

HC DrugFree

HC DrugFree: Keeping Howard County *in the KNOW!*
...knowledge is power, so just say KNOW

Thank You

...to the many volunteers and partners standing with us!

It takes a village to raise a child and protect our families.

Together, we make a difference!

Enjoy Our Event Slideshow!!

Check out the highlights from our October 25 Take Back Day event. HC DrugFree is proud to share photos of our community in action—working together to promote substance misuse Prevention and keep our families safe.

Again, thank you to our amazing volunteers, our law enforcement and other partners, and the hundreds of community members who brought their items to our collection site. You all showed up and made a difference in our community!

Watch the slideshow [linked here](#) or click the image below. The slideshow was created by a former Teen Advisory Council member and now a college student on our staff, Malhar Mandsaurwale.



How many pounds of medication were collected?

In just four hours on Saturday, October 25, HC DrugFree's volunteers and partners collected **1,125 lbs. of medications** at our Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot location.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported **571,054 lbs.** of unneeded and expired medications were removed from homes at events held across the country on that single day.

Since its inception in 2010, the DEA's National Drug Take Back Day has collected nearly **20,391,815 lbs. (more than 10,000 tons) of medications** to help prevent prescription drug misuse and reduce the potential for accidental overdoses and poisonings. Remember, removing medication from your home is one way to prevent drug misuse.

HC DrugFree, the Howard County Police Department (HCPD), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have been partnering on these twice-a-year medication collection events since 2012.

Dates to Remember

November 11, 13, 18, 20 and December 2 - [Classes for Parents, Guardians & Grandparents](#)

November 27 - Thanksgiving

December 8 - [Teen Advisory Council Meeting](#)

FREE Classes for Parent/Grandparents

Starting Soon!! HC DrugFree's FREE online classes for Howard County parents, guardians, and grandparents are back!

What if a parent or grandparent doesn't live in HoCo but their student does? Remember, parents and grandparents living out of the area can join us on Zoom during their lunch breaks too. After each series, parents and grandparents have shared how much they enjoyed these classes and how much they appreciated learning more about how to bond with their students.

The Fall 2025 series will run (Tuesdays and Thursdays): **November 11, 13, 18, 20 and December 2** from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom. While we hope you can attend all 5 classes, we understand if that's not possible.

While the curriculum is for adults with children ages 9-14, **HC DrugFree strongly encourages HoCo adults with students in K-12 to join us**, and again, if possible, to attend all 5 classes. **Some families have attended the entire series more than once because they enjoyed the time together and wanted to learn more about what's happening in our County!**

Guiding Good Choices® is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that helps you build a stronger bond with your child/grandchild, while also providing skills proven to reduce the risk of youth engaging in substance use or

other risky behaviors.

Learn how to:

- Strengthen Family Bonds
- Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards
- Avoid Trouble and Respond to Peer Pressure
- Manage Conflict and Express Feelings Constructively
- Prevent Drug Use in Your Family
- And More!

[Learn more](#)

[Register](#)

**FREE CLASS FOR PARENTS
AND GRANDPARENTS**



Guiding Good Choices®

Taking HoCo Families to the Next Level

Guiding Good Choices® is an evidence-based, interactive prevention program that helps you build a stronger bond with your child, while also providing skills proven to reduce the risk of children engaging in substance use or other risky behaviors. Learn how to:

- Prevent Drug Use in Your Family
- Develop Healthy Beliefs and Clear Standards
- Avoid Trouble and Respond to Peer Pressure
- Manage Conflict and Express Feelings Constructively
- Strengthen Family Bonds
- And More!

This series of five Zoom classes is for **parents, guardians, and grandparents** of 9-14 year olds, but will consider slightly older or younger children on a case by case basis. Adult **or** child must be a Howard County resident.

Class Dates: Tuesdays/Thursdays:

November 11, 13, 18, 20 and December 2

(Participants are encouraged to attend all 5 sessions.)

Time: Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/GGC-Fall2025>

Learn more: hcdrugfree.org/currentevents

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community



Safe Storage of Meds

HC DrugFree gave away 107 medication storage boxes at the October 25 National Drug Take Back Day event!

These boxes help families safely store prescription and over-the-counter medications, reducing the risk of accidental ingestion and misuse.

If you did not receive a storage box from us, we encourage you to use your own secure location, such as a locked cabinet, drawer, or safe, to store medications safely in your home. More boxes will be provided at our spring 2026 drive-thru collection.



Hiring!

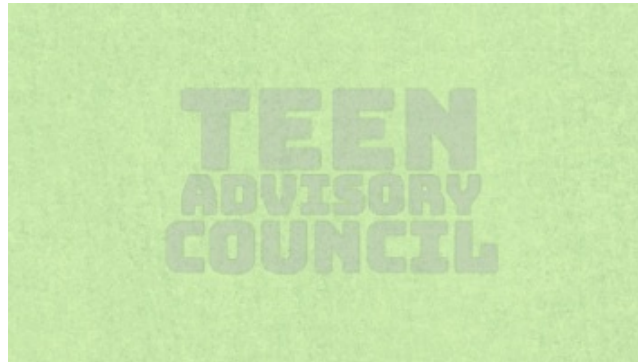
Accepting applications. If you like our work and want to help educate the community, HC DrugFree is looking for a self-motivated Howard County professional to **take the lead on many day-to-day management duties as well as lead educational projects/programs**. Success in this position may lead to career growth and advancement opportunities.

All candidates must pass a background check and possess strong organizational skills, writing skills, and computer skills. A flexible schedule is a must. Transportation required.

Do you have the experience, skills, and energy to lead HC DrugFree - or know someone who does? If so, [apply here!](#)

If you have questions, please put them on your application. No phone calls or emails.

Teen Advisory Council Meeting



HC DrugFree invites **all Howard County students in grades 8-12** to join our Teen Advisory Council (TAC).

To RSVP/register to receive the **Monday, December 8 Zoom meeting link**, [click here](#). Meetings will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Each meeting has a unique link, so members must RSVP/register before each meeting.

Students: If you have not submitted a new 2025-26 registration, please complete [this form](#) to register for the coming school year. **Even if you have been a member for several years, we need a new registration each school year.**

Members of TAC attend our monthly meetings and serve as student ambassadors in their schools and in the community.

Why join TAC?

- Earn Community Service Hours
- Gain experience for job & college applications
- Volunteer opportunities year round

- Be a leader and role model in Howard County

[Learn more](#)

Stay In the Loop: Follow Us Online!

Want real-time updates and powerful stories from our community?

Follow HC DrugFree on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn to stay informed about important events, helpful resources, and prevention news as it happens.

From last-minute event info to tips that keep your family safe, our social media is your fastest way to stay connected. Join the conversation: be informed, inspired, and part of the movement!

One-Click Links!

Facebook: [HC DrugFree](#)

Instagram: [@hc_drugfree](#)

LinkedIn: [HC DrugFree](#)

Twitter: [@HCdrugfree](#)

Donate Today!



Your support allows us to provide our FREE resources and programs to the community. Please donate today by visiting hcdrugfree.org/donate or mailing a check to: HC DrugFree, 5305 Village Center Drive, Suite 206, Columbia, MD 21044

[Donate here!](#)

What Do You Think?

Please take our 2-second survey to let us know what you think of the content provided in this newsletter!

Resources

NAMI Howard County - Mental Health Services:

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Howard County is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals affected by mental health conditions and their loved ones. [Download brochure](#)

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:

Marylanders who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis should call or text 988. Learn more at 988.maryland.gov. Maryland veterans and their loved ones can call 988 and press 1 to transfer to the Veterans Crisis Line. Press 2 for Spanish.



DEA's Drugs of Abuse Resource Guide:

Education plays a critical role in preventing substance use and misuse. Drugs of Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide, is designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly used and misused drugs in the US and provides important information about the harms and consequences of drug use by describing a drug's effects on the body and mind, overdose potential, origin, legal status, and other key facts. [Learn more](#)



[Additional Resources](#)

For more information, contact

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