

# Tellico Village National DEA Drug Take Back Day a Success

Submitted by Tellico Village Community Foundation

Marsha Keiser, chair of the Tellico Community Foundation, said that she was excited to announce that on Saturday, April 27, the Welcome Center in Tellico Village of Loudon County and the Kahite Clubhouse of Monroe County “collected a record volume of unused, unwanted and potentially dangerous medications.”

The total collection — confirmed by Loudon County Sheriff Jimmy Davis during a Committee of 100 meeting held Thursday, May 9 — was more than 400 lbs. of drugs from 385



SUBMITTED BY TELLICO VILLAGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Saturday, April 27, 2024, DEA Drug Take Back Day at the Welcome Center in Tellico Village of Loudon County and the Kahite Clubhouse of Monroe County collected a record volume of unused, unwanted and potentially dangerous medications — 430 lbs.!

cars and 490 people.

Loudon County is consistently among the top three collection sites in the state of Tennessee, and the Tellico Village Welcome Center is the largest collection site in

the county.

“This was the fifth year that the Tellico Community Foundation sponsored this important event,” a press release

See **DRUG, 9**

## Drug From 6

stated. “It is in alignment with the Foundation’s focus on improving the lives of children and (its) support of seniors.”

Both the Loudon and Monroe county sheriff’s offices were on-site to assist with the drug collection. Their role is to safeguard the drugs during the collection process, then turn them over to the DEA who incinerates the drugs in a safe and environmentally qualified location, according to the press release.

“The Monroe and Loudon counties’ Prevention and Wellness Coalitions promoted the event and were on-site to assist and track the program,” the press release stated. “The Tellico Community Foundation appreciates

all their support.”

Since its inception in 2010, the Drug Enforcement Administration’s bi-annual National Prescription Take Back Day has removed more than 17 million pounds of unnecessary medications from nearly 5,000 communities across the country.

Drug Take Back Day has helped Americans easily rid their homes of unneeded medications — those that are old, unwanted or expired.

“These medications can be a gateway to addiction and have helped fuel the opioid epidemic,” according to the press release. “Rather than dispose of the drugs via the waste systems that pollute the environment, Drug Take Back Day is hosted in April and October of each

year.”

### ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Since 2017, the Tellico Community Foundation has contributed approximately \$300,000 to nonprofit organizations serving Loudon and Monroe counties. Its mission is to enrich the Loudon and Monroe county communities by funding programs and projects that provide support for seniors and promote healthy childhood development.

To learn more, donate or become involved go online to [www.tellicolife.org/tellico-community-foundation](http://www.tellicolife.org/tellico-community-foundation) and visit <https://easttennesseefoundation.org/donors/explore-our-funds/affiliate-funds/monroe-county/tellico-community-foundation/>