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# *Addiction Recovery in the 2008 Elections*

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**Thursday, March 13, 2008**

**ACMHA**

**Santa Fe Summit**



# Goals

- Introduce you to Faces & Voices of Recovery – our national organization
- Discuss how addiction recovery is being talked about in the 2008 elections
- Learn about Faces & Voices non-partisan civic engagement campaign and the impact it's having in the electoral process
- Think about language we use and possible ways to apply this to your work



# Faces & Voices of Recovery

## ■ A Call to Action

- ❑ In 2001, recovery advocates came together with national allies to launch a nationwide advocacy campaign.
- ❑ Today, tens of thousands of Americans belong to local, state and national recovery community organizations. More than 15,000 people and organizations are part of the national Faces & Voices of Recovery campaign.



# Faces & Voices of Recovery

- Changing public perceptions of addiction recovery
- Promoting effective public policy
- Demonstrating that recovery is working for millions of Americans.

*It is our collective strength that will ensure our success, and it is our mission to bring the power and proof of recovery to everyone in America.*



# Faces & Voices of Recovery

- Supports local recovery advocacy
  - ❑ Conducts workshops and trainings
  - ❑ Provides technical assistance
  - ❑ Offers programming opportunities
  - ❑ Communicates regularly (bi-monthly enews, Rising)
  - ❑ Provides information from Washington and around the country on recovery related topics
  - ❑ and much much more!



# Faces & Voices of Recovery

## ■ Raises national profile

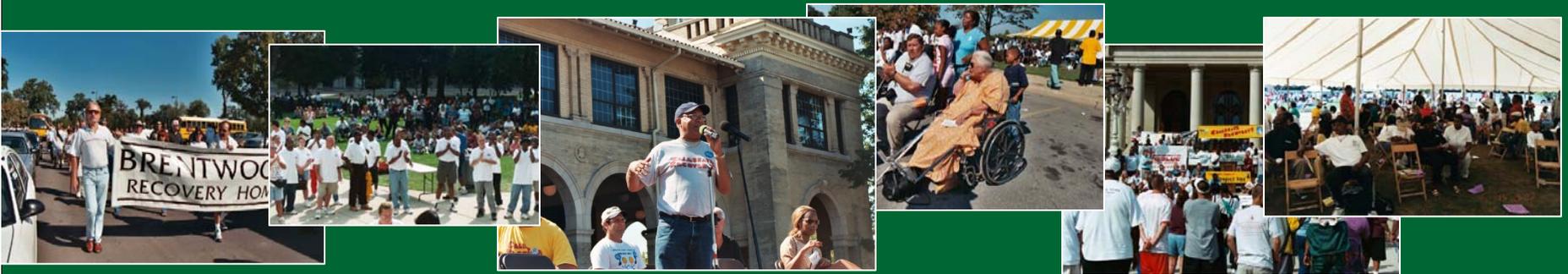
- ❑ September 2005 Summit in Washington, DC
- ❑ Restored funding for peer recovery support services
  - Fighting to restore 2008-2009 funding
- ❑ Promoted long-term recovery through HBO project
- ❑ Helped to pass the Wellstone Mental Health & Addiction Equity Act & the Second Chance Act
- ❑ *Intervention* and *Celebrity Rehab* campaigns
- ❑ Working on federal student financial aid legislation
- ❑ Connect the media with recovery stories
- ❑ Projects: Rally for Recovery & Recovery Voices Count



# Victory!



# Recovery Community

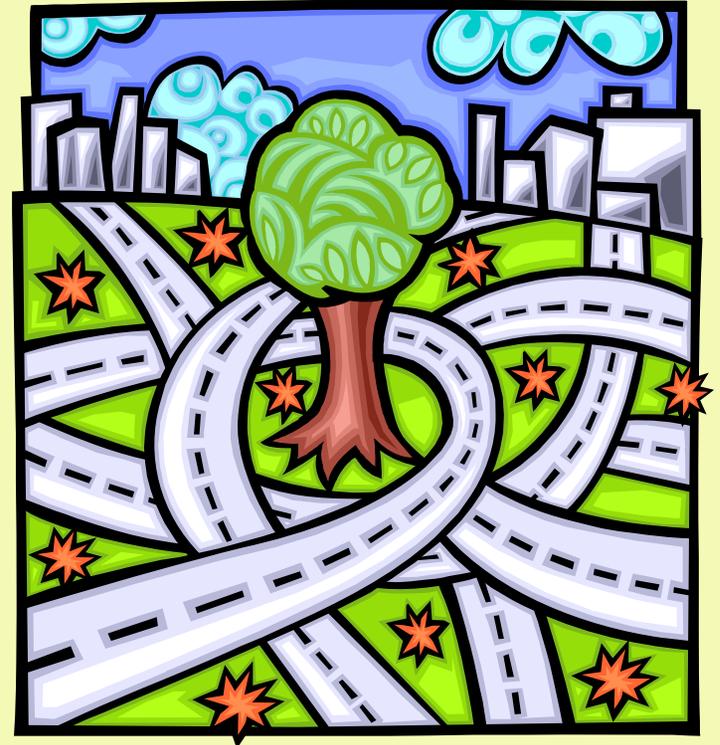


People in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, families, friends and allies



# Many Pathways to Recovery

- Mutual Support groups
- Professional treatment
- Nontraditional methods
- Medical interventions
- Faith based
- On your own
- and many more...



# The Recovery Community

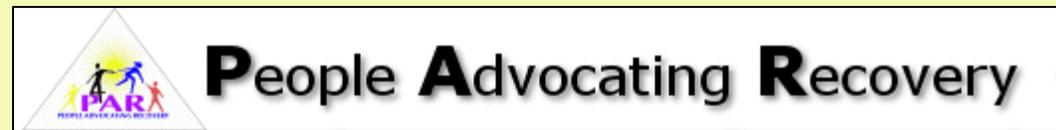
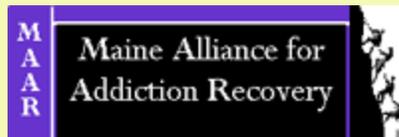
Governs Faces & Voices of Recovery

21 member Board of Directors



# The Recovery Community

Organized in state, regional and local recovery community organizations.



# Recovery Community Organizations

- Independent, non-profit organizations that are led and run by representatives of local communities of recovery on behalf of the recovery community.
  - Public education – putting a face and a voice on recovery
  - Advocacy
  - Peer-based and other recovery support services.

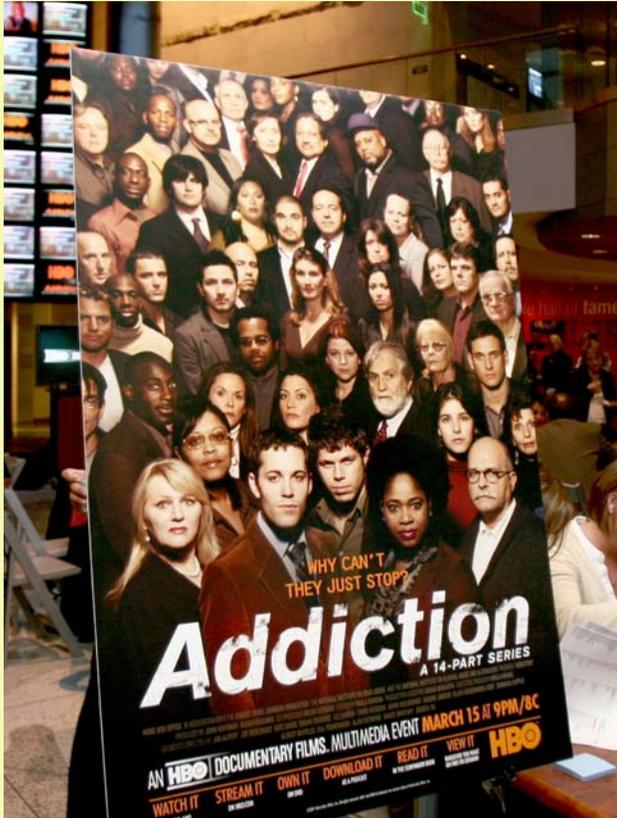


# Recovery Community Organizations

- Almost 200 recovery community organizations around the country
- Ranging in size/budget/scope:
  - 3-5 members to 1,000s of members
  - All volunteer to 20+ staff members
  - \$0 budget to over \$1 million/year
  - Local, regional, state



# HBO Communities Take Action



- 30 Premieres in Major Cities
- Over 500 House Parties
- More than 70 town hall meetings and/or public events



# Rally for Recovery



# Training & Organizing

- Teleconference Series:
  - Editorial Board meetings
  - Restoration of Voting Rights
  - Peer Recovery Support Services
  - Recovery Voices Count
  - Recovery Community Centers
- Message and Media Trainings
- Recovery Bill of Rights
- Science of Addiction and Recovery Training
- Organizing Network
- Online Advocacy Action Center



# Addiction Recovery in the 2008 Elections

- Candidate's Plans & Positions
- Candidate Public Appearances
- Press Reports
- NH Presidential Town Hall Meeting
- Party Platforms



# Whole Health Campaign

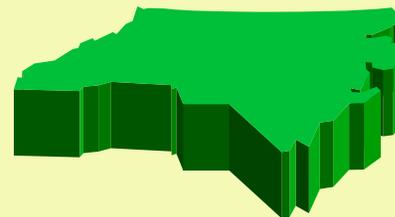
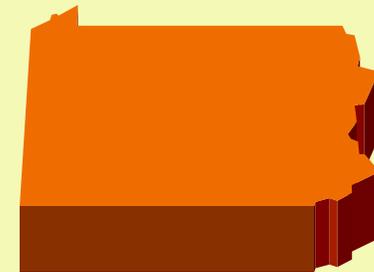
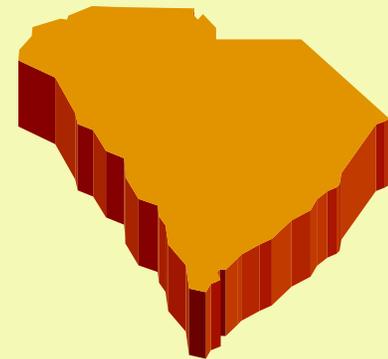
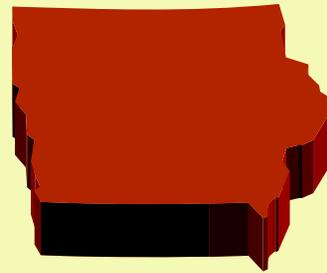


- **Calls on every Presidential candidate and political party to adopt 3 principles:**
  - ❑ Ensure equitable and adequate mental health and addiction treatment coverage in all public and private health care plans.
  - ❑ Support policies that promote recovery from mental illnesses and addictions as integral to overall health.
  - ❑ Commit to investing in America's future through prevention, early intervention, and research on mental illnesses and addictions.



# Organizing in Primary States

- Iowa
- New Hampshire
- South Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- North Carolina



# More Intense Organizing

- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Maryland
- New Jersey
- California\*
- Texas\*



# Modeling Civic Engagement

## NH Presidential Town Hall Meeting



Faces & Voices sponsored in partnership with:

- New Hampshire prevention, treatment & recovery groups
- Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
- NAADAC
- The National Council



# What campaigns said in NH...

About Us - Trainings and Events - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Yahoo!

voicesofrecovery.org/about/trainings\_events/NH\_video/mccain.php

Help

ery - About Us - Trainings ...

Home Feeds (J)

[Teleconference Series: "Recovery Community Centers Part 2."](#)

Register today for this one hour teleconference that will give you expert information about Recovery Community Centers and how they're operated.

**MEMBERSHIP & GIVING**

2007 CFC# 12486

[Donate](#)

[Join Us Online](#)

[Renew Online](#)

[Download an Application](#)

[Organizational Members](#)

**NEWS**

[03.06.08](#)

After more than a decade of struggle, the House on Wednesday passed a bill requiring most group health plans to provide more generous coverage for treatment of mental illnesses ...

**OUR REGIONS**

 Get Active

**Event: December 2nd New Hampshire Presidential Townhall Meeting**

**John McCain**

Campaign representative:  
City Councilor Dan St. Hilaire



**Voice of the Recovery Community Award**

Look for the announcement of the Joel Hernandez Voice of the Recovery Community award winner in early April! [Learn more...](#)

**Rally for Recovery! 2008**

Start planning your 2008 Rally for Recovery! event. This year's Rally for Recovery will take place on September 20, 2008! [Learn more...](#)



# On the Record



## Hillary Clinton

At a town hall meeting, at the Freedom Center in Rock Hill, SC, Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) was asked about insurance fairness to which she responded:

" People who have found a way to overcome addiction deserve our encouragement and help. I know people who have done this and I think its incredible. Who doesn't know someone who has dealt with this? It is a national health problem. Yes, I believe they need access to jobs. Once they've repaid their debt to society, because many of them do have legal issues related to their drug use, but once they've done that, I believe they deserve a chance at a new life. After all, we're here at the Freedom Center. Don't most of our faiths promote finding a new life? I'm not afraid of taking on the big insurance companies either. I have experience doing this."



January 25, 2008

# On the Record



## Barack Obama

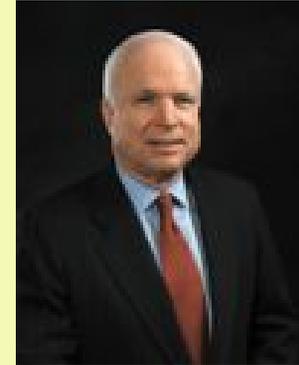
At a town hall meeting, at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, Senator Barack Obama responded to a question about removing barriers to recovery:

"I believe criminal justice, that is the states that have drug courts, offer one way for first time offenders to get their lives back together. But we've got to stop sending these people to jail and start providing treatment. Educating our young people toward prevention is important. Also, I believe in parity for addiction and mental health. This is a national health issue."

January 23, 2008



# On the record



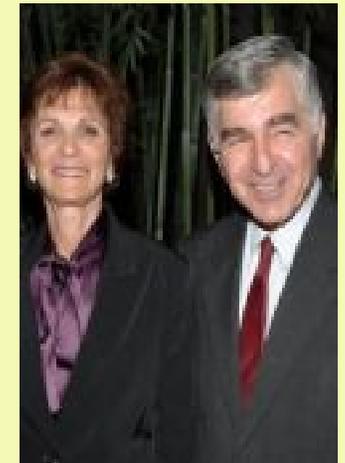
## Lindsey Graham for Senator John McCain

FAVOR SC Board Member Bob Rice asked South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who was campaigning on behalf of presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain in Rock Hill, SC one of the four questions in Faces & Voices' Civic Engagement Guide about ending insurance discrimination and parity. Senator Graham responded, "Addiction is a disease like any other disease. I will work hard to pass a parity bill."

January 12, 2008



# A Constituency of Consequence



# Non-Partisan Civic Engagement



Recovery Voices Count is a part of our national movement to make it possible for even more of our friends, neighbors and family members to experience long-term recovery from addiction by building recognition of the recovery community as a constituency of consequence.



# What is Civic Engagement?

- We will be mobilizing and organizing people in recovery, families, friends and allies to:
  - Demonstrate the reality of recovery from addiction
  - Educate the public and candidates about the human and financial toll of untreated addiction
  - Educate the public and candidates about policies that support long-term recovery from addiction and
  - Raise the profile of the recovery community as an organized constituency that is engaged in our nation's civic life.



# How will we do this?

- Three Common Civic Engagement Strategies Are:

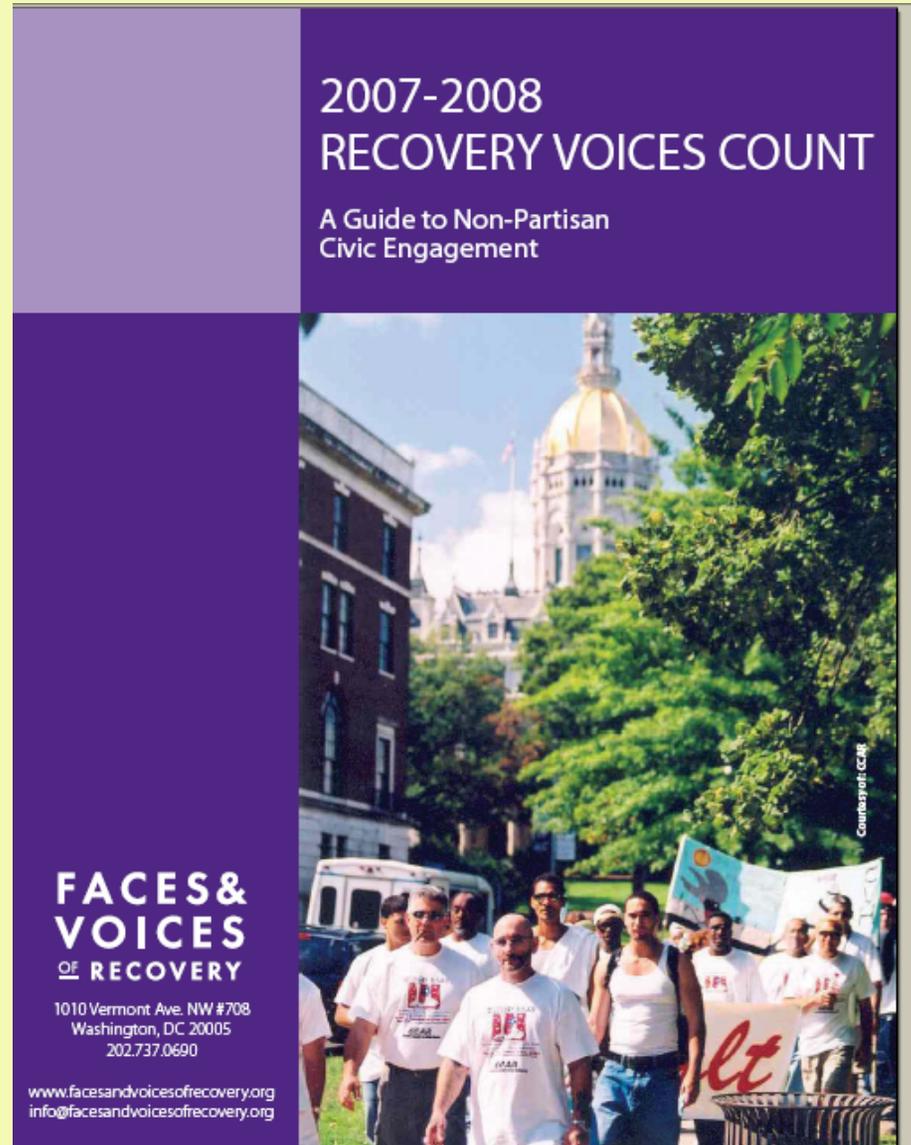
**Voter Registration**

**Voter Education**

**Voter Participation**



A step by  
step guide  
teaches  
advocates  
how to  
organize  
successful  
events...



# Voter Registration

- Successful civic engagement campaigns start with registering people to vote.
- Recovery Voices Count contains detailed information about:



- ◆ who's eligible to vote
- ◆ how to conduct a registration drive
- ◆ overcoming objections to registering
- ◆ keeping track of who you register and more!



# Voter Education

Education is a powerful predictor of civic engagement. The more people know about the issues that affect them, the more likely it is that they will participate in civic affairs. If we expect those who we register to vote to exercise that right, then we must provide them with good information about the issues they care about and the candidates' positions on those issues.



# Voter Education

- **Attend Campaign Events, Forums, and Town Meetings**  
Organizing to create a unified presence and convey a consistent message at events.
- **Encourage Local Media to Focus on Our Issues**  
Providing information to the media about addiction prevention, treatment and recovery issues.
- **Debates**  
Making sure that issues that are important to the recovery community are raised at candidate debates.
- **Organize an Event**  
Planning a rally or other event can attract the media and public attention addiction recovery issues.



# Voter Education

## 5 Questions for candidates and Candidate Pledge



# Five Questions

## CALL TO ACTION



# 5

## FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

Use the following five questions to ask candidates for local, state and federal office about key recovery issues.

- 1) Untreated addiction is the cause of other problems and illnesses like heart disease, lower work productivity, overcrowded jails and broken families. Yet millions of Americans can't access the treatment and recovery services they need. *If elected, will you support an increase in funding to ensure that treatment and recovery services are available to all who need them?*
- 2) Many in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, myself included, have experienced insurance discrimination, which means we have been denied life-saving treatments. *Will you vote for a bill to end insurance discrimination by offering the same coverage – parity – for addiction services as for other health issues?*
- 3) The war on drugs has proven that despite spending \$40 billion a year to fight it, drug use has not decreased. America's mayors, along with local law enforcement officials, are pushing for a new approach that puts an emphasis on treatment and alternatives to jail. *Do you agree or disagree with this new direction and why?*
- 4) Millions of Americans are in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, yet many still find it difficult to get an education, a good job, or health insurance due to discriminatory policies and laws. *Do you support the repeal of these laws, which basically prevent people who have paid their debt to society from contributing to their families and communities in a positive way?*
- 5) Recovery support services have been critical to helping people sustain their recovery from addiction for the long term. The President has eliminated funding for recovery community organizations providing these services from his 2009 budget. *Do you support restoring this funding and extending the Recovery Community Services Program which has proven to be successful in communities across the country?*

For more information on what you can do to get involved, go to  
[www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)  
or email [info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](mailto:info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)



# Candidate Pledge

## RECOVERY VOICES COUNT



### CANDIDATE PLEDGE

#### A Healthier and Safer America: Solving our Alcohol and Drug Problems

Recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs is a real achievement for millions of Americans. There is hope for families affected by addiction, and for healthier and safer communities – if we treat addiction as the health crisis that it is.

Our failure to provide help to the over 21 million Americans who need it is costly to our nation and causes a host of other problems and illnesses – heart disease, lower work productivity, overcrowded jails and broken families. Access to recovery and support services should be readily available to all Americans who want it.

*If elected, I pledge to:*

- 1) Ensure coverage for equitable and effective addiction prevention, treatment and recovery care in all public and private health care plans
- 2) Fund addiction prevention, early intervention and research as an investment in America's future
- 3) Implement policies that promote long-term recovery from addiction as integral to overall health and end the criminalization of addiction
- 4) Prohibit discrimination against people in long-term recovery who seek a brighter future for themselves and their families through education, gainful employment, safe housing and health insurance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a candidate for: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

[www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)



# Voter Participation

- We can register people to vote and give them all of the information in the world, but if they stay home on Election Day, then we've not done a good job of engaging them as citizens. This is called Get-Out-The-Vote.
- Recovery Voices Count provides strategies and techniques for getting people to the polls to exercise their right to vote.

# GOTV

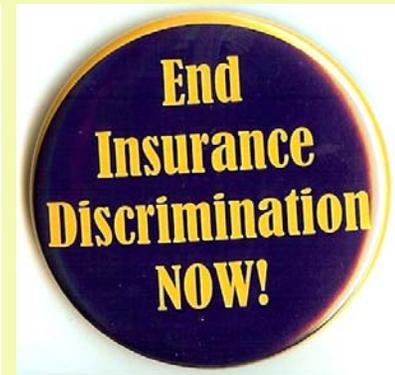
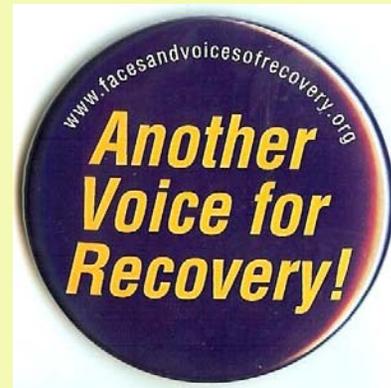


# T-Shirts



# Buttons and Stickers

Merchandise can be ordered at the  
Faces & Voices Website



# Keeping it Non-Partisan

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity organizations are strictly forbidden from engaging in any political activity in support of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.
- However, 501(c)(3) public charity organizations can engage in non-partisan voter education activity and in a limited amount of lobbying.



# Language Matters!

*“Words have immense power to wound or heal...The right words catalyze personal transformation and offer invitations to citizenship and community service. The wrong words stigmatize and dis-empower.”*



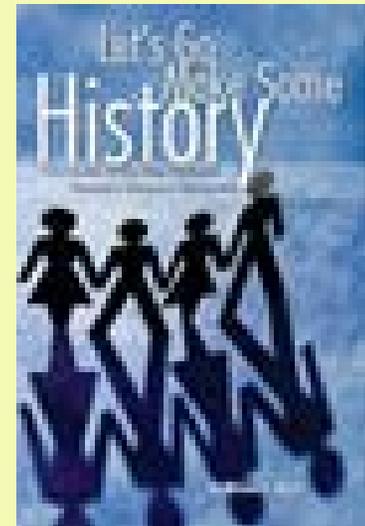
Bill White, Author and  
Recovery Advocate  
*RISING, Winter 2007*



# Thinking about language

## Words/Concepts We Need to Abandon

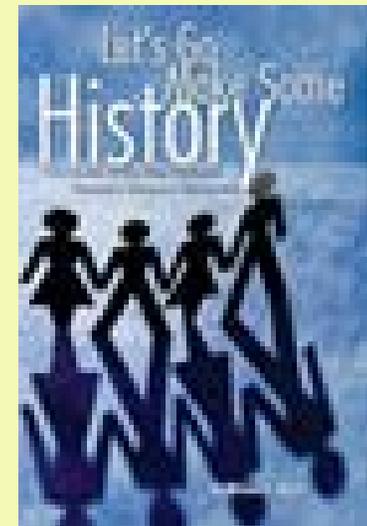
- ❑ Alcoholic / Addict
- ❑ Abuse
- ❑ Untreated Alcoholics/Untreated Addicts
- ❑ The Language of Self-Pity



# Thinking about language

## Words/Concepts We Need to Discuss and Debate

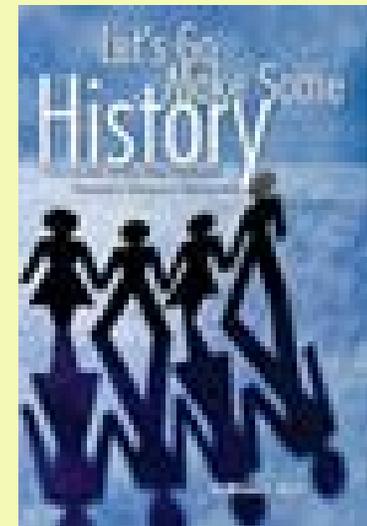
- ❑ Disease/Disease Concept
- ❑ Treatment Works
- ❑ Stigma, Enable, Relapse
- ❑ Recovering/Recovered
- ❑ Anonymity and Passing
- ❑ New Recovery (Advocacy) Movement
- ❑ Consumer
- ❑ Self-Help



# Thinking about language

## Words/Concepts We Need to Elevate and Celebrate

- ❑ Recovery, Recovery Community/Communities of Recovery
- ❑ Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
- ❑ Advocacy, Sustainability
- ❑ Recovery Support Services/Recovery Coach
- ❑ Recovery Oriented Systems of Care
- ❑ Recovery Pathways/Style
- ❑ Presenting the Faces & Voices of Recovery
- ❑ Living Proof
- ❑ Responsibility, Gratitude, Service



# www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the website. At the top left is the logo "FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY" with a row of six diverse people's faces. To the right of the logo is the tagline "organizing the recovery community". In the top right corner, there are links: "Join Us", "Send to a Friend", "Print", and "Contact Us". Below the logo and tagline is a navigation bar with buttons for "Search", "About Us", "Recovery Resources", "Media Center", "Publications", and "Our Regions".

**TRAININGS & EVENTS**

11.9.07

[Our Stories Have Power Media Training](#)

We are holding Recovery Advocacy Message and Media Trainings around the country so that recovery advocates can learn more about messaging and using our stories to advocate for our issues.

**MEMBERSHIP**

[Join Us Online!](#)

[Renew Online](#)

[Download an Application](#)

[Organizational Members](#)

**WHAT'S NEW**

**Addiction Recovery Insurance Equity Campaign**



The October 16 full House Energy and Commerce Committee mark up is the last step before the full House votes on the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act.

[learn more](#)

**GET INVOLVED**

- [Advocate](#)
- [Campaigns](#)
- [Take Action](#)



**SPOTLIGHT**

**JOIN US!**

...obilizing and organizing the recovery...



We need your help!

**JOIN US!**

**FACES &  
VOICES**  
OF RECOVERY



organizing the  
recovery community

