

OCA Newsletter
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We are concerned about the cost of addiction to individuals, families, communities and our state.

The real cost is a financial burden, plus the toll on human lives.

We are working to make everyone aware of the problem and steps toward the solution.

SPECIAL EDITION

OCA co-sponsors Rally for Recovery Celebration and Jam

Recovery Bill of Rights is available for endorsement

More voters in recovery are registered to vote



Brenda Munden, OCA staff (rt), Chauncey Wallace (lt) and Walt Asbury of The Woods at Parkside, hold the banner signed by Rally participants..



Rally for Recovery Celebration & Jam

Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention and Treatment (OCA) partnered with The Woods at Parkside in Gahanna to host the 2008 Rally for Recovery Celebration & Jam, Sept. 20. More than 700 people paid tribute to sobriety on the lawn at Parkside. It was one of more than 80 rally sites across the nation that day and one of 660 events observing September as National Drug and Alcohol Addiction Recovery Month, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Musicians in seven rock and roll bands donated their time to perform throughout the day while Sue Leighton, Mix 97.1 radio disc jockey, donated her services as emcee. Exhibitors provided free information about recovery services and voter registration was done all day. The rally was free and open to the public.

Parkside Senior Director Chauncey Wallace and Marketing Director Walter Asbury worked with OCA staff for more than six months to plan and co-sponsor the event.

“We are privileged to again work with Parkside to host the largest Rally for Recovery in Central Ohio,” said Donna Conley, OCA chief executive officer. “It is an important time to celebrate the struggle of people in recovery fighting the disease of addiction and to recognize the professionals who work everyday to provide treatment and support for them.”

Five Ohio professionals were presented a Sister Ignatia Award named for the Catholic Nun who was key to the foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous in Akron in 1935. She was the first to admit alcoholics into a hospital as medical patients.

Receiving awards were David Logan, director of Prospect House in Cincinnati and co-founder of Faces & Voices of Recovery-Cincinnati; Hector Flores, founder of Flores & Associates and the Court Alcohol Substance Education Program in Athens; Dr. Tom Pepper, director of Talbot Hall, Ohio State University Hospital East; Lenore Schneiderman, chair of the Human Services Department at Columbus State Community College and visionary of the Community Habilitation Assistant Certificate Program there; and Joe Pratt, a 37-year recovery advocate who is credited with giving personal, moral support to those in rehabilitation programs.

“The Rally for Recovery also highlights the societal benefits of substance abuse treatment and promotes the message that recovery



Keynote speaker Joe Gay, Ph.D., director of Recovery Services in Athens.

from substance abuse in all its forms is possible,” Wallace said.

Conley added, “We also want to take this opportunity to encourage citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective substance abuse treatment for those in need.”



People at the Rally endorse the Recovery Bill of Rights at the OCA booth.

OCA staffed a booth at the rally registering new voters, providing applications for absentee ballots and educating voters as part of a national campaign “Recovery Voices Count.” Conley

mailed pledge cards to more than 250 candidates asking for their support for recovery issues. OCA will publish and mail their findings to voters, Conley said.

Rally participants were asked to sign The Recovery Bill of Rights created by Faces & Voices of Recovery. Brenda Munden, OCA staff, explained the importance of the document and how it may be used to send a message to lawmakers that people in recovery are united as a “constituency of consequence,” they have rights and they vote.

Participants were also asked to sign the Rally banner that went to New York City Sept. 27 to show Ohio’s support for recovery.

“Thousands of people in recovery, their families, treatment professionals and advocates from all over the United States joined together to form a human chain -- a living symbol of recovery – across the historic Brooklyn Bridge and proceeded to a rally at City Hall Park in Lower Manhattan,” said Asbury, who took the rally banner to New York.

For more information about Recovery Month go to www.oca-ohio.org.



Emcee Sue Leighton of Mix 97.1 presents a Sister Ignatia Award to David Logan, director of Prospect House in Cincinnati.



Emcee Sue Leighton of Mix 97.1, center, with singers in the “Radio Surfers” band, Barb Blume, left, and Lee Ann McBride.