



For Immediate Release

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Local Communities Partner with Cincinnati Reds to Create Human Sign, Raise Awareness and Support for Individuals and Families in Recovery

To promote the societal benefits of alcohol and drug use disorder treatment and recovery, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will celebrate the **16th Annual - National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month** at Great American Ball Park on **September 23, 2005** when the Cincinnati Reds play the Philadelphia Phillies. Game time is **7:10 pm**.

A new record of 18 Major League Baseball teams have partnered with local groups to celebrate the living reality of addiction recovery during a baseball game in September! In the SAMHSA/CSAT sponsored cities listed below, the local host committee will assemble 200 to 1,000 people in recovery from addiction at the top of the third inning, along with treatment counselors, friends, and family members to create a "human sign" in the stands that reads, **"RECOVERY WORKS!"**

The Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board and a collaborative of local treatment agencies have partnered to organize the local Recovery Month/Major League Baseball Event at Great American Ball Park. These organizations are actively engaged and making a positive impact for individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol and drug addiction.

"Coming together for this important event with our partners in Major League Baseball and in front of tens of thousands of people will strengthen our efforts to reduce stigma," said **Dr. Sherry Knapp-Brown, ADAS CEO**. "When counselors, friends and family members, along with persons in recovery, come together and create the symbolic 'human sign,' people can identify that we are in this together."

In addition, recovery supporters will be recognized prior to the game, throw out the first pitch and salute treatment counselors. The following is a list of all the SAMHSA/CSAT-sponsored Major League Baseball teams/games in September.

-Sept. 14	Tigers vs. Twins	Comerica Park, Detroit, MI
-Sept. 15	Rangers vs. Mariners	Ameritrust Field, Arlington, TX
-Sept. 15	Phillies vs. Braves	Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, PA
-Sept. 15	Devil Rays vs. Yankees	Tropicana Field, Tampa Bay, FL
-Sept. 18	Orioles vs. Devil Rays	Camden Yards, Baltimore, MD
-Sept. 19	Rockies vs. Padres	Coors Field, Denver, CO
-Sept. 21	White Sox vs. Indians	US Cellular Field, Chicago, IL
-Sept. 23	Reds vs. Phillies	Great American Ball Park, Cincinnati OH

Recovery Month highlights the need to improve alcohol and drug use disorder treatment services and encourages people to overcome barriers to recovery. This year's Recovery Month theme, ***Join the Voices for Recovery: Healing Lives, Families and Communities***, affirms that treatment is effective, and that people in recovery can and do become gainfully employed, own homes and rejoin their families and their communities.

Join the Voices of Recovery: Healing Lives, Families and Communities



Lionese Robinson
Assistant to the Director
Star of Hope Men's Center

It all started when I was a child. My father, though a great provider, was an alcoholic. Familiar with alcohol and chaos, I married a dealer who introduced me to drugs as our status changed to the finest homes, cars and education money could buy. Exaggerated attention and prestige moved me to a distorted perception of myself, and my life began to spiral out of control. Before it was over, I attempted suicide, then went to prison for a probation violation. As my addiction progressed and I couldn't find work anymore, I found myself out on the streets for days looking for drugs. I entered treatment three times, only to relapse weeks after discharging. An agonizing 20 years seeking emotional relief from crack cocaine, three children and a divorce later, I surrendered to win at the Star of Hope. The one thing I still had was my mother's faith. She taught us to rise above, not with our own strength, but to rely on the power of the Lord. I believe that any person can become an addict, but no matter what circumstances lead to addiction, recovery is possible.

Dave and Lisa Phillips
Recovery Advocates



Life is certainly a process--one that is continuously changing. And with each change, we have been offered unexpected opportunities for growth. Where we stand today is far removed from our position 14 years ago when we took our third step together. We had no idea of the blessings that were to come. Our lives have changed dramatically. We have gone from the "Bonnie and Clyde" of Cleveland to providing hope for other families suffering from abuse and addiction. The dynamics of addiction and the concepts of a family disease are epitomized in our family. While we come from very different backgrounds, we were raised in alcoholic homes and have passed that legacy to our children. Of our six children, two are in recovery and one has chosen not to use. Our hope is to break the cycle for our grandchildren, since we now have the tools for living a life free from addiction and all the insanity associated with it.

For additional information, please visit the official National Recovery Month website:
<http://www.recoverymonth.gov>