



**NPW**  **MAY 8-14**  
**2022**  
national prevention week



**Strengthen  
COMMUNITY**



**Build  
RESILIENCE**



**Create  
HOPE**

## **NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK 2022**

**Join Prevention Partnership in recognizing National Prevention Week, May 8 - 14 2022**

National Prevention Week (NPW) is a national public education platform bringing together communities and organizations to raise awareness about the importance of substance use prevention and positive mental health.

Each year, National Prevention Week includes daily themes to focus on major substance use and mental health topics. Continue to check the SAMHSA website for updates on this year's daily themes.

### **How is Prevention Partnership Involved in National Prevention Week?**

Prevention Partnership will focus on different themes each day to join in raising awareness of prevention and positive mental health. Continue to visit <https://www.preventionpartnership.org/NPW-2022> for details on daily events and resources.

May 9, 2022: Strengthening Community Resilience: Substance Misuse and Overd

May 10, 2022: Prevention Substance Use and Promoting Mental Health in Youth

May 11, 2022: Preventing Suicide: Everyone Plays a Role

### **How Can I Get Involved?**

Visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week> for resources, events, activities, and new developments in this year's planning. Check with Prevention Partnership as we continue to promote National Prevention Week in our communities.



# HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR UNUSED MEDICINES

Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse, and overdose. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

## Drug Disposal Guidelines

If no disposal instructions are given on the prescription drug labeling and no prescription drug take-back program is available in your area, then follow these simple steps to throw the drugs in the household trash:

1. Remove the medicine from its original container and mix it with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter.
2. Place the mixture in a sealable bag, empty bag, or other container to prevent medicine from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag.

Visit the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) website ([www.deatakeback.com](http://www.deatakeback.com)) or call (800) 882-9539 for more information and to find an authorized collection in your community. The site also provides valuable information about DEA's National Take-Back Initiative.

## Resources

For more information on preventing prescription drug misuse, go to the following websites:

- [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)
- [www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com](http://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com)
- [www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com)
- [www.campusdrugprevention.gov](http://www.campusdrugprevention.gov)

For more information on the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals, go to the following websites:

*Environmental Protection Agency*

- How to Dispose of Medicines Properly  
[go.usa.gov/xNwXc](http://go.usa.gov/xNwXc)

*Food and Drug Administration*

- Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know  
[go.usa.gov/xNw9z](http://go.usa.gov/xNw9z)
- How to Dispose of Unused Medicines  
[go.usa.gov/xNw9S](http://go.usa.gov/xNw9S)

**Sources:** Environmental Protection Agency, *How to Dispose of Medicines Properly*, 2011; Food and Drug Administration, *Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know*, 2017.



## Additional Tips

- Scratch out all identifying information on the prescription drug to make it unreadable. This will help to protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.
- You must not share your prescription drugs – they were prescribed to you.

## Can I Flush Medicine Down the Sink or Toilet?

If the abovementioned disposal options are not readily available, one option is to flush the medicines down the sink or toilet as soon as they are no longer needed. Some communities may prohibit this practice out of concern over the trace levels of drug residues found in rivers, lakes, and community drinking water supplies.

Do not flush medicines down the sink or toilet unless the prescription drug labeling or patient information that accompanied the medicine specifically instructs you to do so. Please also ensure you are compliant with your community's laws and regulations prior to taking such action.



# Spotlight: Louis Feider and Aimee Bates

Each quarter we feature an interview with a board member and an employee of Prevention Partnership. Read our interview with Board Member Louis Feider and Prevention Coordinator, Aimee Bates.

## What is the most rewarding aspect of your work with Prevention Partnership?

**Louis:** Prevention Partnership continues to be a pioneer in implementing prevention in some of the most high-risk areas in Chicago. Knowing the positive and important impact our programs have is very rewarding to me.

**Aimee:** The most rewarding aspect of working with Prevention Partnership has been working directly with the youth throughout the Westside of Chicago.

## How did you first become involved with Prevention Partnership and what excited you most about working with Prevention Partnership?

**Louis:** I was tasked to oversee a team to refresh the logo, mission statement and website. While developing the mission statement I found myself captivated by their mission and discovered how impactful Prevention Partnership is in executing their programs.

**Aimee:** I first became involved with Prevention Partnership when I volunteered at its 2nd annual Prevention Bowl, where youth from the South and Westside competed in a tournament. As an anthropologist it was very inspiring to see the determination and excitement in the eyes of the youth, I felt compelled to be part of an organization putting the youth first.

## What initiatives with Prevention Partnership are you most excited about?

**Louis:** Telling our story. There are many highly successful programs Prevention Partnership undertakes in the community. Doing so in one of the most challenging yet talented cities in the world is a story that needs to be shared.

**Aimee:** All of our initiatives build value and commitment to our communities; however, the ones dear to me include our Youth Prevention Education Services, and National Prevention Week where the youth we work with takes the lead based on the concerns of youth to create meaningful solutions.

## What's your favorite part of your role with Prevention Partnership?

**Louis:** Collaborating with the Board, who are some of the most empathic and intelligent people I've worked with. Sharing a common goal of making an impact that helps to secure the future of our youth.

**Aimee:** My favorite part of my role is connecting and developing relationships with neighborhood schools and their administrators to provide substance use prevention services.

# Prevention Partnership Youth Prevention Program Highlight in The Austin Voice

Chicago's largest West Side newspaper, [The Austin Voice](#), featured Prevention Partnership's efforts to help high school students learn to resist peer pressure in Too Good for Drugs course.

Students at both Michele Clark Magnet High School (freshman class) and Academy of Scholastic Achievement celebrated their completion of the substance-use prevention curriculum, Too Good for Drugs, a six-week evidence-based curriculum developed by the Mendez Foundation and presented by the staff of Prevention Partnership.

Certificate ceremonies and pizza parties at both schools were made possible through partnerships with DoorDash, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPR), the staff and administration of Michele Clark High School and Academy of Scholastic Achievement, Illinois Senate President Don Harmon (39th District), and Prevention Partnership.

Visit [www.preventionpartnership.org/too-good-for-drugs](http://www.preventionpartnership.org/too-good-for-drugs) for the full article in [The Austin Voice](#).



*Students displaying their Too Good for Drugs Certificates of Achievement.*



*Students at Academy of Scholastic Achievement enjoying their DoorDash sponsored Pizza Party at the conclusion of their Too Good for Drugs course.*

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