

NEWS RELEASE



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New Jersey's third annual Recovery Walk set for September 18

TRENTON ... (September 8, 2004) – New Jersey's third annual Recovery Walk, recognizing the thousands in the state whose lives have been reclaimed from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, will take place from 2:30 to 6 p.m. on September 18, 2004, at Liberty State Park. The keynote will be given by National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence President Stacia Murphy, who will speak about recovery's message of healing and who will be joined on the program by Department of Human Services Commissioner Jim Davy, among others.

The Recovery Walk is the centerpiece of New Jersey's activities in a month-long campaign across the nation during September to honor all who have entered recovery from addiction and as a result have returned to their families, to their jobs and to their communities. In describing the goals of Recovery Month, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMSHA) Administrator Charles Curie said, it "provides an opportunity to reduce stigma (confronting addiction) through education and celebrate the successes of recovery."

New Jersey Division of Addiction Services (DAS) Assistant Commissioner Carolann Kane-Cavaiola attended the first two Recovery Walks and has seen it gain in momentum and make inroads against addiction discrimination. Kane-Cavaiola said, "It is the division's job to support quality recovery and it delights me each year to see how the Recovery Walk has grown and furthers the fight against stigma. I am grateful to be invited to the Walk with all supporters of Recovery again this year." Last year, more than 1,200 people came to the event at Liberty State

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Park, and this year's Recovery Walk is expected to far surpass that number.

Addiction is often referred to a family disease because of toll it takes on the loved ones of the person who is directly affected. Speaking for the families at the Recovery Walk will be Tom Farley, brother of comedian Chris Farley, who died of the effects of a drug addiction. Since his brother's death, Tom Farley has been active in addiction education, focusing in particular on adolescents and conveying to them the dangers of alcohol and drug use, through a program known as Think. Laugh. Live.

Preparations for the Walk are being spearheaded by Friends of Addiction Recovery-New Jersey (FOAR-NJ), a grassroots addiction recovery support group that is a project at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug-Dependence-New Jersey. Among the agencies assisting FOAR-NJ are DAS and the Addiction Treatment Providers of New Jersey. Recovery Month is sponsored by SAMSHA.

Recovery Walk Chairwoman Dory Rachel, a member of FOAR-NJ, said, "The Walk is the only event in the state at which individuals, family members, supporters and others are gathered together to celebrate recovery. As a member of this grassroots effort, I join with others who found their way from a hopeless end to an endless hope. Recovery can and does happen."

The Walk, covering a distance of less than two miles through Liberty State Park, is a march of freedom, representing the journey through addiction to a sober life and continuing the struggle against stigma. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m., and during the afternoon there will be a DJ, clowns, face painting and exhibits. The program of speakers will begin at 4 p.m., followed at 4:45 p.m. by the Walk itself. For more information: 1.888.872.3979 or visit the website www.foarnj.org.

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