

## Community Outreach Newsletter

**An alarming trend is emerging.** Every day, more than 4,000 children and young adults begin experimenting with prescription drugs (SAMSHA, 2008). The trend on Long Island mirrors this national rise in prescription pain drug addiction. Health experts say it is the fastest-growing drug problem in America, ranking only behind alcohol and marijuana as the most-abused substance (Newsday, July 20, 2010). In fact, a new government study finds a 400% increase in the number of people admitted to treatment for abusing prescription pain medication (The Associated Press, July 15, 2010). Prescription medicines taken properly do help heal illness, relieve pain, control disease and bring balance to our lives. But when others take your medications, it can be very dangerous. **Of those teens who abuse prescription drugs, 70% get their prescription drugs from friends and family.**



In an effort to combat the rise of teen prescription drug misuse, Manhasset CASA has partnered with the National Family Partnership's "Lock Your Meds: Be Aware. Don't Share" Prescription Drug Misuse Public Awareness Campaign. **The campaign's primary focus is to educate the community on keeping prescription and over-the counter pharmaceuticals away from our youth.** We are proud to collaborate with Manhasset Public Schools, Manhasset SCA, Town of North Hempstead and the Nassau County Police to educate our community to the fact that when prescription drugs are used improperly, they are dangerous and life threatening.

Recognizing that parents, caregivers and all residents are in a unique position to reduce teen access to prescription drugs because they are found in the home, the campaign includes a **Pharmaceutical Take Back Event sponsored by the Nassau County Police and Town of North Hempstead on Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Manhasset High School.**

Please join your community and clean out your medicine cabinet in an environmentally safe manner while protecting your kids! Please see the enclosed reference card for things you can do to protect your children from the dangers of prescription drug misuse. For more information on the Pharmaceutical Take Back Event, see the flyer on the back of this letter.

If you would like more information about Manhasset CASA or would like to volunteer for the campaign, please contact Manhasset CASA at 516-267-7548 or go to [www.manhassetcasa.org](http://www.manhassetcasa.org).

Very Truly Yours,

**Charles Cardillo**  
Superintendent  
Manhasset Public Schools

**Lisbeth Shibley**  
Executive Director  
Manhasset CASA

**Jon Kaiman**  
Supervisor  
Town of North Hempstead

**Karen Blando**  
Executive President  
Manhasset SCA

**Lawrence W. Mulvey**  
Commissioner of Police  
Nassau County Police Dept.

**Maria Christina Poons**  
Town Councilwoman  
Fourth District



**LOCK  
YOUR  
MEDS™**

**70% of teens who abuse  
prescription drugs get  
them from friends &  
family.**

**Be Aware. Don't Share.**

## **A PHARMACEUTICAL TAKE-BACK EVENT**

**Saturday, October 23, 2010  
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Manhasset High School**

**Join your community and clean out your medicine cabinet of any prescription or over-the counter drugs that may be expired, unused or unwanted. Discard these items in an environmentally safe manner while protecting your kids!**

### **Instructions:**

- Keep all medications in their original containers
- Block out the name for anonymity --- Do not cross out medication information
- Illegal drugs may also be dropped off anonymously

<b>ACCEPTED</b>	<b>NOT ACCEPTED</b>
Prescription medications (controlled & uncontrolled)	Sharps (e.g. needles and Syringes)
All over-the counter medications	IV bags
Medication samples	Bloody or infectious waste
Pet Medications	Pharmaceutical waste not generated by households (e.g., clinics, pharmacies, hospitals, doctors, etc.)
Vitamins & supplements	Radioactive pharmaceuticals
Medicated ointments, lotions, creams & oils	Vaccines
Inhalers	
Liquid medication	
Homeopathic Remedies	
Suppositories	

***Protect Your Children  
Protect Our Environment***

*For more information about how to dispose of pharmaceuticals safely  
call 311 or go to [www.northhempsteadny.gov](http://www.northhempsteadny.gov)*

