

PRESS RELEASE

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NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECOVERING FROM ADDICTION GROWS; OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR COMMUNITY TO HELP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON (September 9, 2015) – Some 23 million Americans are in long-term recovery from drug and alcohol abuse, and 85 million Americans are directly impacted by addiction. That’s opened a wealth of opportunities for individuals to provide support, according to local experts.

“Historically, those in recovery have had to hide behind anonymity for fear of prejudice or persecution,” said Melissa Tinervia of Home of New Vision in Jackson. “Unfortunately, there is a great stigma attached to substance use disorders, stunting the recovery community’s ability to expand and lobby for necessary changes in policy, funding, and legislation.”

With millions impacted by addiction, individuals seeking recovery face inherent challenges according to the advocacy group Faces and Voices of Recovery. Often they are treated differently because of how others value them and how they value themselves. This disease affects the brain chemistry of the person who has it. No one chooses to have a substance use disorder; it is not a moral failing. “When too many barriers keep a person with a substance use disorder from getting a job or finding a home, it can be sobriety threatening,” said Tinervia. “

During National Recovery Month, opportunities abound to be educated on, advocate for, and support individuals seeking long-term recovery:

Locally:

- Home of New Vision in Jackson has recently started a Recovery Community Organization named the Jackson Area Recovery Committee that meets every Wednesday at 4 pm.
- Lobby with your legislature to help increase funding and resources for substance use disorder prevention and treatment.

Nationally:

- October 4th UNITE to face addiction is hosting a walk at the National Mall in Washington DC. If you would like to attend, Home of New Vision in Washtenaw County has buses going for \$120 round trip. Please contact ssternberg@homeofnewvision.org to reserve a seat today!

More information about:

- *Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition* and its activities, please contact Ravenn Moore at (517) 796-5133 or via email at rmoore@uwjackson.org
- *Home of New Vision, Jackson Recovery Resource Center*- please contact Melissa Tinervia at (517) 788-5596 or via email at mtinervia@homeofnewvision.org

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