



# City of Downey

FUTURE UNLIMITED

## Press Release May 5, 2011

Downey Police Collect Over 325 Pounds of Prescription Drugs at “Take-Back” Event.

The Downey Police Department, in partnership with the Los Angeles Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and community volunteers, collected over 325 pounds of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs while participating in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Discovery Sports Complex/Columbia Memorial Space Center. Many potentially dangerous syringes were also collected during the event. All of the collected items will be properly disposed of by the DEA.

Last September, Americans turned in over 242,000 pounds—121 tons—of prescription drugs at nearly 4,100 sites operated by more than 3,000 of the DEA’s state and local law enforcement partners.

This 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. are alarmingly high--more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined, according to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

Press inquiries can be directed to Mark Sauter, Emergency Services Manager, Downey Police Department at (562) 904-2327.