



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, prevention, treatment and long-term recovery from alcohol and drug addiction can offer a renewed outlook on life for those who are addicted and their family members; and

**Whereas**, 2.5 million or one out of seven New Yorkers is dealing with drug, gambling or alcohol addiction, and nationally, substance use disorders impact 22.6 million people aged 12 or older, or 9.2 percent of the population, which is more than the number of people with coronary heart disease, cancer, or Alzheimer's disease combined; and

**Whereas**, recovery is not simply abstinence from a substance, but a lifestyle free from addiction that is also based on wellness and healthy choices; living in recovery also entails meeting an individual's medical needs, providing social, religious and spiritual support for a substance-free lifestyle, and ensuring employment and housing; and

**Whereas**, people who receive treatment for substance use disorders can lead more productive and fulfilling lives, personally and professionally, and studies have consistently found that individualized treatment is essential for people to be successful on their path to recovery; and

**Whereas**, New York State has one of the largest, most comprehensive alcohol and substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery systems in the nation led by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) which oversees 1,550 prevention and treatment programs that treat 110,000 New Yorkers on any given day; and

**Whereas**, New York State is building a recovery movement to reduce stigma, promote wellness and mobilize the recovery community to prove to all New Yorkers that RECOVERY IS REAL; to achieve this goal, a series of statewide focus groups were held to hear the voices of individuals and families in recovery and to develop initiatives to respond to their needs which focus on family and parenting, health, housing, and educational and vocational issues; and

**Whereas**, during recovery month, OASAS is holding several events: the first New York State Recovery Conference on September 14 and 15, Annual Addictions Professionals Day on September 15, the fifth Annual Run for Recovery on September 16, and the fifth Annual Recovery Fine Arts Festival for the full month of September; additionally, OASAS will be launching the Stories of Recovery Media Campaign, where individuals will share their real life experiences of long-term recovery that can inspire others to ask for help so as to improve their own lives, the lives of their families, and the entire community;

**Now, Therefore**, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize September 2008 as

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

and call upon the people in the Empire State to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this year's theme "NYS Voices of Recovery: Real People, Real Stories."



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth  
day of August in the year two thousand eight.

*David A. Paterson*

Governor

*[Signature]*

Secretary to the Governor

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, barriers to accessing treatment facilities are a significant problem with alcohol or drug use disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, such barriers include failures to identify affected people and direct them to treatment, inadequate public and private insurance coverage for treatment programs; and

**WHEREAS**, saluting people who are in recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders, as well as those who have helped them obtain treatment, helps to overcome barriers by educating the community about the benefits of treatment, and affirming the goal that all people with alcohol and drug use disorders should have access to treatment services; and

**WHEREAS**, to help achieve this goal, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the Office of National Drug Council Policy; and the Community Bridges Center formerly called East Valley Addiction Center invite all residents of Gilbert to participate in National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Steven M. Berman, Mayor of the Town of Gilbert, Arizona, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2008 as:

## **“NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH”**

in Gilbert and call upon the people of Gilbert to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this year's theme, “Join the Voices for Recovery...Now!”

In witness thereof, I hereby set my hand and affix the Official Seal of the Office of the Mayor, Town of Gilbert, Arizona, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008.



Steven M. Berman, Mayor

