



EMBARGOED UNTIL APRIL 22, 2011

Contact: Gwen Donaldson, 202-669-8150
media@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org

ADVOCATES RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AT NATIONAL EVENT TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2011 – *Faces & Voices of Recovery*, the nation's leading addiction recovery advocacy organization, has awarded three activists and one grassroots community organization for their contributions advocating for the rights of people and their families in or seeking recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. The award winners are:

- **Mike Barry**, CEO, *People Advocating Recovery, Louisville, KY*
Mike is using his 40-year career in broadcasting to build an advocacy army of over 5,000 people strong in Kentucky. *People Advocating Recovery* is leading efforts to restore voting rights for people with criminal justice histories in the state.
- **Roland Lamb**, Director, *Office of Addiction Services, Philadelphia Dept. of Behavioral Health, Phila., PA*
Roland leads an internationally-recognized transformation of Philadelphia's recovery-oriented services and programs. The City of Philadelphia supports recovery community centers, sponsors *Recovery Walks!* and is the benefactor of the largest recovery mural project in the United States.
- **Jim Gillen**, Director, *Anchor Recovery Community Center, Pawtucket, RI*
Jim launched RI's first Recovery Community Center, visited by over 4000 people each month. Jim is also one of the founders of *Rally4Recovery*, a day-long recovery celebration held each September.
- **The McShin Foundation**, *Richmond, VA*
The McShin Foundation mobilizes Richmond's recovery community, helping over 1000 people weekly from their church basement-home, delivering a message of hope and providing the tools for recovering individuals to create positive lifestyles.

Award recipients were selected from nominees submitted by organizations and advocates from across the U.S. The recipients were featured at an awards benefit that included the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Administrator Pamela Hyde; Congressman John Sullivan (R-OK); White House Office of National Drug

Control Policy's Deputy Director of State, Local and Tribal Affairs, Benjamin Tucker; SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Director, Dr. Westley Clark; Editor in Chief of theFIX.com, Maer Roshan, and over 200 other recovery movement leaders. The event was co-hosted by the Hazelden Foundation's *Center for Public Advocacy*.

The awards ceremony fosters excellence in advocacy related to recovery from addiction. The event honors the legacies of two trailblazers who dedicated their lives to removing barriers for individuals and families affected by addiction: Johnson Institute founder, Dr. Vernon E. Johnson, and recovery advocate, Joel Hernandez.

The award recipients and *Faces & Voices of Recovery*-supported recovery community organizations (RCOs) nationwide have launched local and state campaigns to support people in or seeking recovery from addiction. Their efforts seek to end discriminatory laws that keep recovering people from jobs, housing and other services. The RCOs and advocates also develop and deliver innovative peer recovery support services including a growing network of recovery community centers. The advocates also educate the public and policymakers about the reality of recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs.

The award recipients were also part of a successful campaign to end insurance discrimination facing people with addiction. That campaign led to passage of the historic *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* and the inclusion of addiction services in the *Affordable Care Act*. These new laws remove barriers to treatment and recovery for the more than 23 million Americans who have yet to get the help they need to recover from addiction.

To learn more about the 2011 America Honors Recovery Award recipients go to http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/about/trainings_events/ahr_2011/awardees_2011.php

ABOUT FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY

Faces & Voices of Recovery is organizing the over 20 million Americans in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, their families, friends and allies in a campaign to end discrimination; broaden social understanding; and achieve a just response to addiction as a public health crisis.

ABOUT HAZELDEN'S CENTER FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Hazelden's *Center for Public Advocacy* exists to improve public understanding of alcoholism and drug addiction by serving as a leading national expert on issues related to addiction, treatment and recovery. In 2009 The Johnson Institute transferred key program, including *America Honors Recovery*, to Hazelden's *Center for Public Advocacy* to keep the Johnson Institute's 43-year legacy alive for future generations.

To learn more about Faces & Voices of Recovery go to <http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/>. Interviews of the awardees are available upon request.

###