



For Immediate Release

October 2, 2003

Contact: Dan O’Keeffe
(513) 321-1866
dokeeffe@fuse.net

Inspirational stories shared at Fountain Square rally spotlighted National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

CINCINNATI—A special rally held on Fountain Square on September 12 was the marquee event for an entire month celebrating the reclaimed lives of those recovering from alcohol and drug addiction.

Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio, praised the efforts and courage of thousands of Hamilton County residents in achieving recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. The Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board, the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Talbert House, Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) of Cincinnati, and Crossroads Center hosted the September 12 rally that celebrated National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

In addition to Mrs. Taft, representatives from more than six area agencies spoke about the success that has been made with helping people achieve recovery, and addressed the continuing need for assistance with treatment and prevention programs. Speakers included ADAS Board CEO Sherry Knapp, Ph.D., former ADAS Board Chairman Dick Duval, Ann Perrin of the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Margo Spence of First Step Home, and David Logan of Prospect House. Rally attendees also heard compelling personal stories told by Hamilton County residents who have struggled with addiction to alcohol and drugs, and who have turned their lives around thanks to the efforts of the ADAS Board and area treatment and prevention agencies.

“There are reasons why I stay clean and sober today. There are reasons why I don’t smoke crack today and there are reasons why I don’t rob people today. It’s because I no longer have a desire to, and I have come to the realization today that I don’t have to do those things anymore,” praised one grateful recovering addict who repeatedly belted out songs of encouragement with Second Chance, a band comprised of people in recovery.

--more--

“For a long time, I believed I had to do those things,” the singer said. “Let me tell you something. Nobody need ever die under the grips of alcoholism and addiction. You can stay sober just like I can. All you have to do is have the faith of a mustard seed. All you have to do is believe that you can. All you have to do is know without a shadow of a doubt that this is not the life that I was intended to be living.”

Additional agencies that supported the rally were the Alcoholism Council of the Cincinnati Area, Faces and Voices of Recovery, and the Recovery Resource Center. The Drug and Poison Information Center’s NOMAD (No More Alcohol & Drugs) van was also on hand to provide information about alcohol and drug addiction recovery and services. The rally also featured proclamations issued by Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken, United States Senator Mike DeWine, and the Hamilton County Commissioners, as well as a reintroduction of the Recovery Health Access Center, or RHAC, which launched on July 1. RHAC consists of one telephone number—281-RHAC (7422)—that Hamilton County residents can call if they are concerned that they or someone they know may have an alcohol or drug abuse problem.

Additional events that helped the community celebrate National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month included a fundraiser held by the Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment and Talbert House’s annual luncheon that honored Mrs. Taft and John Dowlin for their work helping people recover from alcohol and drug addiction.

For more information about alcohol and drug addiction treatment and prevention, contact the ADAS Board at (513) 621-7202. To learn more about RHAC, contact 281-7422.

About the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board

The Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board plans, funds, and evaluates public alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, and education services for the citizens of Hamilton County. The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners established the ADAS Board as a separate alcohol and drug addiction services board in 1989, following the passage of House Bill 317.

###