# Mark Barnes Pharmacist & Owner *Respect Rx* Pharmacies

# Mark, along with his partner pharmacists are very passionate advocates for the respectful approach to substance misuse and mental health treatment. This led them to develop *Respect Rx,* pharmacies that pride themselves on providing dignified, stigma-free pharmacy services to those with complex mental health and addiction issues. Further to this, Mark’s work on the opioid crisis led to the development and implementation of a fentanyl patch return program to help curb diversion of this deadly drug to the streets. This program has received significant local, provincial, and even national attention. In 2015 this fentanyl “patch for patch” return program became Ontario law, and is now a practice standard for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Ontario College of Pharmacists.

# Mark is also heavily involved in addiction education. Using his new website *NaloxoneCare.com* he delivers seminars for various community groups, pharmacy organizations, and other medical professions on this topic. He is a member of the National Advisory Council on Prescription Drug Misuse through the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and serves on the Overdose Task Force with Ottawa Public Health & Eastern Ontario Heath Unit. Mark also works with the Canadian Pharmacist’s Association on medicinal marijuana and opioid overdose policy development. Most Recently Mark and Respect Rx Pharmacies have partnered with St John Ambulance to deliver two national opioid overdose prevention projects that distributes naloxone overdose prevention kits to high risk and underserved communities. Mark’s community work and advocacy has resulted in many awards: “Health is a Community Affair Award” in 2013; Memorial University School of Pharmacy’s 2014 “Alumni of the Year Award;” a prestigious national pharmacy “Commitment to Care” award in 2014 for addiction disease state management and in September of 2019 he was recognized by the City of Ottawa as a Healthy Communities Champion for his dedication to promoting overdose prevention.

**Since being asked to be a regional champion for the Ontario Ministry of Health’s publicly funded naloxone program, Respect Rx has trained over 60,000 people and conducted over 600 community based seminars on proper use of naloxone and the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose.**