>South Brunswick Township South Brunswick Police Headquarters 540 Ridge Road South Brunswick Township, NJ 08852 732-329-4646</p>	<p>South Plainfield South Plainfield Police Department 2480 Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield, NJ 07080 908-226-7676</p>	<p>South River Office on Aging 55 Reid Street South River, NJ 08882 732-238-1000</p>
<p>Spotswood Spotswood Municipal Building 77 Summerhill Rd. Spotswood, NJ 08884 732-251-2121</p>	<p>Woodbridge Township Woodbridge Police Department 1 Main Street Woodbridge Township, NJ 07095 732-634-7700</p>	