

JOIN THE VOICES
FOR RECOVERY:

OUR FAMILIES,
OUR STORIES,
OUR RECOVERY!



National
Recovery Month
Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover
SEPTEMBER 2016

ROAD TO RECOVERY MONTH

Volume 7, Issue 1, Fall/Winter 2016

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

The recovery movement in the U.S. continues to gain ground and it is now gaining traction in other parts of the world. In this issue of the **Road to Recovery Month 2017** we highlight two of our partners that are helping to spread the word about Recovery Month abroad. Their engagement in this observance should breathe new life into our efforts to expand the reach of this celebration in the U.S., beyond its already impressive broad appeal.

We also introduce to you *Focus on Friends*, an Ohio recovery support program that includes the provision of housing for individuals in recovery. They are at the forefront of spreading the news about recovery, and they were one of the 2016 Recovery Month Event Award Program recipients.

As always I am most grateful for the dedication and excellent support that our National Recovery Month Planning Partners give to this effort. I am also going to appeal to you to redouble your efforts in 2017 to try and reach even more people with the recovery message.

We have just witnessed the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, signed by the President on December 13, 2016 – another sign that the substance use disorder field is gaining more ground. The Act provides a \$1-billion state grants effort, over two years, in part, to address the opioid crisis and addiction treatment.



Pictured: Ivette A. Torres

Lastly, this issue will reach you close to the holiday season and I wish only the best to you and your families for the new year; above all, peace and much love.

Be well,
Ivette

FOCUS ON FRIENDS

We welcome **Focus on Friends** from Ohio as a new Recovery Month Planning Partner! Established in 2001 as a private non-profit 501 (c)(3), the agency was originally a drop-in center to serve those living with chronic mental health issues. In the fall of 2015, **Focus on Friends** transformed into a trauma-informed peer-led recovery center for people impacted by mental illness, addiction

and/or trauma. Led by Executive Director, Wayne Ford, **Focus on Friends** provides support, resources and social connection to help people improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and sustain their recovery.

Focus on Friends manages Findlay, Ohio's first two recovery homes - one for men and one for women. The agency also provides messaging training for people in recovery on how to tell



Connection.
Recovery.
Wellness.

their story of recovery. To Mr. Ford, "Recovery is the celebration of forgiving over and over again. Recovery is what you define for yourself to be able to live a life of fulfillment."

In 2016, **Focus on Friends** won SAMHSA's Recovery

Month Annual Event Award Program for its Rally and Walk/Run Events in 2015.

For more information on **Focus on Friends**, go to:
<http://www.focusonfriends1.com/>

SAPTA

Welcome to our International Partner, **Support for Addictions Prevention and Treatment In Africa (SAPTA)**. **SAPTA** originated in 2004 as a training institution of addiction professionals under Dr. William Sinkele in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2015, **SAPTA** became a training institute for the Colombo Plan's International Centre for Credentialing and Education (ICCE) counseling and prevention program.

SAPTA has a multi-level mission including promoting science-based prevention programs and policies; providing addiction treatment services especially to the disenfranchised and vulnerable populations; and promotion of the possibility of recovery. **SAPTA** provides training and works to expand research on substance use disorders and their co-morbidities, such as HIV/AIDs, mental illness, and tuberculosis. **SAPTA** works to eliminate the



misinformed, pervading discrimination and shame around addiction.

SAPTA has over 330 graduates from its addiction counseling diploma program; half who are persons living in recovery. Recovery is of great meaning to **SAPTA**. To Dr. Sinkele, it means "a recovery of one's truest self,

unshackled from the bonds of addiction. It is based on abstinence and [it] means one has begun the journey to wholeness, moving from a reactive being to one who is responsive of the self, others and an Ultimate Power of Love, Compassion and Wisdom."

Visit <http://www.sapta.or.ke/> to learn more.

Faces & Voices of Recovery United Kingdom

Welcome to **Faces & Voices of Recovery United Kingdom (FAVOR UK)**, a new International Recovery Month Partner! Based in Glasgow, UK, FAVOR UK, inspired by Faces & Recovery in the U.S., is a professional and public education movement. **FAVOR UK** tackles issues of social justice, discrimination, and access to services, as well as stigma. Led by Ms. Annemarie Ward, **FAVOR UK** held several Recovery



Month events in 2016 with a combined attendance of 8,000. Events included the **FAVOR UK** Recovery Walk, their annual conference focusing on addiction and recovery for families, and The Sleepover event on the day and night before the walk.

Ms. Ward believes recovery means "reaching my potential, healing from harms and being of service." **FAVOR UK** also helps guide newly formed and growing organizations that are interested in being recovery orientated by providing a multitude of toolkits

that can guide in a variety of areas, such as choosing their organization structure and the pros and cons of the different models.

For more information on **FAVOR UK** visit <http://www.facesandvoicesofrecoveryuk.org>.

JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW...

The Road to Recovery Television and Radio Series, "A Showcase of Events", aired on November 16, 2016.

Facing Addiction in America Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health" launched in November 2016.

The 2017 Recovery Month Website with the 2017 new look will launch on January 3, 2017! Check out the 2017 observance

materials such as banners, logos, fliers, posters, 2017 event submission, Voices for Recovery and the Road to Recovery Television and the Radio Series lineup and more. The toolkit and new television and radio Public Service Announcements will be available in spring 2017.

The Recovery Month Team is engaging international organizations currently doing recovery work

and hosting Recovery Month events, to join the overall effort as International Recovery Month Partners. Recovery Month events in 2016 were held in Canada, Ghana, Kenya, Philippines, and the United Kingdom. We are also currently exploring opportunities in Vietnam and South Africa with other non-governmental organizations interested in recovery issues.

2017 Recovery Month Planning Partner Meetings

January 26, 2017 - at SAMHSA

March 22, 2017 - Teleconference

June 21, 2017 - Teleconference

September 6, 2017 - at SAMHSA

September 7, 2017 - Recovery Month National Kick-off Press Event and Luncheon (TBD)