FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Month 00, 201X

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**Help Prevent Prescription Drug Abuse in BLANK County***Local organization aims to educate and prevent abuse*

**City, MT—** The rate of prescription drug overdose deaths in Montana has doubled since 2000, and BLANK County is far from immune to this devastating problem. Local organization name is ramping up their efforts to educate the community on the dangers of prescription drug abuse, and prevent it from happening in the first place.

“There is a common misperception that prescription drugs are not as dangerous as street drugs,” said local organization president Jane Doe. “However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report prescription drugs accounted for nearly 52 percent of all drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2013.” Doe also explained that prescription drug abuse is over 15 times deadlier than meth, heroin, and cocaine use combined.

Local organization hopes to educate and empower Blank County residents to work together to combat prescription drug abuse, and ultimately decrease the number of deaths and hospital admissions resulting from prescription drug overdoses.

A powerful but simple first step is to talk to loved ones about how dangerous prescription drug abuse can be. In addition, local organization urges community members to visit ResolveMontana.org to sign the online Pledge to end prescription drug abuse and commit to taking the following steps:

* Safely store all medications
* Always dispose of unused pills in a safe and responsible manner
* Take the exact dosage that was prescribed
* Never share prescription drugs

Nearly 70 percent of prescription painkiller abusers get their drugs from a friend or family member, and most get them for free. But if we all take these steps in the right direction, together we can end prescription drug abuse in Montana.

For more information and helpful resources like conversation starters and a list of permanent prescription drug take-back locations, visit ResolveMontana.org or local organization website.

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