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YELLOW JUG OLD DRUGS PROGRAM®

Great Lakes Clean Water Organization
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Michigan Based Clean Water Organization Having a Positive Impact on Proper Collection and Disposal of RX-Waste in the Great Lakes and Beyond

Great Lakes Clean Water Organization started the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program in 2008. Yellow Jug Old Drugs was created to encourage individuals to properly dispose of Rx-Waste rather than flushing unused medications down the drain. The program was created in response to trace amounts of medications being found in municipal water systems and surface and ground water systems across the country. Since 2008 the Yellow Jug Old Drugs Program has collected over 108 tons of Rx-Waste. Proper disposal of Rx-Waste helps keep our drinking water, lakes, rivers and streams clean, keeps our kids safe and makes our communities a better place to live.

The Program is currently available in the Great Lakes region and by Jan 2016 will be available to all states that allow Rx-waste collection at pharmacies. North Dakota will be the first state beyond the Great Lakes region to participate in the program starting in November. Due to the expanded scope of the program beyond the Great Lakes Region, the non-profit organization is changing its name from Great Lakes Clean Water to Great Lakes Clean Water/US Clean Water (GLCW/USCW) The Yellow Jug Old Drugs Program name will remain the same. The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program is the largest pharmacy based drug collection disposal program in the country.

GLCW/USCW is the first non-profit organization in the United States to be licensed as a Reverse Distributor by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Reverse Distributor designation is required to accept controlled substances from pharmacies for proper destruction. GLCW/USCW is one of 27 Reverse Distributors in the country.

GLCW/USCW is now announcing plans to house its corporate office and operations center in Detroit, Michigan. Chris Angel, Founder and President of GLCW/USCW states. "Having our base of operations in the Detroit area will enable us to better serve the pharmacies that we now have on board and provide an ideal location to serve the growing number of pharmacies across the country." According to Angel the location also provides expanded opportunities for education, developing collaborative efforts with other organizations and foundations working on water quality and engaging more volunteers in clean water initiatives. An expansion of staff is also planned to meet the demand.

Angel states. "Water is vital to everyone. When I do a presentation on the topic I start by asking participants to raise their hand if they drink water. All hands go in the air. Everyone wants clean water. This is an environmental issue that working together as a community of concerned, active individuals we can do something about."

GLCW/USCW will soon be announcing a substantial grant coming to the organization from a major Pharmaceutical Company. This is the first time a Pharmaceutical company is providing support for a Drug Collection program. Angel states, "They like our approach and the non-profit model that keeps costs low." Support currently is provided primarily by participating pharmacies. Angel states. "In the near future we believe that more support will come from the pharmaceutical industry as well from individuals who are concerned about water quality." We all know first-hand the benefits we derive from pharmaceuticals, we should all play a part in supporting programs that provide proper disposal of Rx-Waste."

For more information www.GreatLakesCleanWater.org USCleanWater.org

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