

STANDARD PRESS RELEASE

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Immediate Release

The Big Red Barrel Project now has 78 barrels placed through out Michigan

The Livingston County Community Alliance (LCCA) announced yesterday that it has now placed 78 Big Red Barrels in various locations in Michigan to collect unused medications.

Why is this important? Studies have shown that flushing medications down the toilet or disposing of them in the trash is effecting our ground water. Some municipalities are charging more to filter these substances out of the water. Most important, we must get the unused medications out of the house before they get into the wrong hands. Here at the LCCA, we believe that prescription painkillers can be the gateway to heroin. In Livingston County in 2019 there were 52 overdoses from opioids, in 2020 there were 318.

The Big Red Barrel project originated here in Livingston County over 11 years ago. It started at a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) "Take Back Day". Joe Carney and Terry Murray asked each other why do they; the DEA, only take back unused medications twice per year? Why can't it be done every day? They took their idea to the Under Sheriff at the time, Mike Murphy, now the Livingston County Sheriff. The Under Sheriff told Joe and Terry, that if they collect the unused medications, he will dispose of them.

Joe and Terry went to work, designed a barrel that is secure and tamper proof. They wanted to make the program as convenient as possible. In Livingston County all police stations have a Big Red Barrel. Every Michigan State Police Post has a Big Red Barrel. Numerous municipalities through out the state have a barrel.

A barrel is at Recycle Livingston the first Saturday of each month as well as other community events during the year.

When medications are dropped off, there is no cost and no questions. All that is asked is that the pills are put in a zip lock bag (pills can be mixed). If liquid medication, put enough paper towels in the zip lock to soak up the liquid. Do not mix liquids.

Here at the LCCA, we are proud to say we are doing our part to reduce and prevent youth substance abuse and to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Since the program originated, we have safely disposed of over 50,000 pounds of unused medications here in Michigan. They go to a licensed incinerator.

Please do your part, use the Big Red Barrel. To see a list of BRB locations go to our website.

For more information or if you would like to get involved with the LCCA, please go to our website www.drugfreelivingston.com. For a complete list of all Big Red Barrel locations, see our website.

The Livingston County Community Alliance is a countywide, anti-drug coalition that aims to unite the Livingston County Community to reduce and prevent youth substance abuse and to live a safe and drug free lifestyle. Our purpose is to connect the Livingston County community to establish and promote healthy community norms concerning the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

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