



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Tellico Community Foundation Sponsoring: Drug Take Back Day, April 24**

Once again, the Tellico Community Foundation (TCF) will sponsor Tellico Village's Drug Take Back Day. The 2021 event is scheduled for Saturday, April 24.

Tellico Villagers will have a chance to turn in their expired and unused prescriptions at the Welcome Center, 202 Chota Road and at the Kathie Clubhouse, 400 Kahite Trail on April 24 from 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. Needles, prescription liquids and syringes will not be accepted. This will be TCF's second Drug Take Back Day. In 2019, more than 250 Village households returned almost 200 pounds of unused prescriptions.

The 2021 event is jointly sponsored by TCF, an affiliate fund of East Tennessee Foundation, along with the Prevention Alliance of Loudon County, Align9 and the Monroe County Prevention and Wellness Coalition. The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) sponsors the overall event nationally. Last year, Americans turned in nearly 493 tons (more than 985,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at 4,500 different DEA sponsored sites across the country.

The objective of the event is to provide a safe, convenient location to dispose of opioids and other medications. Individuals dropping off the unwanted medications will not have to exit their cars. TCF Board members, who will be collecting the items, will be masked and wearing surgical gloves. The returned drugs will be given to law enforcement officials from the Loudon County

Sherriff Department at the Welcome Center and to officers from the Monroe County Sherriff Department at the Kahite Clubhouse.

Representatives from the Tellico Village Lions Club will be on hand to retrieve discarded pill bottles at both locations. The collected containers are sent to an organization in Ohio which repurposes them for prescription use in third world countries. Residents are requested to remove prescription labeling from the containers prior to donation.

Additional background on the Tellico Community Foundation can be found at: <http://www.etf.org/Tellico> and <https://www.tellicolife.org/tellico-community-foundation>. For more information on Take Back Day visit: [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/). Information on Align9 can be accessed at: <http://www.align9.org>. Information on the Monroe County Prevention and Wellness Coalition is available at: <https://www.monroepwc.org/>

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**About East Tennessee Foundation:** ETF is a public charity and community foundation created by and for the people of East Tennessee. Serving 25 counties within East Tennessee, ETF consists of many donors joined together to make the region they love a better place. ETF seeks to build endowments, creating a permanent source of philanthropic funding for the East Tennessee region. For more information, visit [www.easttennesseefoundation.org](http://www.easttennesseefoundation.org).