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Prescription Drug Take Back Event Offers Safe Way to Dispose of Unused Prescription Drugs

GROTON — The Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will hold a prescription drug take back event on Thursday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center located at 102 Newtown Rd.

This event is a free way for people to safely dispose of any unused prescription drugs. It is not considered safe to simply throw medication in the regular garbage; in addition to environmental concerns associated with improperly disposing of medications, local youth may recover these items and use them improperly and illegally.

“This is an extremely important initiative we are undertaking. There is a growing concern that Groton youth are using prescription drugs as a means to get high,” said Coalition Coordinator Michelle Hamilton. “Recent surveys show that an alarming number of young teens (17 percent of 14- to 15- year-olds) in Groton have used pain killers without a prescription.”

Any unused prescriptions or over the counter medications can be brought to the event and they will be safely discarded. All containers must have the original labels and illegal drugs or paraphernalia will not be accepted.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event; if you would like to volunteer please contact Michelle Hamilton at 860-448-4882 ext. 305 or via email at mhamilton@ledgelighthd.org.

The prescription take back event is part of Healthy Groton Month and is open to the community. The event is sponsored by the GASP Coalition, Ledge Light Health District, TRIAD and the Groton Senior Center. Funding is provided by the Southeastern Regional Action Council.

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Ledge Light Health District provides professionally managed comprehensive public health services designed to improve the quality of life and health and safety of its residents. The District service area consists of East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, New London and Waterford, with a service population of over 120,000.

The Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition was formed in partnership with Ledge Light Health District in July 1999 to address substance abuse in the Groton community among the youth population (12 to 18 years of age). The coalition represents a collaboration of dedicated local agencies, parents, teens and other interested community members. The GASP Coalition is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Drug Free Communities grant.