

“Operation Medicine Drop”

WILL TAKE PLACE AT



The Seventh Annual Courage to Speak® Empowering Youth to be Drug Free Family Night 2011



In Partnership with
**The Norwalk Police Department &
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)**

Don't let your medicine cabinet be your child's drug supply. Secure your medications and dispose of ALL unused medications properly at *The Seventh Annual Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to be Drug Free Family Night*. This year's event will feature **Operation Medicine Drop**, a new drug disposal program in Fairfield County in partnership between the Courage to Speak® Foundation and the Norwalk Police Department designed to help keep unused medications out of the wrong hands and protect the environment.

The Norwalk Police Department will be present at the event to collect and dispose of any medications in a safe and non-hazardous manner. Norwalk Chief of Police, Harry Rilling, says, "I encourage anyone who has prescription drugs that are no longer needed or that have expired to bring them to *The Seventh Annual Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to be Drug Free Family Night*. Please make your home as safe an environment as possible."

The Seventh Annual Courage to Speak Empowering Youth to be Drug Free Family Night is a free event and the community is invited. This festive event will spotlight the outstanding work of Norwalk's students participating in *The Courage to Speak Drug Prevention Curriculum*. Students will read drug prevention essays and Speak Out! In addition, students will display drug prevention posters and collages created during their classes. **A complimentary dinner will be served. Please RSVP by calling (203) 831-9700 and visit www.couragetospeak.org**



Date: **Tuesday, March 15th, 2011**
(snow date: March 16th)

Time: **5:30 p.m.**

Location: **West Rocks Middle School**
81 West Rocks Road, Norwalk

Please **RSVP** by calling (203) 831-9700 or for more information please visit www.couragetospeak.org

"Currently, more than 70% of people who use prescription painkillers say they get them from family or friends, often in the home or right out of the medicine cabinets." – **Ginger Katz, CEO & Founder of The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc.**

"Many young persons' first experience with drugs comes from drugs found in the family medicine cabinet. We sometimes lose sight of that fact and do not take recommended precautions to ensure these drugs are not accessible to the other members of our family and friends. Not only can these drugs lead to abuse of and an addiction to other drugs, their consumption can be deadly." – **Harry Rilling, Norwalk Chief of Police**

"Families need to know the local drug dealer is no longer only on the street corner. The new dealer may be your own medicine cabinet. Diverted pain medicines like Vicadin and OxyContin start many on the road to opiate addiction and contribute to the heroin threat throughout New England. Abuse of these pain medications devastates families and communities. Prescribed medicine, particularly pain medications, need to be secured and properly disposed of when no longer needed. The abuse of pain meds stolen from medicine cabinets is as dangerous to families as leaving a loaded gun on your kitchen table." – **Brian Crowell, DEA Assistant Special Agent**

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