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**CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY (CCAR)
RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR SERVICE TO RESIDENTS**

Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN) and Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) honor CCAR at ceremony in Washington, D.C. tonight

Hartford, Conn. (June 18, 2008) – Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) will receive the first-ever Joel Hernandez Voices of the Recovery Community Award today in Washington, D.C. The award, given by Faces & Voices of Recovery, honors the most outstanding recovery community organization in the nation for its innovations and achievements.

Recovery community organizations mobilize the recovery community to advocate for services and policies that support people seeking recovery, their families and friends. CCAR operates four recovery community centers across Connecticut, providing a variety of exemplary services including support groups, personal coaching, family support, social events, educational programming, recovery housing and advocacy opportunities.

“We are very honored to receive this award,” says Phillip Valentine, Executive Director at CCAR. “CCAR’s mission is to put a face on recovery and to provide recovery support services that help people sustain their recovery. Our advocacy work ensures that individuals in long-term recovery have a voice on important issues. Moreover, we offer ourselves as living proof that recovery is a reality in the lives of millions of people.”

The award is sponsored by Faces & Voices of Recovery, a national network of over 20,000 individuals and organizations that works to change public perceptions of recovery, promote effective public policy, and demonstrate that recovery is working for millions of Americans.

“Addiction is a chronic disease, but individuals in long-term recovery can lead healthy and productive lives because of the contributions of organizations like CCAR says Pat Taylor, Executive Director of Faces & Voices of Recovery. “Through their telephone recovery support program, CCAR places weekly calls to new recoverees in Connecticut every week for 12 weeks. During the last year alone, CCAR has mobilized Connecticut’s recovery community to volunteer over 10,000 hours of service to support people seeking

or in long-term recovery. They have served over 2,500 individuals in the last two and a half years. CCAR is a beacon of hope for our nation.”

“When asked if I find the telephone recovery support calls helpful, I can’t say yes enough,” says Constance Carpenter, a recoveree enrolled in CCAR’s telephone recovery support program. “There’s something so supportive about knowing that no matter what happens in my life, there’s someone who genuinely cares about how my recovery is going. My volunteer has shared in every victory I have had in my recovery since the calls began.”

Speakers at the event will include Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN) and Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI). "I'm alive and sober today because of the access I had to treatment and the fellowship of recovering people over the past 26 years," said Ramstad. "I am living proof that treatment works and recovery is real. That's why we've been fighting to break down barriers to treatment for the millions of Americans suffering the ravages of addiction. Every person struggling with addiction deserves the same access to treatment that Members of Congress have."

Reps. Ramstad and Kennedy joined over 200 sponsors to pass the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year. Negotiations are underway with the Senate on the bill.

“In addition to providing much needed support services, recovery community organizations like Rhode Island CARES in my own state are helping to erase the stigma associated with addiction for people still struggling and their families; their advocacy is making it possible for more Americans to get the help they need and enjoy long-term recovery,” says Rep. Kennedy.

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About Faces & Voices of Recovery

Faces & Voices of Recovery is working to mobilize, organize, and rally the millions of people 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. For more information, visit www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org.

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