

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13, 2017

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**Marquette County Cares Coalition Supports Law Enforcement in UP-Wide Drug Take Back Day**  
*Youth prevention coalition emphasizes the danger of keeping old painkillers*

**MARQUETTE COUNTY, MI:** Drug Take Back Day is coming up on October 28. This is an opportunity for people in our communities to dispose of old painkillers and other prescription pills that are cluttering up the medicine cabinet. With opioid addiction on the rise nationwide, it's important to get rid of any painkillers that are no longer being used. Many people don't realize that opioid addiction often starts at home, with a bottle of pills prescribed by a doctor. Disposing of old painkillers is a way for Yoopers to take part in a community stand against addiction across the UP.

Safely disposing of unused prescriptions is especially vital for families with children and teens, or anyone who has a young person visit their home. Youth may accidentally ingest old drugs, or intentionally experiment with them. This can have dangerous consequences, including allergic reactions, lifelong struggles with addiction, and even death. We don't want to see kids suffer because of a bad choice made with Mom, Dad, Auntie, or Grandpa's old medicine.

On October 28, between 10am and 2pm, you can drop off unused prescription medications at the Michigan State Police Negaunee Post, Ishpeming Police Department, Marquette City Police Department, City of Negaunee Police, Chocolay Township Police, or Forsyth Township Police. Please bring all pills loose in a baggie for easier disposal.

Our coalition is supporting local law enforcement in spreading the word about Drug Take Back Day because we know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Taking just a few minutes to drop off old prescriptions now can save individuals and families a lot of hassle and heartache in the future.

"The goal of coordinating efforts across the Upper Peninsula is to provide support and share resources throughout the region," says Gery Shelafoe, Certified Prevention Consultant and organizer of UP Coalition Network, a collaborative group of youth prevention coalitions that includes our own Marquette County Cares Coalition. "Drug Take Back Day is the perfect example—all our coalitions are working together to spread the word about this important event in every county."

If you're interested in creating a safer, healthier community for our youth, contact Mary Harris with Marquette County Cares Coalition at 906-315-2613 or CTCMarquetteCounty@gmail.com. We welcome the participation of all community members, because everyone benefits when our youth thrive! Happier, healthier young people grow into healthier adults, resulting in an improved local workforce, stable families, and reduced strain on taxpayer-funded agencies like police and social services. Joining our coalition is a commitment of just a few hours per month.

You can find a list of all the Drug Take Back Day sites in the UP at [UPprevention.org](http://UPprevention.org).