

# The State of National & State Grassroots Movements and The Power of Our Stories

40th Kentucky School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies Mike Barry People Advocating Recovery





organizing the recovery community

#### Recovery is everywhere!

Our recovery advocacy movement has taken off since advocates from more than 30 states came together in 2001 to found Faces & Voices. Today, you are part of a growing network of more than 30,000 individuals and organizations in the U.S. and worldwide who are organizing and mobilizing to build strong communities of recovery.





organizing the recovery community

While we continue to recognize we have a job to do and people to help let's also remember that the more we promote recovery and let people know that recovery is possible and it's happening everywhere the more we can remove the stigma and discrimination associated with addiction which will help everyone understand that addiction is a disease of the body/brain.





organizing the recovery community

Southeast Region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org





#### A network of recovery community organizations

ARCO unites and supports the growing network of local, regional and statewide recovery community organizations – linking recovery community organizations and their leaders with local and national allies, and providing training and technical assistance to recovery community organizations.





organizing the recovery community

State and local recovery community organizations are educating the public that addiction recovery is a reality for over 23 million Americans, benefiting individuals, families and communities. They are speaking out to remove barriers and to endure that all Americans have a right to recovery.

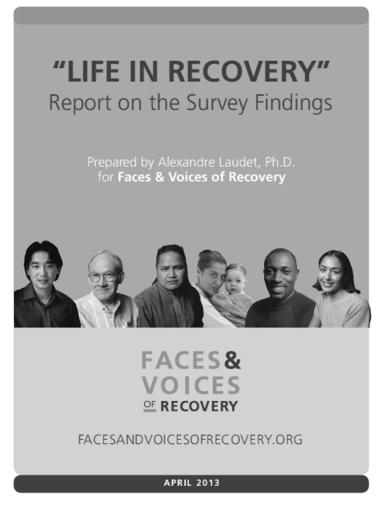


First-Ever Nationwide Survey Documents Dramatic Improvements in All Areas of Life For People In Recovery From Addiction.

Study highlights the critical need for removal of discriminatory barriers to people with addiction and fighting for recovery - costing nation \$343 Billion a year.

http://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org





## People Advocating Recovery

- *Our Mission*-People Advocating Recovery is a statewide group of concerned individuals working to eliminate barriers to recovery from addiction.
- *Our Vision*-Society views addiction as a disease without shame, stigma, or discrimination.



## **About PAR**

- Started with a handful of people
- PAR was formed in 2002 and gained nonprofit status in 2006. Today PAR has over 7,000 members and six chapters across Kentucky.
- **PAR** gives a voice to those in recovery, along with family, friends, and allied organizations in order to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with the disease of addiction.



## PAR-ATC Advocacy Training Center

In January of 2011 we created the PAR Advocacy Training Center (PAR-ATC). The ATC serves those who are in recovery, their families and friends as well as employers, agencies, law enforcement and others who support recovery.

The goal is to provide information about recovery, its principles, and advocacy issues to as many people as possible.

Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities



## PAR Activities & Trainings

- Casey's Law
- Voter Registration Education
- Advocacy Training
- Legislative Training
- Messaging Training
- Science of Addiction and Recovery Training
- Know Your Rights Training

- Comprehensive Website
- Facebook
- Twitter
- eNewsletter
- HFGC (Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati)
- ACH Advisory Committee (In partnership with HFGC and the Legal Action Center in Washington DC)



### **PAR Activities**

Held 8 statewide Recovery Rallies and several rallies in Frankfort on the Restoration of Voter Rights as a member of a huge statewide coalition.





### **PAR Activities**

## Michael E. Townsend Leadership Academy

A three day intensive workshop held during the Kentucky School and two follow-up session during the year to develop future leaders for our field.



## **PAR Rally**

#### Join us for Rally for Recovery 2013

Harbor Lawn Louisville's Water Front September 21, 2013

#### National Hub in 2014!

PROVIDENCE, RI - 2013 NATIONAL HUB EVENT

#### Rally 4 Recovery

September 21, 2013







#### **Great Fun for Everyone!**

- · Live Music, Free Food, Amazing Entertainment
- · Inspirational Speakers, Information Tables & Giveaways
- · Face Painting, Children's Crafts, Reptile Show, Balloons
- · Bouncy Houses, Children and Adult Rides, Rock Wall
- · Recovery Quilt Display & Recovery Tree Dedications
- · Luminaria Candle Procession to WaterFire

















## Why do we do all this?

- Our Stories have power
- By our silence we let others define us
- By working together we can speak with one voice
- For those of us who can it's time to speak out about our recovery, the recovery of our family members, and friends



### 23 Million Americans in Recovery











## Addiction vs. Recovery

What is the percentage of time we spend telling stories of *Addiction* vs. stories of *Recovery?* 

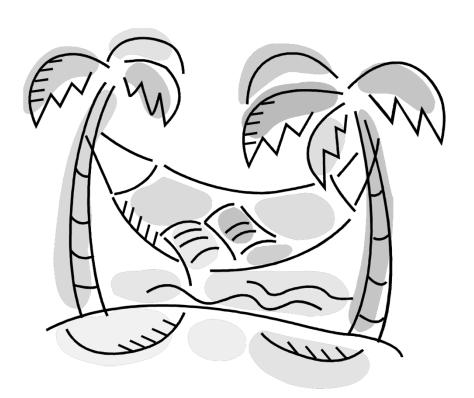


## Painting the Use picture



## Painting an Incorrect Picture





## Talking with others

How do you describe your job to others who know little or nothing about recovery?

## Telling your story

#### "Our Stories Have Power" Workshop

- > Talk about your recovery in an effective, impactful way
- ➤ Tell your story and stay within the bounds of confidentiality and tradition
- > Change the way communities think about substance use disorder issues
- ➤ Help family members, friends, employers and government officials understand the disease of addiction

## Language Matters!











## The Anonymous People



RECOVERY IS OUT - TO CHANGE THE ADDICTION CONVERSATION FROM - PROBLEMS TO SOLUTIONS

## PAR People Advocating Recovery

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