

# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lakeview Pharmacy Launches New Drug Take-Back Program for Consumer Drug Disposal**

**Racine, WI September 27, 2010** — In response to news about the presence of pharmaceuticals contaminating the water supply and teenage abuse of prescription drugs, Lakeview Pharmacy is now offering a new drug take back program to help its patients safely dispose of medicines that may be dangerous to others and to the environment.

“As members of the community, pharmacists are in a prime position to ensure the safe and proper handling of medications, from dispensing to disposal,” said Pete Ciaramita Co-Owner of Lakeview Pharmacy. “Unused or expired medications pose risks to our families, communities, and the environment. We welcome everyone in the community to come and talk to our pharmacists about their prescriptions and how to store, use and dispose of them properly.”

Pete is a member of the National Community Pharmacists Association which in April launched a new Protect Your Pharmacy Now! Prescription Drug Disposal to help its members create consumer drug disposal programs for medicines that may be dangerous to others and to the environment.

Patients of any pharmacy are invited to safely dispose of unused and expired medications at Lakeview Pharmacy, free of charge by bringing in the drugs in their original stock containers. The pharmacy will dispose of the drugs using the Sharps TakeAway™ Environmental Return System, a safe, easy method to dispose of unused patient medications in an environmentally friendly way. As of now sharps and ANY controlled substances are not allowed to be disposed of using this method.

The Office of National Drug Control has found that prescription drugs are the drug of choice among 12- and 13-year olds, while a third of all new abusers of prescription drugs were between the ages of 12 and 17. Though it may be argued that the presence of drugs in drinking water is negligible, more and more consumers are disposing of unused medicines by flushing them down the drain, adding pharmaceutical pollution to our waters. In addition, medicines thrown in the trash can end up in landfills if not first picked up by children, pets, sanitation employees, or anyone who rummages through trash.

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA®) represents America’s community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 23,000 community pharmacies, pharmacy franchises, and chains. Together they represent an \$84 billion health-care marketplace, employ over 300,000 full-time employees, and dispense nearly half of the nation's retail prescription medicines.