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Manhasset CASA Collaborates to Protect Teens from Prescription Drug Misuse

Prescription medicines taken properly help heal illness, relieve pain, control disease and bring balance to our lives. But when others take your medications, it can be very dangerous. In 2006, more than 2.1 million teens abused prescription drugs (NSDUH, 2007). According to Newsday (July 21, 2010), "the trend on Long Island mirrors a 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 substances." And 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 is working with the National Family Partnership to initiate its "*Lock Your Meds: Be Aware. Don't Share*" Prescription Drug Misuse Public Awareness Campaign. The campaign will provide the community with information regarding the health and safety risks of prescription medication misuse with a primary focus on keeping prescription and over-the counter pharmaceuticals away from our youth. "Parents have to understand that for many teens, prescription or over the counter drugs appear to be a 'medically safe high' because these medicines were prescribed by a doctor. All too often, teens combine prescription or OTC drugs with other substances like alcohol and marijuana, which can lead to dangerous and deadly consequences", said Cathy Samuels, Project Director, Manhasset CASA.

CASA's collaboration with Manhasset Public Schools, Manhasset SCA, Town of North Hempstead and the Nassau County Police sends a unified community message that prescription drugs, when used improperly, are dangerous and life threatening. Recognizing that parents, grandparents 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.**

Manhasset CASA's Fall 2010 *Lock Your Meds* Public Awareness Campaign will involve outreach within many sectors of its community including the Manhasset Clergy, business and civic communities. For more information or if you would like to volunteer for the campaign, contact Manhasset CASA at 516-267-7548 or go to www.manhassetcasa.org.



Lock Your Meds: Be Aware Don't Share Collaboration From Left to Right:

Frances B. Reid, Director of Environmental Planning, Town of North Hempstead; Gary S. Shapiro, Detective Sergeant, Commanding Officer, Community Affairs, Nassau County Police Department; Charles Cardillo, Superintendent, Manhasset Public Schools; Lisbeth Shibley, Executive Director and Board President, Manhasset CASA, Jon Kaiman, North Hempstead Town Supervisor; Laura Tranchina, Manhasset SCA Middle School President; Cathy Samuels, Project Director, Manhasset CASA