

# JOIN THE VOICES FOR RECOVERY STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

National  
*Recovery Month*  
Prevention Works - Treatment is Effective - People Recover  
SEPTEMBER 2017

Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1, Spring 2017

**W**e welcome *The Ammon Foundation as a new Planning Partner!* Established in 2012, the Ammon Foundation provides strategic support and removes barriers for individuals in recovery from addiction who are seeking higher education. Under the leadership of Executive Director, Mariel Hufnagel, the Ammon Foundation works tirelessly to bring a face and voice to recovery – as well as advocating for the social rights of individuals still battling addiction, those currently in recovery and for the ones who lost their battle to the disease. The foundation is driven by a deep desire for all people to be able to access and maintain long-term recovery regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation or criminal background.

The foundation has two core programs – The Ammon Foundation Workshop Program and The Ammon Foundation Scholarship Program. The Workshop



The  
**Ammon**  
Foundation

Programs goal is to set a platform where individuals can explore their higher education options and

resources. The foundation provides support from filling out their admissions application to navigating the financial aid process. By means of the Ammon Foundation Scholarship Program, individuals receive financial support to lessen the stresses than can be

associated with finding financial resources associated for higher education.

The Ammon Foundation's resources and social connections facilitate their ability to support individuals through their recovery and helps promote the individuals health and wellness and hopes to influence their desire to live a self-directed life.

The Ammon Foundation's partnership with **National Recovery Month** stems from their belief in the impact that SAMHSA's **Recovery Month** has nationally. Ms. Hufnagel believes this partnership is vital and continues on to say she "would love to continue to be involved behind the scenes. I think it is so important for young women in recovery to be at the table, and I also want to ensure that the important role of education in maintaining and sustaining long-term recovery is being talked about".

Although the Ammon Foundation is new, their passion for being impactful in addiction recovery is cause for attention. They believe that it is through team collaboration thinking outside the box that change can happen. Traditional forms of media (radio, television, newspaper, and word of mouth) are being used to get the **Recovery Month** message out; social media platforms (Facebook, websites, and twitter) play a huge part in reaching the younger generation- whose recovery voices are "a powerful force".

Additionally, The Ammon Foundation is currently planning their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Foundation "Celebration of

Recovery” Gala. We, at SAMHSA, commend The Ammon Foundation for all of its work on behalf of those in recovery. For more information on The Ammon Foundation visit: <https://ammonfoundation.org>

## Promote Recovery Month



Each year, **Recovery Month** creates a [toolkit](#) to help individuals and organizations increase awareness of the power of recovery. The toolkit provides tips and resources for planning **Recovery Month** events and distributing information in communities across the nation including Military, LGBT Community, Trauma Survivors, Families in Recovery, Common Mental Disorder and Misuse Substances.

Have you started planning your event? Our [Media Outreach](#) provides instructions to plan and promote **Recovery Month** activities and events, as well as templates to customize and send to local and online media outlets including logos, banners, and posters. A version is available in [Spanish](#).

This year's toolkit is scheduled to be released in May 2017 and includes a [customizable poster](#).

**W**e would also like to commend and highlight our *International Planning Partner, Seagulls Flight Foundation, Inc.*

Based in Tagaytay City, Philippines. Seagulls Flight Foundation is a residential treatment and rehabilitation center committed to fostering positive, nurturing environment for individuals dealing with substance abuse disorders and behavioral health issues. Founded by Mr. Eddie Castillo, a person in long-term recovery,

whose vision was inspired by the story of a seagull who became an outcast for wanting to fulfill a dream others deemed impossible. Just like the “impossible dream” of flight, Mr. Castillo believes that Seagulls Flight Foundation can help mend broken wings; it can rebuild broken families, and facilitate putting them back together for those who may have lost their way. Alongside his Co-Founder, Ms. Chit Cambre-Castillo, a Human Resource Practitioner and Registered



Psychologist and an addiction professional, Seagulls Flight Foundation is committed to

conquering a positive, productive, and responsible community by restoring broken lives and families affected by drug abuse through a modality of social learning and personal growth within a caring environment.

In the Philippines, the stigma associated with substance abuse and addiction is imposing difficulties and challenges for rehabilitation facilities like Seagulls Flight Foundation. There is a poor understanding about addiction and aggression and violence towards individuals dealing with or associated with substance abuse. Though the war on drugs campaign has been able to bring out in the open that drug use in the Philippines is a social and nationwide issue, it has brought challenges for those in the field and for individuals who are in need of treatment.

This year, for the **Recovery Month** 2017 observance, Seagulls Flight Foundation will collaborate with the International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP) Philippines and other local organizations aiming for a nationwide impact on promoting recovery, such as the Rally for Recovery, Research Symposium on Addiction Studies and Collection of Recovery Stories. Throughout the year Seagulls Flight Foundation hosts recovery events/ activities/ initiatives with monthly themes to focus on specific populations like Celebrating Women in Recovery in March, Families in Recovery in May,

LGBT in Recovery during June and July, Working in Recovery in August, Mental Health and Recovery in October, Community and Recovery in November, and Gratitude in Recovery in December.

SAMHSA's **Recovery Month** Team, congratulates Seagulls Flight Foundation for their dedication to impact and change the lives of those who dream the "impossible dream". For more information on Seagulls Flight Foundation or interested in collaborating visit: <http://seagullsvillage.org/>

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**W**e welcome *Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA as a new Planning Partner!* Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA (MHASP) is a nonprofit corporation that creates opportunities for individuals and family members to effectively respond to the challenges of mental health conditions through our work in five domains: advocacy, direct support to individuals, training and education, information and referral, and technical assistance.

Since 1951, MHASP has been a leader regionally, statewide and nationally in transforming mental health services to become more responsive to the priorities of individuals with mental health challenges and their family members. MHASPs' history is a robust story creating opportunities for individuals and family members to experience hope and overcome the challenges imposed by mental health conditions. They are dedicated to innovating new service approaches, reducing discrimination, restoring hope and self-esteem,

and creating the circumstances for individuals to improve their lives.

MHASP believes Recovery is possible when individuals have the hope to know that the dreams they had before they experienced a behavioral health challenge, are still possible while also managing their behavioral health condition and are empowered to self-direct their own recovery journey.

During this year's **Recovery Month** MHASP will be working to highlight Stories of Recovery via social media. Additionally, MHASP will work with PRO-ACT at their annual Recovery Walk where they will have an Advocacy Booth to help people get civically engaged around the systems issues that most impact them.



Currently, MHASP offers more than 40 services, most of which are peer-to-peer. Statewide and nationally, MHASP provides training, advocacy and technical assistance.

We applaud MHASP for its dedication on mental health. For more information on Mental Health Association of Southeastern PA visit: <http://www.mhasp.org/>

## Editor's Note

Looking to the future.....

For the past 28 years, and for me personally, 19 years, we have been arduously laboring to sustain the **National Recovery Month (Recovery Month)** observance navigating through a number of iterations – some deliberate – others imposed – and yet, as the song says, “we’re still HERE!” So as I reflect on those efforts it leads me always to the question – Is the observance still relevant to the field? Are we contributing to the advancement of the recovery movement? In my view– I would say a resounding YES!



As we look around at the tenor of the times, in my view, it is of utmost importance for the recovery leaders, programs and all individuals in recovery, and their families, to continue to give testimony to the power of recovery- both personally and collectively, and the endless possibilities for all who wish to join the ranks of those in recovery, to have the opportunity to do so. But the possibilities cannot be taken for granted. They must be safeguarded and protected.

That is where the **Recovery Month** observance lends a hand at helping communities, cities and towns, counties and villages see and listen to the recovery voices. They are the voices that not only hold the promise of tomorrow, but, more importantly, raise the possibility of hope for those that still need to find their recovery.

So it is in this Spirit that we welcome our most recent **Recovery Month** Planning Partners featured in this volume, and with that same Spirit that we ask all Planning Partners to spread the news about the benefits of being a part of this effort. If **Recovery Month** is to be further sustained, we must continue to bring in new voices of recovery, and new organizations to help us plan, execute and expand the observance. It is critical for those who believe **Recovery Month** is a significant and vital component to help educate others, reduce prejudice and misunderstanding and reduce barriers to help sustain the effort and keep it relevant. My hope is that we all succeed in moving forward together!

Peace,

Ivette

*Ivette A. Torres is the Associate Director for Consumer Affairs, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA*

### Keeping You In the Loop...

- The Road to Recovery Television and Radio Series
- Toolkit scheduled to be released May 2017
- The Power of Language and Portrayals: What We Hear, What We See [Webcasts](#)

### Set Your Calendars: Ready, Set, Go...

- May 9, 2017 – Non– Denominational Individual and Family Recovery Resources in Grayson, KY
- May 19 – 20, 2017 – Juvenile Justice Involved Youth Mentor Training in Philadelphia, PA
- June 8, 2017 – SAMHSA and EIC Substance Use Disorders and Other Health-related Issues in Primary Care webcast
- June 21, 2017 – *Recovery Month* Planning Partners Meeting (Teleconference 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- September 6, 2017 – *Recovery Month* Planning Partners Meeting at SAMHSA
- September 7, 2017 – *Recovery Month* National Kick-off Press Event and Luncheon, TBD

For more information visit [Recovery Month's](#) website or email us at [RecoveryMonth@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:RecoveryMonth@samhsa.hhs.gov)