

# MARN

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MISSOURI RECOVERY NETWORK

*Silence Hurts. . . Step Up. . . Speak Out!*

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## Let’s Celebrate!

*Submitted by Brenda Schell, MRN Project Director*

**O**n Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, MRN will be co-sponsoring the *Hands Across the Bridge* event which will take place in St. Louis at the Chain of Rocks Bridge from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The recovery community—those in personal recovery, family, friends, treatment providers and other allies—will gather to celebrate the strength they have found to reclaim their lives from addiction, strength derived from a chain of individuals, organizations and institutions that created bridges of hope, freedom from addiction and the reality of recovery. We will join hands across this historical bridge in joyous tribute of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

This gathering has been designated by *Faces and Voices of Recovery*, the national recovery advocacy organization, as the national hub event for Rally for Recovery 2008. Numerous Recovery Rallies will be taking place nationwide on the same day, with over 30,000 people coming together to show support of individuals in long term recovery and to provide hope for those who are still struggling with their addiction. *Hands Across the Bridge* will be a collaborative effort between Missouri and Illinois with activities taking place on the Missouri side of the bridge.

National Recovery Month was established by SAMHSA as a way to focus on recovery and to heighten awareness that treatment and recovery enrich the lives of individuals, families and communities. There will be many FREE activities that day, such as food, entertainment, music and a variety of speakers including a national celebrity, and a prominent elected official from Missouri, both to be announced.

During the day we will also be registering eligible individuals to vote as part of the RECOVERY VOICES COUNT campaign, to assure that recovery voices are being heard at all levels of government. This is a non-partisan civic engagement campaign allowing us to increase the visibility of the recovery advocacy

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**Check out our website  
[www.morecovery.org](http://www.morecovery.org)**

## MRN Unites for Advocacy Day at the Capitol

**M**RN members and supporters of recovery assembled at the State Capitol on April 30<sup>th</sup> for Advocacy Day. Activists met with elected officials in hopes of increasing their legislators' knowledge and understanding of substance abuse addiction, and the value of treatment and recovery support services.

Tom Coderre, National Field Director of *Faces and Voices of Recovery*, Washington, D.C., and Mike Barry, President of *People Advocating Recovery*, Kentucky, opened the day

with a recovery-specific advocacy training.

Twenty-eight individuals participated, visiting 17 members of the Missouri General Assembly. Comments received included "This was a great way to get people introduced to advocacy efforts", and "This was the first time I did anything like this and it sparked a new found interest".

MRN encourages you to initiate contact with your legislators at the local level—they are elected to serve you. Develop your relationship with them in their home offices now and

increase their awareness and knowledge of key recovery issues important to you. Become their expert. The more work you do now at home, the more prepared your lawmaker is when the session begins. Advocacy is not a one day event; it needs to take place year round.

For assistance in contacting your elected official, call MRN at 877-669-2280 or look them up at [www.morecovery.org](http://www.morecovery.org).

YOU hold the power to change public attitudes and policies.  
*Step Up...Speak Out!*

## MRN Hosts Recovery Rally

**O**n Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, advocates from across the state gathered for the MRN Annual Recovery Rally in Jefferson City. The event featured keynote speakers Tom Coderre, National Field Director of *Faces and Voices of Recovery*, Washington, D.C., and Mike Barry, President of *People Advocating Recovery*, Kentucky.

Mr. Coderre, former state Rhode Island Senator, and in long term recovery, also provided technical assistance on how people in recovery, including families, friends and allies can develop effective "messaging skills" to share their message and stories with

policy makers to accurately shape and change attitudes regarding addiction.

He also presented information on *Recovery Voices Count*, a civic engagement campaign. MRN was recently honored by *Faces and Voices of Recovery* with an invitation to participate in this national campaign (see MRN's April 2008 newsletter online at [www.morecovery.org/newsletter.asp](http://www.morecovery.org/newsletter.asp) for details).

In the morning Mark Stringer, Director of the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Marta Nolin, Department of Corrections; Ann Wilson, Missouri Drug Courts Coordinator; and Daphne Walker-Thoth, Committed

Caring Faith Communities shared their efforts, perspective and successes in recovery work.

After lunch, a nine member panel including representatives from 12 Step Programs, Voluntary and Mandated Treatment, Family Recovery, Drug Courts, Faith Based Recovery, Co-occurring Disorders, and Medication Assisted Recovery engaged participants in discussion on the many paths to recovery.

Seventy-one participants dedicated the day to education, networking and promoting recovery in Missouri...a day well spent. It is our collective strength that will ensure our success.

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constituency and the issues that concern us. If you are currently not registered to vote, please contact the MRN office at 877-669-2280 and we will get you registered in time for the 2008 elections! MRN will be sending out candidate pledges to those

running for office to get them on record regarding their stance on key recovery issues. Information collected will be communicated to the recovery community. Finally, we will encourage all who are registered to exercise their voting privilege on Election Day.

Spread the word about both the *Hands Across the Bridge* celebration and the RECOVERY VOICES COUNT campaign. More information on both events is available online at [www.morecovery.org](http://www.morecovery.org) or by calling the MRN office at 877-669-2280.

## MRN Council Member Receives National Award

*Editor's note: Ann Wilson is an MRN Advisory Council member and recently received an award for her dedication to the drug court program. The article below tells more about Ann and the award distinction.*

**M**issouri Judiciary employee Ann Wilson was inducted into the Stanley M. Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> during the closing general session of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NACDP) 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference in St. Louis. Wilson has been the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coordinator with the Supreme Court of Missouri's Office of State Courts Administrator since 1994.

"We are very pleased that Ann has been recognized for her dedicated service in drug court program development," Deputy State Courts Administrator Gary Wait said. "Ann has been instrumental in bringing about the start of the more than 100 drug courts programs operating in Missouri today. Her passion and commitment are an example to all of us."

Supreme Court Judge William Ray Price, Jr., the chairman of the state's Drug Courts Coordinating Commission, added, "Ann has been the driving force behind the rapid expansion of drug courts throughout the state, and nationally, she has been instrumental in organizing and mentoring state drug court coordinators around the country. Her work has had a positive impact on public policy toward drug courts."

Missouri's first drug court was established in 1989 in Jackson County. Missouri now has more drug courts per capital than any other state in the nation, with more than 3,400 active participants in the state's 75 adult, 19 juvenile and 14 family drug courts.

The nation's first drug court was established in 1989 in Miami to process criminal cases of substance-abusing offenders through comprehensive supervision, testing, treatment, sanctions and incentives. The Honorable Stanley M. Goldstein was the nation's first drug court judge, and in recognition of his example, expertise and leadership, the NADCP named the Drug Court Hall of Fame in his honor.



Left to right: West Huddleston, Ann Wilson, and Judge Chuck Simmons

**"Just  
Look  
What  
You've  
Done"**

**M**RN would like to gather names of individuals who have achieved recovery and recognize them in future publications and at the Hands Across the Bridge event on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Chain of Rocks Bridge in St. Louis. Faces and Voices of Recovery has designated this celebration as the National 2008 Recovery Hub event.

Please send names (or first name and last name initial) and sobriety date to Rhonda Flynn (use any of the options below) and let's go CELEBRATE RECOVERY!

Send to Rhonda at:

- 877-669-2280
- 573-635-7257 (fax)
- [rflynn@actmissouri.org](mailto:rflynn@actmissouri.org)
- MRN, 428 East Capitol Jefferson City, MO 65101

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# Addiction Treatment Needed for Traumatized War Vets

**M**any veterans suffering from post traumatic stress disorder and other combat related trauma self medicate with alcohol and other drugs, so therapists need to be aware of the need to treat both addiction and trauma simultaneously, addiction specialists say.

The Newport News Daily Press reported recently that self medication is especially prevalent among active military because soldiers are reluctant to seek mental health counseling, fearing it could hurt their careers.

Addiction specialist Larry Ashley, a Vietnam War veteran, said that combat veterans have unique needs that civilian counselors often are unequipped to deal with. Veterans “give out the trauma, by the very nature of what they do, and receive the trauma,” said Ashley at a recent meeting of the Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Counselors. “In combat, your job is to kill. Knowing you’ve inflicted trauma, or killed someone, can be just as damaging as facing the life-threatening event.”

Community based addiction specialists expect to encounter more war veterans in their work. Newport News Drug Court administrator John Haywood said it typically takes about two years before returning veterans seek help dealing with trauma, either by choice or because they are forced to do so.

Patricia Greer, president of the National Associate of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, warned Congress about the problem in recent testimony. “Some experts estimate that about 40 percent of veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan will experience a mental health problem and that of those...60 percent will have a substance abuse disorder,” she said.

- *Join Together, April 2008*

*It is our collective strength that will ensure our success!*

