



For Immediate Release  
October 26, 2017

Contact: Jon Richards  
(414) 416-1695

**Take Back My Meds MKE launches new “Adopt a Drop Box” program to provide more Milwaukee County Residents access to responsible drug take-back locations**  
**- Medical Society of Milwaukee County first to sponsor a drop box -**  
*National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, October 28*

MILWAUKEE COUNTY – Residents in Milwaukee County will join millions across the country in taking back unused prescription medications during National Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, October 28.

To celebrate, Take Back My Meds MKE is launching a new program to ensure every Milwaukee County resident has a secure -prescription medication drop box conveniently located in their neighborhood. The Adopt a Drop Box program provides local businesses and organizations the opportunity to sponsor a secure drop-box at a local pharmacy. This network of drug take-back sites helps combat the opioid epidemic by keeping unused prescription medications out of the wrong hands.

The first partnership in the Adopt a Drop Box program is between host Hayat Pharmacy at their 53<sup>rd</sup> and Burleigh location and sponsor the Medical Society of Milwaukee County. Hayat Pharmacy already has two drop boxes at two other locations, and the Adopt a Drop Box program allows them to host a third. There are currently 46 drop boxes across Milwaukee County, located in pharmacies and police stations.

“At our first two drop boxes, we’ve collected hundreds of pounds of unused medicines that are now securely disposed of,” said Hashim Zaibak, founder and pharmacist at Hayat Pharmacies. “Hosting a drop box is an easy lift for pharmacies, and this program makes it even easier.”

“The Medical Society of Milwaukee County is proud to take this important step making it easier for Milwaukee County residents to responsibly dispose of their unused medicine,” said Kathy Schmitz, Executive Director of the Medical Society of Milwaukee County. “Whether it’s by sponsoring, hosting or using a drop box, we can all make a difference in the fight to end opioid deaths.”

Take Back My Meds MKE is looking for more pharmacies to host drop boxes, and more businesses and organizations to sponsor them. Drop boxes help protect Lake Michigan as well as Milwaukee County Residents. “When people throw unused medicine into the toilet or the trash it tends to end up in Lake Michigan, the source of our drinking water,” said Amber Meyer Smith, Vice President of Programs and Government Relations at Clean Wisconsin. “Using a drop box helps protect Lake Michigan.”

“The easy availability of unused prescription medications is a major factor in overdose, which is the leading cause of accidental death in Milwaukee County,” said Jon Richards, Coalition Coordinator of Take Back My Meds MKE and a local attorney. “Drop box hosts and sponsors can make a huge difference in the opioid epidemic by helping residents dispose of these medications responsibly. This campaign really is about what each of us can do.”

###