



JACK'S GUALALA PHARMACY TAKES BACK PRESCRIPTIONS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Saturday, April 26th is National Take Back Prescriptions Day. Action Network & Across Ages and Cultures Coalition would like to remind the community that Jack's Gualala Pharmacy is our local site for safely disposing of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to Jack's in downtown Gualala at 39200 South Highway 1. Jack cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked. The phone number is 884-4107. Jack's Gualala Pharmacy is open Monday—Friday for drug drop off.

The National Take Back initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. and Mendocino County, are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

The majority of teens and young adults who abuse prescription obtain them from friends and relatives, often stealing them. According to the 2012 Monitoring the Future survey, about 50% of high school seniors said that opioid drugs (e.g. Vicodin, Oxycontin) other than heroin are fairly or very easy to get. Contrary to what many people think, abusing prescription drugs is not safer than abusing illicit drugs like cocaine and heroin. Like these drugs, prescription drugs can have powerful effects in the brain and body, especially when they are taken in illegal ways, such as crushing pills and snorting or injecting the contents. Truly scary is the statistic that once addicted to commonly prescribed drugs such as oxycontin, if they are able to stop using, the relapse rate is 75-90 percent!

HELP KEEP OUR YOUTH SAFE – Please check your medicine cabinets and take anything that you have stopped using to Jack's any day Monday—Friday.

