



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, in the state of Florida, 7 residents die each day from prescription drug overdoses; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2005, across the state newborn babies experiencing withdrawal from narcotics has increased 160%; and

**WHEREAS**, regionally, prescription drug deaths are higher than ever before, with over 80% of drug-related deaths associated with prescription drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, area hospitals and treatment providers are overwhelmed by the resources needed to serve increasing numbers of patients addicted to prescriptions; and

**WHEREAS**, unused and expired prescriptions have a negative impact on local public health, safety, and water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, social use, misuse, and abuse of prescription drugs has increased in area communities; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, THE UNDERSIGNED, representing twelve hospitals and four health departments in the counties of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota, proclaim 2011 as the year of the Campaign for Responsible Prescriptions. THE UNDERSIGNED affirm their collective intention to work together to address prescription drug misuse in the region and to serve as models to influence public attitudes about this issue.

THE UNDERSIGNED agree to collaborate in promoting innovative educational offerings to ensure that healthcare professionals in this region have the best information and tools available to effectively address the problem of prescription drug misuse.

THE UNDERSIGNED further agree that during 2011 they will educate patients and staff about proper disposal of prescription medications.

PRESENTED this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2011.

### *Charlotte County*

---

Mary Kay Burns

*Charlotte County Health Department*

---

José Morillo

*Charlotte Regional Medical Center*

---

Thomas Rice

*Fawcett Memorial Hospital*

---

Joe Clancy

*Peace River Regional Medical Center*

### *Desoto County*

---

Mary Kay Burns

*DeSoto County Health Department*

---

Vince Sica

*DeSoto Memorial Hospital*

### *Manatee County*

---

Daniel Friedrich

*Blake Medical Center*

---

Jennifer Bencie

*Manatee County Health Department*

---

Kevin DiLallo

*Manatee Memorial Hospital*

---

Mary Ruiz

*Manatee Glens Hospital*

---

James Wilson

*Lakewood Ranch Medical Center*

### *Sarasota County*

---

Robert Meade

*Doctors Hospital*

---

Mary Ann Conroy

*Englewood Community Hospital*

---

Bill Little

*Sarasota County Health Department*

---

Gwen MacKenzie

*Sarasota Memorial Health Care System*

---

Peter Wozniak

*Venice Regional Medical Center*