

Project Rx expands to new location

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(Photo: File)

Project Rx, which has been collecting unused medications from area residents twice a year, will add a permanent collection site at Greenville Memorial Hospital on Friday.

Greenville County residents get 5 million prescriptions a year, organizers said.

But since Project Rx: A River Remedy began in 2010, more than 6 tons tons of unwanted or expired drugs have been collected, keeping them from being tossed down the drain and winding up in local waterways, where they can be harmful to the environment.

"Many people aren't aware of the dangers of flushing your old medication, but it has a significant impact on our water quality," said Ashley Rhinehart, public relations coordinator at Renewable Water Resources, or ReWa, a main sponsor of the project.

On Friday, a new collection drop-box will be unveiled inside Greenville Memorial near the Upstate Medical Pharmacy. Residents can access it through the front entrance.

This one is in addition to the permanent drop-box at the Greenville County Law Enforcement Center at 4 McGee St., organizers said.

They will replace the two annual collections, Rhinehart said, noting that organizers are looking for sponsors for additional drop-boxes as well to help people dispose of the drugs at their convenience and keep them out of the hands of children.

"By offering a safe, free alternative," she said, "we'll protect our waterways and keep our community safe, year-round."

In addition to prescriptions, the free, secure and anonymous drop-boxes can take over-the-counter drugs, vitamins and supplements, and veterinary medications, but not sharps or syringes.

Since 2010, Project Rx has collected 12,676 pounds of drugs, or about the weight of nearly four compact cars, which are properly disposed of with the help of law enforcement.

Project Rx: A River Remedy is a collaboration of organizations, including ReWa, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, Carolinas Institute for Community Policing, the Greenville County Medical Society, the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, Greenville Family Partnership, Greenville Health System, Greenville Technical College, Upstate Forever, Keep Greenville County Beautiful, The Greenville News, Greenville Journal, Martin Printing, and Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy.

To learn more, go to www.ariverremedy.org or call 864-299-4000.

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