

VILLAGERS MAKE BIG ANTI-DRUG STATEMENT

In a steady rain this past Saturday, more than 400 cars wound their way through the Tellico Village Welcome Center and Kahite Clubhouse parking lots as Villagers turned in 385 pounds of unused and expired prescriptions on Drug Take Back Day.

The event sponsored by the Tellico Community Foundation (TCF), an affiliate fund of the East Tennessee Foundation, was deemed a major success by TCF chair, Joe Beyel, "The Village response was unbelievable, especially with the inclement weather. It exceeded our expectations," he said. "The TCF thanks all the Village residents who brought their unwanted drugs and committed to dispose of these drugs in a safe manner. These meds were effectively removed from harm's way and eliminated the potential for possible abuse"

TCF Advisory Board member, Joe Bogardus who managed the event for the foundation, commented on the broad support for Drug Take Back Day. "The foundation appreciated the POA granting permission for us to use the Welcome Center and Kahite Clubhouse parking lots. Deputy Chief Jimmie Davis and a contingent of Loudon County Sherriff deputies oversaw the disposal of the returned drugs at the Welcome Center. Kahite resident and Monroe County Sherriff Tommy Jones supervised the drug intake at that site. It was really busy all day at both locations."

At the Welcome Center a total of 335 cars carrying 425 Villagers delivered 324 pounds of unwanted prescriptions. Over in Kahite, 77 cars with 94 Villager passengers donated 61 pounds of unusable drugs. The totals for the Village were 412 cars with 519 Villagers removing 385 pounds of worthless drugs from circulation.

Beyel also expressed his gratitude to the foundation's partners, the Prevention Alliance of Loudon County, Align 9 and the Monroe County Prevention and Wellness Coalition for the promotional support and furnishing personnel to help with the collection of the returned drugs. The Tellico Village Lions Club enjoyed a mega haul of discarded pill bottles. The club had representatives at both locations retrieving pill bottles.

“The foundation launched a comprehensive integrated communications effort,” Bogardus said. “The cooperation we received from local Village and Loudon County media was outstanding. It really helped get the word out to the Village.” Mike Worrell of Black Umbrella Design, a Village graphic studio, generated the campaign materials and oversaw their production.

In conclusion, Beyel remarked, “This past Saturday, Tellico Village issued a major anti-drug statement which should make all Villagers very proud.”

#####