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Redstone Highlands Battles Illegal Prescription Drug Use with Proactive Take-Back Program

Effort addresses overwhelming drug abuse problem in Westmoreland County

MURRYSVILLE, Pa. (April 17, 2012) – Redstone Highlands Senior Living Communities Murrysville campus, in partnership with Chief Thomas Seefeld of the Murrysville Police Department, is hosting a Drug Take-Back Day from 2 - 3 p.m. on Friday, April 26 in conjunction with the Westmoreland County Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 27.

One out of every five first-time drug users began their life of drug abuse by taking a prescription drug they found in a medicine cabinet. The number of drug overdose deaths in Westmoreland County reached an all-time high in 2012. Seventy-eight people died of drug overdoses last year and another four deaths ruled undetermined after being suspected of drug use. In the first two months of 2013, the Westmoreland County Coroner's Office recorded 17 drug overdose deaths.

Redstone residents and employees will clean out their medicine cabinets of all expired, unwanted or unused prescription medications. From 2 - 3 p.m. a representative from Redstone and the Murrysville Police Department will be in the Murrysville campus lobby to collect medications in a sealed container.

"In a cooperative effort with the Murrysville Redstone Highlands campus staff, the Murrysville Police Department is committed to providing the seniors a secure, legal, and trustworthy disposal method to safely and responsibly dispose of unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs," Seefeld said. "During this 'no questions asked' event, all of us will be doing our part to

help the environment and to minimize the chances of the misuse or abuse of prescription drugs.”

“The drug problem facing Westmoreland County is a reality that must be faced,” Bryan Evans, campus director said. “We hope this Drug Take-Back day will inspire other organizations alike to do their part in this battle against illegal prescription drug use. Together we can relieve those who are affected by this issue both directly and indirectly.”

On the following day, the police representative will take the medications to the countywide collection event at the Murrysville Library parking lot where it will be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner.

About Redstone Highlands Senior Living Communities

Redstone Highlands is a Christian, non-profit continuing care retirement community (CCRC) with campuses in Greensburg, Murrysville, and North Huntingdon, including Colonial Villa estates at its North Huntingdon community. Redstone Highlands is dedicated to providing living alternatives and high-quality services that help to meet the changing needs of the community. Serving more than 600 residents annually, Redstone Highlands is the region’s largest Continuing Care Retirement Community, offering services ranging from independent living to skilled nursing assistance. For more information, please visit www.redstonehighlands.org.

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