

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE – NEW JERSEY
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Friends of Recovery-New Jersey to Hold Addiction Recovery Walk Sept. 22 in Trenton

TRENTON ... (September 12, 2002) – The grassroots addiction recovery advocacy group Friends of Recovery-New Jersey (FOR-NJ) is marking this September's observance of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month with the state's inaugural Recovery Walk. The intent of the march is to celebrate the lives that have overcome addiction to alcohol or drugs as well as to offer hope to any still struggling with such an addiction. FOR-NJ welcomes individuals in recovery, their family members and friends, and all other allies to participate in the event, set to take place from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22, in Trenton.

“We hope that members of the recovery community in New Jersey will recognize the importance of a public celebration of recovery. We hope they will embrace with enthusiasm the idea of sharing their gift of recovery with others,” said FOR-NJ's Lynn LiMato, chairwoman of the Recovery Walk.

The Recovery Walk, which will begin in the parking lot in the rear of the Statehouse and facing the main entrance of the Trenton War Memorial, was developed in accordance with the theme of National Recovery Month: “Join the Voices of Recovery, A Call to Action.” The Recovery Walk will proceed to the front of the Capitol on West State Street, where speakers from various backgrounds will share their experiences of recovery. Public officials will be included among the speakers. Snacks and fellowship will follow the program. The walk will take place rain or shine.

This year's National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month is the event's 13th renewal. During September, events across the country are being held to further a program known as “Changing the

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RECOVERY WALK

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Conversation,” established by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. The program’s goal is to promote understanding among the general public that addiction, like all chronic illnesses, responds to treatment and can and frequently does result in recovery.

FOR-NJ, which operates under the aegis of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey, is celebrating its second anniversary. Since its inception its membership has grown to more than 100 and the group has coordinated events associated with addiction recovery that include, in addition to the Recovery Walk, a talk by recovery historian William White at Rider University and a recent sunrise ceremony in Belmar. For information about the walk or about FOR-NJ in general, call 1-888-872-3979.

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