



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Got Meds? Marquette University & MCSAP Give Students, Community Members 9 Reasons Why They Should Drop Them Off**

Milwaukee—As the new school year begins, the [Marquette University Police Department](#) and the Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition ([MCSAP](#)) are giving students and members of the surrounding community nine great reasons to get rid of their unwanted medication in the university's secure drug drop box.

Marquette installed the drug drop box, located in the police station lobby at the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Structure, 749 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, to enable students and community members to dispose of their unwanted medication safely and keep pills out of the wrong hands. Students can drop off unwanted or expired prescription or over-the-counter medication, patches, or ointments; vitamins; non-aerosol medical sprays or vials; and pet medication. The drop box is available 24/7 with no questions asked.



“This drop box helps us to ensure all Marquette students and residents of our neighborhood are safe and healthy,” said Marquette Police Lt. Joe Erwin. “When they don’t need a certain medication anymore, they can drop it off while they’re on campus and know that it will be disposed of properly.”

MCSAP’s drop box is part of its efforts to empower Marquette students and community members to prevent prescription drug abuse and misuse. The coalition also is sponsoring Dose of Reality anti-drug messaging at Marquette men’s basketball games this year, as well as expanding its communication efforts on campus. In 2017, 883 people in Wisconsin died from opioid overdoses, more than the number killed in car crashes, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.



“We are excited about connecting with Marquette students and neighbors so that they become aware of the dangers of prescription drug abuse and can play a part in ending the drug epidemic that has destroyed too many lives,” said Deavon Collins, who’s leading MCSAP’s outreach on the Marquette campus. “That’s why we’re giving students nine great reasons to get rid of their medication in our secure drop box.”

### **Marquette and MCSAP’s 9 Reasons Why Students and Community Members Should Drop Off Their Meds**

Reason #1: Save a friend’s life: Using someone else’s medication is a leading cause of accidental poisonings.

Reason #2: It’s easy: The secure drop box on campus is available 24/7, no questions asked.

Reason #3: You can stop the opioid epidemic: 4 out of 5 heroin users say they got hooked on prescription narcotics first.

Reason #4: Prevent a crime: It's illegal to take medication prescribed to someone else or to supply prescription medication to another person.

Reason #5: Love your brain: Your brain continues developing until you're 25, and misusing meds can impact your academic achievements.

Reason #6: Prevent addiction: Spare pills in a student's bathroom, bedroom, backpack, or purse can tempt someone who is developing a substance use disorder.

Reason #7: Don't be a target: Thieves can't steal your medication if you get rid of it as soon as you don't need it.

Reason #8: Preserve our precious waterways: When you flush medication, it eventually enters Lake Michigan and impacts our drinking water and environment.

Reason #9: It's convenient. Drop off your unnecessary medication in the Marquette University Police Station's lobby 24/7 at the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Structure, 749 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, across the street from the Marquette Alumni Memorial Union.

To learn more about Marquette University's drop box, contact Lt. Erwin at 414-288-5243 or [joseph.erwin@marquette.edu](mailto:joseph.erwin@marquette.edu).

*The Milwaukee County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition ([mcsapcoalition.org](http://mcsapcoalition.org)), is a countywide initiative aimed at reducing youth marijuana use and preventing fatal drug overdoses, with an emphasis on prescription drugs. Community Advocates Public Policy Institute helps to staff the coalition and provide resources for its work.*

*[Marquette University](http://www.marquette.edu) is a Catholic, Jesuit university located near the heart of downtown Milwaukee, Wis., that offers a comprehensive range of majors in 11 nationally and internationally recognized colleges and schools. A Marquette education offers students a virtually unlimited number of paths and destinations and prepares them for the world by asking them to think critically about it. Along the way, we ask one thing of every student: Be The Difference.*

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