



Advocacy Action Areas

Recovery celebrations are important for so many different reasons – they're an opportunity to put a face and a voice on recovery and to advance our advocacy agenda. Faces & Voices believes that we should never bring an army of people together without asking them to fight for something meaningful. In 2007, as part of the planning of the National Hub event at Liberty State Park with our friends at FOAR-NJ/NCADD-NJ, the idea of an Advocacy Action Area was born to achieve that goal.



This year we are building on those efforts to encourage recovery advocates across the country to take action as they Rally for Recovery! Faces & Voices will be setting up computers at the national hub event in Detroit, Michigan so that participants can email their members of Congress about supporting addiction recovery. Here are some advocacy activities that you can do.

Pick and choose from the list below to make Recovery Voices Count in 2012!

1). Voter registration. Have voter registration materials available and register voters. In Philadelphia, voting booths will be available for people to practice casting their ballot. You can do online voter registration at

http://www.rockthevote.com/rtv_voter_registration.html?source or get forms from your canvassing authority. Make sure to check your state's law for eligibility requirements. *One thing we've learned is that many people don't think that they're eligible to vote because of their criminal justice histories.* Your voter registration activities are an important part of informing and educating advocates. You can give out stickers that say "I registered to vote" or ask people to **Pledge to Vote** using the Form below.

2). Support addiction recovery in national policy making. Have computers available for rally participants to email their members of Congress to support addiction recovery. You can set computers up to use Faces & Voices Online Advocacy Action Center that you can link to from our home page at www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org.

This year's message to elected officials:
Invest in addiction recovery: it pays off for communities and saves health care dollars.

3). Rally for Recovery Online! At <http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/rally/> People can now join us online to help us tally our total number of years of recovery.

4). Share your recovery story. Ask rally participants to pledge to tell two people what recovery means to them and/or their families.

5). Recovery Bill of Rights endorsement. Ask rally participants to endorse the Recovery Bill of Rights. You can "blow it up" and put it on a poster board so that participants can endorse it. Last year, thousands of people endorsed the Recovery Bill of Rights, autographing it with their recovery date.

6). Work an advocacy issue in your community or state. Ask people at your rally to participate in your local advocacy campaign by pledging to make a phone call; email an elected official; volunteer for your organization; or speak out at a hearing or other gathering.

Above all, collect the names and contact information for people who are at your event and want to get involved! You can use pledge forms; individual sign-up sheets; or have people sign-up online! Then, get in touch with them shortly after your event to thank them and involve them in your recovery advocacy!

Recovery Voices Count. We're using these strategies to take advantage of the energy and excitement about Rally for Recovery! to build our recovery advocacy efforts year-round.

Setting up Your Advocacy Action Area

- 1). Create an area or defined space at your event that is dedicated to advocacy. It can be a tent, a group of tables or chairs where people can gather. Make sure it's in a prominent location at the rally. Put up signs to direct rally participants and make announcements encouraging people to come over the Advocacy Action Area over the loudspeaker.
- 2). Recruit volunteers to staff the area and train them on exactly what you want them to do.
- 3). Have plenty of supplies on hand. If you're going to have computers, make sure that you're set up to use them out-of-doors and away from the home and office. Clipboards are great for moving among participants and asking people to sign a pledge and take action.

And we've found that one of the most effective ways to ask people to participate in these activities is to provide incentives. We've given out a different lapel sticker for each action that an individual takes to keep track of who's done what, but also to encourage people to take all of our suggested actions. You can use a different lapel sticker for each action and then, if someone earns all of the stickers, they are eligible to win a prize. (You can order lapel stickers from Faces & Voices of Recovery and online from lots of organizations.) There have been contests and a drawing for people who earned three lapel stickers. They received a raffle ticket and were eligible to win prizes.

YOUR LOGO HERE

Pledge to Vote!

I pledge to:

_____ **Make my voice heard in the 2012 elections** by registering to vote, and casting my vote on Election Day!

_____ **Learn where candidates stand** on issues that affect my life and the lives of others in the recovery community so I can make an educated choice about who will best represent me!

_____ **Encourage other members of the recovery community to get involved** by also registering to vote and pledging to vote on Election Day!

Signed: _____

Please print your name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number (Cell/Home): _____

Email Address: _____

Thank you for taking action!