**Professional Licensing Agency** 402 West Washington Street Room W072 Indianapolis, IN 46204



Eric J. Holcomb Governor of Indiana Deborah J. Frye PLA Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 31, 2017 Media Contact: Julia Camara (317) 234-1987 Jcamara@pla.in.gov

## IPLA PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITIES TO COLLECT 935LBS OF UNUSED MEDICATION ON NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

Indianapolis, IN – Six drop off locations, sponsored by the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (IPLA) along with local law enforcement and community partners, collected a total of 935 lbs. of unused or unwanted medication during National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. On October 28th from 10AM to 2PM Hoosiers around the state dropped-off old and unwanted prescription drugs at the following locations:

CVS Pharmacy #6658 620 East State Street Pendleton, IN 46064

2000 North Madison Avenue North Vernon, IN 47265

Community Hospital North 7150 Clearvista Pkwy Indianapolis, IN 46256

Parkview Whitley Hospital 1260 East State Route 205 Columbia City, IN 46725

Sam's Club 1101 Windhorst Way Greenwood, IN 46143

Community Surgery Center Pharmacy 801 Macarthur Blvd

Munster, IN 46321

The IPLA and the Indiana Board of Pharmacy work in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Indiana pharmacies, local law enforcement, and community leaders. Together they organize and staff easily accessible locations around the state where Hoosiers can leave unused or unwanted prescription drugs. This past Saturday was the second National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day of the year and collected close to 446 lbs. more of unused medications than the previous Take-Back Day held in May.

Each drop-off location provides a way for people to safely dispose of unused or unwanted medication to prevent possible abuse or diversion. Discarding prescription drugs can decrease the occurrence of drug misuse, overdoses, and other harmful outcomes in our state.

Prior to this initiative, Hoosiers often kept expired and unused medication in cabinets or drawers, or they disposed of old medicines by trashing or flushing them. Both instances can potentially lead to harming the environment or misuse.

Attacking the opioid epidemic is a key element of Governor Eric Holcomb's five pillar agenda. Decreasing the number of drug overdoses is a major step in achieving that goal. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is a joint effort to engage the community and provide safe and convenient ways to throw out old medications.



Pharmacist and pharmacy technician along with Whitley County Sheriff's Department Officer, Jake S., assist at the Parkview Whitley Hospital drop off location

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