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Media Release

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“Take Back Your Medicine Event” On Saturday, September 29 at Kitsap Mall and Port Orchard Police Department

A Fast and Anonymous Way to Safely Get Rid of Unwanted Medicines

BREMERTON, WA– On Saturday, September 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Count on Kitsap to Reduce Substance Abuse Coalition, Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office, Port Orchard Police Department, and Federal Drug Enforcement Administration are partnering in a medicine “take back” event in two locations. One location is the Kitsap County Sheriff’s office in the Kitsap Mall, located near the food court. The other location is the City of Port Orchard Police Department, at 546 Bay Street in Port Orchard. This event gives people a fast, free, and safe way to dispose of unused and unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

People returning medicines will not be asked for any information—the take back is anonymous. Medicines cannot be mixed together in containers.

To date, almost 13.5 tons of unwanted medicines have been collected at official Take Back events in Washington State.

Why bother?

- **Left-over medicines can be dangerous to those you love.**
Studies show that most prescription drug abuse occurs when people take medicines that belong to friends and family. In Washington State, prescription medication overdoses have overtaken car accidents as the number one cause of accidental deaths.
- **Improperly discarded medicines pollute our environment.**
 - When you flush medicines down the toilet, you may pollute your groundwater with chemicals that can make their way into your drinking water.
 - Medicines contain chemicals categorized as hazardous waste. In Kitsap County, it is illegal to put hazardous waste into your garbage.

Want to know where you can safely dispose of your unwanted medicines after the take back event? Kitsap County Residents can take medications to several locations in Kitsap and Mason Counties. To get details, call the Kitsap Public Health District at

(360) 337-5235, or visit our website: www.kitsappublichealth.com and search for “waste handling A – Z”.

Want to get involved in advocating for safe medicine disposal? Contact Shelley Rose at the Count on Kitsap to Reduce Substance Abuse Coalition at (360) 337-5230. The Coalition is sponsored by the Kitsap Public Health District and funded by a Federal Drug-free Communities Grant.

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