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Medication recycling program hits \$10 million mark

Tulsa County's Recycled Medication Program has reached the \$10 million mark in the distribution of free prescription medications, county officials announced Friday. The program has distributed 110,387 prescriptions to Tulsa County residents who cannot afford their medications. The value of the medications is measured by their average wholesale price. The Tulsa County Social Services Department, in conjunction with the Tulsa County Medical Society, celebrated the milestone Friday afternoon at the Fairways Restaurant at LaFortune Park.

As part of the event, the county renamed the Tulsa County Pharmacy to the George Prothro, M.D., Pharmacy of Tulsa County. Prothro is recognized as the founder of the program.

The recycling program began in 2004. It collects unused medications from 58 state nursing homes and assisted living facilities for distribution to eligible recipients through the county pharmacy at 2401 Charles Page Blvd. "This program really helps everyone involved because we prevent the shameful waste of this valuable medicine," said Social Services Director Linda Johnston. "We lessen the impact on our environment and get them to people who really need them."

Also honored Friday were 40 retired doctors and volunteers who have helped transport the donated medications from nursing homes to the county pharmacy.