

For Immediate Release

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**CASA supports National Pharmaceutical Take Back Event
Saturday, April 30th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Prescription drug abuse is our nation's fastest-growing drug problem. As many as one in five teens say they have taken a prescription drug without having a prescription for it themselves. Teens are abusing prescription drugs for a variety of reasons: to party and get high, in some cases, but also to —manage or —regulate their lives. They're abusing some stimulants such as Ritalin and Adderall to give them additional energy and ability to focus when they're studying or taking tests. They're abusing pain relievers like OxyContin and tranquilizers such as Xanax to cope with academic, social or emotional stress. They're abusing prescription amphetamines to lose weight, or prescription steroids to bulk up. And of those teens who abuse prescription drugs, 70% get their prescription drugs from friends and family (PartnershipatDrugFree.org and National Findings SAMHSA 2010).

In an effort to address teen and adult prescription drug misuse, on Saturday, April 30th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) in conjunction with state/local law enforcement agencies and health systems throughout the United States, will conduct a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Manhasset residents are encouraged to turn in unused or expired medication at North Shore University Hospital's Monti Classroom located outside the Main Lobby at 300 Community Drive.

Recognizing that parents, grandparents and all residents are in a unique position to reduce teen access to prescription drugs, CASA supports the take back event as it will keep unused or expired medications out of reach from our youth. In October, 2010, Manhasset CASA's *Lock Your Meds: Be Aware Don't Share* Fall Public Awareness Campaign collaborated with Manhasset Public Schools, Manhasset SCA, Town of North Hempstead and the Nassau County Police to send a unified community message that prescription drugs, when used improperly, are dangerous and life threatening.

For more information regarding the DEA's Take Back Event, go to www.dea.gov or www.manhassetcasa.org.