

2023 RECOVERY ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Description

The Recovery Organization of the Year Award recognizes the exemplary achievements of one local, state, regional, or national nonprofit grassroots recovery organization for its advocacy and mobilizing of the recovery community to increase the prevalence and quality of long-term recovery from substance use disorder.

Nominated Organization	Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am the Marketing and Communications Director for the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD). I was actually a volunteer during the summer of 2022 and was so moved by both the mission and the people here that I accepted a paid position this past Fall.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	<p>LICADD is rooted in the belief that as addiction effects both the person with substance use disorder and the entire family system, treatment services must address the mental health needs of the entire family system. As the founder of one of the first Employee Assistance Program (EAP), we recognize that addiction also impacts the workplace, schools and the community at large.</p> <p>In response to these evolving complex mental health needs, we work diligently to support all parties through the process of recovery from evaluation and referral to treatment to recovery management. We accomplish these goals via an extensive array of services including: LICADD's Student Assistance Program (SAP), compassion fatigue and resiliency training for first responders and school based professionals, skilled family intervention and prevention services, and grief and loss support.</p> <p>From a prevention and education perspective, we are front and center with the community. At the height of the opioid epidemic, LICADD pioneered the delivery of Narcan trainings to communities across the region focusing on marginalized populations including the Shinnecock Nation to ensure that those most at risk for substance use disorder are heard, respected and counseled. Today the usage of Narcan is standard protocol.</p> <p>Our work with families continues even after they have lost a loved one to substance use disorder. Gabriel's Giving Tree (GGT), a program of LICADD, provides financial assistance to families without means for funeral expenses and delivers ongoing grief and loss support. GGT hosts family retreats such as the Day of Remembrance to help families heal after the loss of a loved one. Families in Support of Treatment (FIST), another program of LICADD, are active advocates for treatment services for those with substance use disorder and their families. FIST and GGT actively participate in advocacy initiatives including Advocacy Day in Albany.</p>
Describe the organization's history	We work hand in hand with local, state and national legislators to provide a resource and perspective for ongoing proposals. Together we have successfully advocated for the passage of a wide range of legislative initiatives and we continue to work toward accessible affordable treatment on demand.

<p>of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>Locally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -LICADD is proud to be a member of the Nassau Heroin Prevention Task Force, the Suffolk County Substance Use Task Force, the Suffolk County Communities of Solution, Suffolk County Partners in Prevention, and a broad swath of other Suffolk County Department of Health Committees and Subcommittees, LICADD takes seriously the role of stewardship in Long Island communities. We have helped to steer pivotal conversations on health and wellness, drive forward important initiatives, and have a hand in crafting legislation and policy. -Our Student Assistance Program (SAP) ensures that the concerns driving self-medication are addressed head-on and we are available for individual student follow up for those in crisis - Our EDU Program provides timely, relevant, evidence-based training to the professionals in the field to guarantee that what we've learned and experienced through our own clinically licensed practice is shared to the benefit of others <p>State level; we worked closely with legislators on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -911 Good Samaritan Law (https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/opioid_overdose_prevention/good_samaritan_law.htm) -HALT (Humane Alternatives to Long Term Solitary Confinement; https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senate-passes-halt-solitary-confinement-act) - I STOP (Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing; https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/prescription_monitoring/) -Have made several statements in the media relating to the legalization of THC and non-medical marijuana <p>Federal level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Actively partnering with the DEA to close the gap in understanding between DEA and families and recently co-hosted a family summit at DEA headquarters where we educated and supported families and gave them the opportunity to ask questions about the DEA-led One Pill Can Kill campaign as well as their efforts to track and curb cartel activity. - Executive Director Steve Chassman, LCSW, CASAC will be featured in a PBS/Channel 13 program about Substance Use Disorder Q1 2023
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bilingual counseling and emotional regulation groups led by licensed, Masters-level Clinical Social Workers and Health Educators - Employee Assistance Programs with private business, towns and unions - Student Assistance Programs with high schools based on the unique needs of each community - EDU program provides ongoing professional education/CEU credits; we partnered with Wellbridge Treatment Centers to provide 5 CEUs to professionals looking to enhance their understanding of which substances are on rise and the forces driving anxiety, impulsivity and self-medication in January 2023 - Have recently acquired Gabriel's Giving Tree (GGT) and Families in Support of Treatment (FIST). Gabriel's Giving Tree provides families with the funds for burials after they have been financially exhausted by treatments for their family members. FIST provides that critical familial support for direct relatives of those afflicted with Substance Use Disorder

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recently won a grant to develop a program for those that are incarcerated - LICADD, FIST and GGT regularly employs people that are in long-term recovery
Awards & Honors if any	https://licadd.org/latest/licadd-open-arms-employee-assistance-program-honored-agency-year-award-long-island-eapas-annual-holiday-breakfast

Nominated Organization	Wilkes Recovery Revolution—please note this organization received three nominations.
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	<p>First nomination: I am a Certified Peer Support Specialist employed by this organization</p> <p>Second nomination: I am the Program Coordinator for Wilkes Fresh, a project of Wilkes Recovery Revolution.</p> <p>Third nomination:</p> <p>I moved to North Carolina from Michigan in 2021. In being a recovery advocate I began my research and networking as soon as I was able to. There was not one single instance where someone did not recommend I reach out to Wilkes Recovery for support and guidance in my advocacy efforts. Social media has a beautiful way of connecting people and I believe that was my first interaction with the Director, Devin Lyall. She soon became a supporter in my efforts for holistic recovery on social media and even sent me some amazing recovery swag to help in my efforts to promote recovery on social media. I attended my first in person event recovery event as a vendor and recovery resource at their recovery rally in 2022. All of the staff has 100% supported me in professional and personal matters since we found the mutual purpose of all love for healing. I believe in Wilkes Recovery and what they stand for. They are a perfect example of what I want to bring to Cumberland County and what I believe show healing in the deepest way possible. We are professional and personal allies in our recovery efforts.</p>
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	<p>First nomination: It is inclusive reaching out to the entire community seeking to address various needs such as harm reduction, housing, transportation, clothing, and many more needs.</p> <p>Second nomination: WRR hosts a variety of programs to help their participants in all phases of recovery - from healthy eating (Wilkes Fresh), Peer Support, Harm Reduction/needle exchange/hygiene products, to Transportation for employment or clinic appointments and Project HOW helping participants with resume writing, continuing education classes, and partnering with employers open to hiring people with a substance abuse or felony on their record.</p> <p>Third nomination: The organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community with the majority of the people that workin the organization having lived experience with substance use disorder as an individual or as a family member. They also have community partnerships and relationships with the Appalachian region area as well as neighboring states to North Carolina from the local car wash to the local government agencies. They are an organization member of Faces and Voices.This accreditation also represents a commitment toWilkes</p>

	<p>Recovery being peer-run, which means that more than 50% of their staff, board, and volunteers have lived experience with recovery from substance use or mental health concerns. Their mission is to create a community where recovery is possible through restoring hope, repairing lives, and rebuilding the community.</p>
<p>Describe the organization’s history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>First nomination: Since 2016, WRR has been a voice of lived experience seeking to establish a recovery community and doing this in various ways such as creating transitional housing, a thrift store, strengthening recovery meetings and other ways.</p> <p>Second nomination: WRR is the voice of the Recovery community for Wilkes County and also has the support of the Senate within North Carolina.</p> <p>Third nomination: Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc. continually advocates at a local, regional, and state level through their hope warriors programming where they do campaigns around their lived experience.</p> <p>WRR started Recovery Friendly Wilkes and now due to efforts of advocates for healthy recovery friendly workplaces in Wilkes it has gained statewide momentum. They are now the host for Recovery Friendly NC a statewide initiative that is advocating for this to become a statewide model to educate employers.</p> <p>WRR is currently working with statewide advocacy efforts to expand and reform NC Good Samaritans Laws. They also recently became involved with efforts to advocate to politicians around the harms that a new fentanyl bill NC SB189 if it is passed through the senate. It goes against all federal recommendations and only perpetuates the war on drugs.</p> <p>WRR has participated in many news and media broadcasts to advocate for drug users' health and for people in recovery.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>First nomination: WRR has multiple opportunities for growth such as creating Recovery Friendly workplaces, opportunities in employment through experience working at the thrift store or learning and utilizing skills in the mobile food market. WRR offers many classes that help to enhance and develop skills for the individual.</p> <p>Second nomination: See above</p> <p>Third Nomination: Wilkes Recovery Revolution, INC is an umbrella organization supporting various programming and support services including our R3 Recovery Center, Phases Transitional Housing, Wilkes Harm Reduction Collective, Project HOW-Healing Our Workforce, Fresh Start Farm, Wilkes Fresh Mobile Market, Revolution Thrift Store, and Hope Warriors.</p>

R3 Recovery Center acts as a walk-in recovery community center where peers looking to enter or sustain recovery from the effects of substance use or mental health concerns can come and meet with North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialists who guide their recovery journey through the lens of lived experience.

Wilkes Harm Reduction Collective is a program that seeks to reduce the harms for people who use drugs through providing overdose kits and trainings, syringe exchange services, and supplies for safer substance use like fentanyl testing strips and wound care kits. This program also provides meaningful avenues for resource connection and an introduction to recovery support for those who use substances as well.

Phases Transitional Housing offers supportive and safe housing for those entering recovery. They offer three facilities for both and serve separate programs for female and male residents. This peer-driven program helps individuals build a foundation that will help them transition into independent living. Their transitional housing program also allows the use of medication assisted treatment as a gold standard of care.

Project HOW Healing Our Workforce is their effort to break down barriers to gainful and meaningful employment for those in recovery through offering paid certification courses, GED, and crisis assistance for things like uniforms or glasses. This project also hosts the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative which started locally and has now built partnerships with leadership in similar initiatives that has now gained state recognition and WRR provides the technical assistance.

Revolution Thrift Store serves as a work and volunteer program that involves and is run by those in recovery. The store offers crisis assistance for individuals who are preparing for interviews, reintegrating into society, transitioning into housing, reunifying a family structure, or recovering from trauma.

Hope Warriors is a program that serves as a catalyst for advocacy and community outreach that aids in giving faces and voices to those in recovery to create communities where recovery is possible through restoring hope, repairing lives, and rebuilding communities.

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	<p>Fresh Start Farm/Wilkes Fresh Mobile Market are agricultural work-study opportunities that bring therapeutic work experiences and meaningful certifications while individuals make a living wage procuring fresh fruits and vegetables which then go into food deserts within the community through the mobile market.</p> <p>Leadership Opportunities: -WRR offers paid internships for people interested in entering into this field to ensure they have the tools to be successful in this work, these internships a lot of times turn into full time employment.</p> <p>All of the administrative staff are individuals in recovery who have worked their way into their positions. They do thier best to promote people within and allow peer supports to step into other roles they are interested in.</p> <p>Wilkes Recovery offers opportunities for their staff to invest in their own leadership through paid training from the organization to become the best leaders they can possibly be.</p>
Awards and Honors (if any)	<p>First nomination: Great State Hero Award United Way 2019 Recovery Champion Award NC Community In Recovery 2020 Chairmans Award Chamber of Commerce 2021 Harm Reduction Hero Addiction Professionals of NC 2022 Todd Whitworth Humanitarian Award</p> <p>Third nomination: Just in the last year of 2022 I know that the Executive Director and Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc. has received the "Todd E. Whitworth National Humanitarian Award", the NC One Community in Recovery award, and the Addiction Professionals of NC (APNC) "Harm Reduction Hero" award.</p>

Nominated Organization	Sunrise Community For Recovery And Wellness (please note this organization received two nominations)
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	<p>First nomination: I work for sunrise community for recovery and wellness and we serve many counties and many people supporting. We have many programs available and wish to help anyone we can.</p> <p>Second nomination: I am the Harm Reduction Specialist with Sunrise. I am nominating our Executive Director Sue Polston for her amazing work. She has put so much love into Sunrise, our peers,</p>

	recovery community etc. Shes such a beautiful human, and I'm so thankful for her.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	<p>First nomination: Sunrise is like a huge tight knit family and are ready, willing, and available to help. We offer harm reduction, a safe recovery drop in center, re- entry programs for the incarcerated and recently released, a respite house, and many other programs and possibilities for people and the community.</p> <p>Second nomination: They care about our self care, we are given 4 wellness days a year. We have a lot of full circle folks. Sunrise always makes sure I'm able to show up as a father for my daughter. I couldn't ask for a better place.</p>
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	<p>First nomination: Sunrise often holds events to the public as well as having the safe recovery drop in center, sunrise attends many conferences and events through out the state and is well known in North Carolina.</p> <p>Second nomination: I advocate for Harm Reduction with Sunrise. We do community education on how to use Narcan, Harm Reduction 101. We advocate for the movement as well. Sunrise as a whole always advocates for our peers. We meet them where they are at, and will do whatever we can to make sure they are in a good space.</p>
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	<p>First nomination: Harm reduction services, re- entry programs, respite house, recovery center, child support program</p> <p>Second nomination: There is 2 of us in Harm Reduction, a MAT jail peer, child support peer, 5-6 drop in center peers, linkage to care, ARC, and about 6-7 folks Olin leadership.</p>
Awards and honors if any	Second nomination: Quite a few, I don't know the names of them right away.

Nominated Organization	This is my Story
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am a recovery addict, i attend group also serves my own experience, strength and hope. We are great friends, I consider him and group my family now.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	They are very active in our community with all who are seeking help, which includes all family members too.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	We are just a very small town with a huge problem of addiction. We have many events and outreach in our small community! They have been very successful.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership	That is the goal for all of us in the group to grow and pass the message of HOPE on to the next.

opportunities for people in recovery.	
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Nominated Organization	Recovery Organization of Support Specialist, R.O.S.S.
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am retired from the SSA and this was a RCO that was created while I was serving in this position
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	<p>Recovery Organization of Support Specialist, R.O.S.S., opened in 2017 as the first peer-run organization in Alabama. R.O.S.S.'s board of directors and leadership is made up of individuals of many different pathways to recovery including family members and allies. Their services are inclusive of the 12-step, faith based, medication assisted recovery, and services for family members. They provides services for the community for anyone seeking information, interested in obtaining and maintaining recovery, or just need a safe place to be. All services offered are voluntary, no one is required to attend any services. Individuals have the choice to choose the activities they participate in. R.O.S.S. provide recovery support services based on SAMHSA's "Four Major Dimensions of Recovery":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health: overcoming or managing one's disease(s) or symptoms, and making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional well-being 2. Home: having a stable and safe place to live 3. Purpose: conducting meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income, and resources to participate in society 4. Community: having relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	<p>From day one R.O.S.S. started grassroots connections with stakeholders first in Jefferson County and then statewide to address stigma surrounding substance use disorder and improving access to care. R.O.S.S. started doing news interviews all over the state as their services increased. R.O.S.S. promoted the message that every human being with the chronic health condition, substance use disorder, deserved to be treated with the same dignity and respect as everyone else with other chronic medical conditions. A movement grew across the state of Alabama with the phrases "We Are the People We Serve" and "Let's Love People to A Better Life". R.O.S.S. recognition grew in the medical community, behavioral health, courts, faith based community, courts, community stakeholders, first responders, and local and state governments, and more. R.O.S.S. was at the forefront was addressing stigma in an effort to save lives. R.O.S.S. started with a PSA on NBC which ran for a year in 2017 and had another PSA run for two years on Fox in 2020. R.O.S.S. has a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn where we address stigma and loving people to a better life through Recovery Stories and Employee Interviews.</p>
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership	R.O.S.S., provides services for the community for individuals obtaining and maintaining recovery as well as family members and allies. R.O.S.S. currently run four Recovery Community Centers, RCC, in Birmingham, Boaz, Gadsden, and Montgomery, with a plan to open two

opportunities for people in recovery.	<p>more RCCs in Huntsville and Tuscaloosa, AL. The RCCs are open 12-hours per day including weekends and holidays. Individuals and family members can participate in support groups, coach mentoring, and social events. The centers had over 26,000 visits in 2022.</p> <p>They provide recovery support services in many different capacities including a 24/7 Helpline available for all Alabama citizens to contact for information, support, and referral to resources. In 2022 the 24/7 Helpline answered over 12,000 calls.</p> <p>They provide outreach services in forty counties, In addition to providing recovery support services in the communities across the state they also provide services in hospitals, courts, child protective services, parole day reporting centers, and many more. The outreach program served over 3,000 individuals on their road to recovery.</p> <p>R.O.S.S.'s Opioid Workforce Development Program that has helped 78 individuals find permanent employment in a span of three months.</p> <p>Recovery Community Services Program is an internship program that educate individuals early in recovery until they have two-years of recovery and eligible to become certified peer.</p> <p>R.O.S.S. employs 75 peers across Alabama which makes them the largest employer of peers in the state. R.O.S.S. has 15 members of management which are all newly created positions with plans to employ more peer leaders.</p>
Awards & Honors if Any	President Joe Biden awarded R.O.S.S. The President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021 in recognition of our service of 4,000 hours to the United States of America and delivering solutions to the problems we face with substance use disorder in our country.

Nominated Organization	Unity in the Community of SW PA
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I was client of the unity in the Community of SW PA. I am in recovery and they help me and others in Greensburg Pennsylvania
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	They help people get the resources they need and help people in recovery in the area.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	They do monthly outreach events in the community and advocate for people needs. They brings everyone to the table and have them feel included and welcoming.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	Help people get in recovery, meet with people where they are mentoring, civil rights advocate, get them resources they need, supportive, and etc

Nominated Organization	Recovery Community Network
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am the Board Chair for the Recovery Community Network

<p>Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.</p>	<p>The Recovery Community Network is a grassroots organization founded by recovery community members in 2014. Its sole purpose nine years ago was to promote collaboration and cooperation between different facets of the recovery community in Central MN. Today, they are a full-fledged nonprofit devoted to mobilizing resources within and outside of the recovery community to increase the prevalence of and access to recovery from substance use disorders. They specifically provide targeted services to Veterans, Hispanics and the African American communities of Central MN, while they provide services to the general recovery community. Moreover, they are open to multiple pathways to recovery embracing abstinence based approaches as well as Faith Based, Medication Assisted, Harm Reduction and other evidenced based approaches to recovery.</p>
<p>Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>The Recovery Community Network (RCN) has been a leader in Education and Advocacy efforts in the Central MN area for nearly a decade. The RCN was the first agency in Central MN to begin a meeting of Substance Use Disorder counselors and healthcare workers coupled with members of the recovery community. This meeting, which started in May of 2014, continues to meet monthly to provide insight, comments, feedback, ideas and suggestions about how best to provide services for the recovery community at large. In May of 2023 we will celebrate our ninth year of existence and our 100+ meeting. In the spring of 2016, the RCN conducted a community convening bringing together members of the SUD field along with members of the recovery community to discuss potential pathways forward for further collaboration and cooperation. This event, which was attended by over 50 community members, laid the groundwork for the RCN becoming a bonafide 501(C)(3) Recovery Community Organization. In 2018, we held our first Recovery Coach Academy for 20 members of the Recovery Community. In 2019, with funding secured from the State of Minnesota, the RCN opened up its first office to provide Peer to Peer recovery services to Central MN residents. In January of 2020 we conducted our first training with members of the Faith Based Community. Later that year we held our first virtual Recovery Coach Academy due to COVID restrictions. In 2021, we secured funding to provide services to our veteran community. Later that year we provided the first Recovery Coach Academy for Veterans in Recovery and their family members. In 2022 we conducted another Recovery Coach Academy as well as multiple education and outreach events for the general public and the recovery community. In total we provided education to nearly 3,000. Currently we provide telephone recovery services to over 125 people weekly. Additionally, we conduct a monthly radio show to an estimated 40,000 listeners. This show discusses all things recovery related. Lastly, we distribute two recovery newsletters monthly. One letter is for Veterans in Recovery and it goes out to over 2,000 veterans. The other letter is for the general recovery community and it goes out to over 4,500 people monthly. Nationally speaking, we meet with Congressman Tom Emmer on a yearly basis to update him on the state of recovery activities in the 6th Congressional District.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>Weekly, we provide telephone recovery services to over 125 people. Additionally, we provide space for nine weekly self-help meetings. This equates to over 200 people coming through our doors to practice various forms of self-help recovery. Monthly, we conduct a community meeting for 20-30 members of the professional SUDs community and people in recovery. We also send out over 6,500 newsletters on recovery on a monthly basis. Yearly, we conduct an annual 5K for Recovery, Banquet for Recovery, Key Leader Engagement and Sober New Year's Celebration. Moreover, the organization enjoys a healthy</p>

	turnover of staff and leaders. Our co-founder, John Donovan, recently stepped down as the Executive Director of the organization to allow Cynthia Magallanes an opportunity to take over the ED position. Cynthia is a woman of color, in long-term recovery who started working for the organization part-time in 2020. She was promoted to full-time in 2021 and promoted again to ED in 2022. Additionally, our Operations Manager is a woman in recovery and she was recently promoted into this position and made into a salaried employee.
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Nominated Organization	Hope Recovery Community
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am the Program Manager for Hope Recovery Community (HRC), an RCO located in Medina, Ohio. I have been with the organization since our center opened in 2019. In just 3 and a half years, HRC has expanded to 3 locations in our county (Medina, Brunswick, and Wadsworth) and has added an addition to our existing building in Medina. They currently serve over 60 individuals per day at their centers and have over 4,000 recovery touches per month. HRC places over 500 people into treatment (detox, inpatient, recovery housing, and outpatient) every year. The services HRC provides is not just limited to their centers, there are peer supporters in the local county jail and Job & Family Services, they have Family Peer Supporters, and work with other behavioral health agencies in the hospitals and on crisis lines. Medina has become a recovery destination because of the hard work, dedication, and advocacy that HRC does!
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	Hope Recovery Community believes in multiple pathways and approaches addiction from a disease perspective. They understand that addiction impacts so much more than just the individual who struggles with substance use disorder, including family members and the local community. HRC has worked hard to create community partnerships with local behavioral health agencies and businesses. In 2023 they will launch a Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative which will equip local businesses with access to peer supporters, customized recovery friendly workplace training(s) and recovery resources for individuals or family members who are impacted by substance use disorder. Their collaboration with the Medina County ADAMH Board, the Medina Parks District, Friends of Medina Parks, Cathy's House (recovery housing), and Feeding Medina County has provided the opportunity to open a Recovery-Run Farm in Medina, Ohio. These partnerships will provide workforce training, recovery housing, and address the needs of food insecurities in Medina County. HRC listens to the recovery community and identifies gaps that exist in our current systems. They have worked to advocate and find creative ways to bridge these gaps and make the process of seeking or maintaining recovery less traumatizing to the individual.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	Hope Recovery Community does a lot for advocacy and education. They are a certified Narcan training and dispensing location through their partnership with the Medina County Health Department. Recently the Executive Director, Stefanie Robinson, has organized an Ohio Chapter of the National Peer Recovery Alliance which meets monthly. HRC staff does outreach events all over the state of Ohio in an effort to advocate for addiction recovery awareness. They host an International Overdose Awareness Day event every year on August 31st and bring in a wide range of speakers which include local and state officials, family members, and persons in recovery. They also participate on a county-

	wide Overdose Awareness Day Committee which plans events to bring awareness to overdose.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	HRC believes in empowering those in recovery and does so by providing the tools and resources needed to start new programming such as meetings or pro-social activities. One of their biggest services are the free treatment placement they provide through their Peer Link team. The team can place individuals into treatment (detox, inpatient, recovery housing, and outpatient services) sometimes as quickly as just a couple of hours and in 2021 they placed over 500 people into treatment services. HRC believes in cultivating a healthy workplace which focuses on direct communication and providing opportunity through challenging situations. They grow and develop their team by empowering them as leaders in the community.

Nominated Organization	1 voice (Please note that 1 Voice received three nominations)
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	<p>First nomination: I am apart of there meetings for aa and na. I also attend the monthly health events.</p> <p>Second nomination: I was an addict who struggled with substance abuse</p> <p>Third nomination: I am a stakeholder in the community who partners with 1 voice. Many of my employees are members of 1 Voice. We partner with them to provide the IRACS program in Dearborn county jail.</p>
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	<p>First nomination: They are always there when i need someone to talk to.</p> <p>Second nomination: 1voice provides a safe place for recovering addicts.</p> <p>Third nomination: 1 Voice is for everyone. They have a space to engage quite a broad range of interests. This really helps people find their new friends with common interests, support recovery, and build coping strategies. 1 Voice is a visible representation of what recovery looks like. During the active recovery events, the turnout is very large. There are adults, teens, children, parents, grandparents, etc out into the community to learn something new, provide support, and have fun. It's an incredible sight. They redefine recovery community from just being people in recovery to also include all of us who support those in recovery. It is having a huge impact on the reduction of stigma in our community.</p>
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	<p>First nomination: These peoples help others who are deep in a hole and can't get out.</p> <p>Second nomination: 1vooce helps recoverees in Dearborn county. And in the jails</p>

	<p>Third nomination: 1 voice is present across the region, state, and even throughout the county. Members often speak at events, governmental meetings, and schools to bring awareness and make real change. There was no identifiable recovery community until 1 voice became established in southeastern Indiana. They created a physical site in Aurora Indiana which is very busy with programs, fun events, and ever ready peer support. They lead the overdose awareness walk and are present at every opportunity to advocate for change. They oversee the local narcan boxes throughout the region. An outstanding success is the narcan vending machine located in the lobby of the local jail. It is very frequent refilled.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>First nomination: Leadership sobriety</p> <p>Second nomination: Support services meetings and recovery coach's</p> <p>Third nomination: The organization is completely ran by persons in recovery. All supervisors are in recovery. They partner to find scholarships to help those who want to be a peer coach to attend trainings for certification. They have full time on site peer coaching every day of the week. They have an MAT support group, AA, Celebrate Recovery, NA, and connections to many other meetings. They partner with Choices Coordinated Care Solutions CERT to obtain grant opportunities that further benefit the cause. This includes providing transportation to those leaving the jail for treatment, sharing resources and partner relationships to overcome barriers, and to expand peer coaching into a very broad area in southeastern Indiana.</p>

Nominated Organization	Avenue 360 Health and Wellness
<p>Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.</p>	<p>I am the Lead Recovery Coach at Avenue 360 Health and Wellness.</p>
<p>Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.</p>	<p>Avenue 360 is a Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) with 7 clinics in the Greater Houston area. We are the only FQHC in Houston providing intensive and supportive outpatient treatment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD). We also have a free peer support component that is available to all who receive services at Ave 360, whether that is SUD care, medical care, behavioral Health care, dentistry, or supportive housing for the chronically homeless and housing for people living with AIDS (HOPWA).</p> <p>We have implemented Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in all of our clinics. We are smashing stigma by offering screening to our patients in their Primary healthcare home. This has normalized conversations about substance use and intervened before use progresses to a disorder.</p>
<p>Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>Avenue 360 started as Houston Area Community Services (HACS) in 1988, primarily to treat individuals with AIDS. HACS then merged with Bering Omega Community Services to form Avenue 360. Although originally associated with AIDS care, Avenue 360 serves a diverse population who experience multiple disparities. As the only FQHC offering Recovery Support Services, we are committed to the improvement of all health issues. Our participants and patients have</p>

	<p>psychiatry and therapy services available at the same site as their SUD treatment. We also have a robust social services department to help improve social determinants of health while the peer support works alongside to help build recovery capital.</p> <p>We also have a team of community health workers (CHW) who do assertive outreach and testing.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>Substance Use Disorder Counseling 1:1 and IOP/SOP</p> <p>Peer Support</p> <p>Peer Groups</p> <p>Medication in the form of suboxone and naltrexone to support recovery from AUD and OUD</p> <p>Overdose prevention training and naloxone</p> <p>Harm reduction education and support in all areas of health and wellness, including substance use</p> <p>Dentistry</p> <p>HIV care</p> <p>PreP Pre-exposure to HIV medication</p> <p>PeP Post-exposure to HIV medication</p> <p>HEP-C care</p> <p>HRT gender-affirming care</p> <p>Primary Health Care</p> <p>OB/GYN care</p> <p>Pediatrics</p> <p>Psychiatrist</p> <p>Therapy</p> <p>Case management</p> <p>Free HIV, and pregnancy testing</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Assertive outreach for HIV testing and health education.</p> <p>Avenue 360 currently has 3 leadership positions employed by people in recovery and supports recovery at every level, to candidates who fill the job requirements.</p>

Nominated Organization	Thriving United
<p>Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.</p>	<p>In my civic capacity as a former member of the Midland City Council, I have been a friend of the organization and it's leadership for a few years. In my professional capacity I provide consulting services for the organization.</p>
<p>Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.</p>	<p>A few years ago, Thriving United committed to not only becoming the Permian Basin's only RCO but established a vision to "create a community of empowered and recovered people!" The simplicity and clarity of this vision created a movement in the recovery community that has helped the organization grow from 2 team members in 2019 to over 30 this year. The organization's team is professionally,</p>

	<p>ethnically and financially diverse filled with women, men, those from within the recovery community and those new to recovery. To date, seven pastors have been and continue to be involved with Thriving United providing guidance, workshops and spiritual support where desired. One former City Councilmember who has been in recovery for over 40 years serves on the organization's board. The media has become in key partner in telling stories of recovery and promoting Thriving United. In fact, the General Manager of the newspaper serves and Chairman of the Board and has a son who struggles with addiction.</p> <p>In a relatively short period of time, Thriving United has managed to build an extensive network of community partners including judges, elected officials, other recovery organization, families and friends. In fact, over 50 non-profit community organizations have partnered with Thriving United because of the success it has seen in helping people heal and rebuild lives. Additionally, Thriving United has received two proclamations from the City of Midland, acquired and is converting a building in downtown Midland into a Recovery Community Center with community being the operative word. This center will feature, meeting rooms open to the public, kids area, a recovery café, the organization's offices and a meditation room for those trying to connect with themselves.</p> <p>This is where the power and success of Thriving United has come from</p>
<p>Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>Since 2019, Thriving United has assisted 2,000 individuals and helped them achieve 105,000 days of recovery. More than 175 have achieved long-term recovery and an additional 200+ have achieved significant harm reduction, averted 8 teen suicides and many other adult deaths.</p> <p>In 2020, already having seen some success as an RCO, Thriving United, specifically one of the organization's co-founders, Pat Brown, was asked to be the subject of a documentary. Entitled, Dancing with a Gorilla, the docu-short tell the story of Pat Brown's unlikely fall and rise and his passion Thriving United. It includes interviews with his family and friends underscoring the fact that recovery affects everyone.</p> <p>The documentary aired in prime-time in our local community and was followed by a live community town hall meeting about recovery. The documentary was also carried by other PBS stations around the nation. Wow!</p> <p>I believe this is what put the organization on the map and fuel its growth and success. I also believe that the documentary touched the lives of other people in other communities around the nation where it aired. A link to the documentary is below. In my humble opinion, every RCO needs to embrace a strategy like this. A link to this very powerful story is below.</p> <p>Dancing with a Gorilla: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB7h0wkjhCM</p>

	<p>Thriving United has also build a network of speakers who speak on behalf of the recovery community at Rotary Clubs, Civic organizations and the like. The purpose is to create a natural link between the community as most know it, and the idea that recovery affects everyone and is everyone.</p> <p>Finally, the organization hosts three major city-wide events celebrating recovery every year. These include HOPEFEST in conjunction with Midland's largest event, the Midland County Fair (23,000 attendees), A FREE Easter Brunch which will feed over 1,000 people this year and the Big Texas Rally</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>Thriving United has grown from 2 team members in 2019 to over 30 this year. The organization's team is professionally, ethnically and financially diverse filled with women, men, those from within the recovery community and those new to recovery. With local contributions and underwriting on the rise, the opportunities for leadership for those in recovery is great. In fact, 90% of Thriving United's team members are people in recovery and or family members of those in recovery.</p> <p>The organization's approach to recovery includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use evidence-based practices to provide peer support programs. b. Provide opportunities for service work. c. Assist in obtaining safe housing. d. Provide opportunities to build trusting relationships. e. Bridge the gap between people and services by making connections with partners within our community. f. Serve anyone and everyone with all hurts and habits by helping them set and achieve goals. g. Address body, mind, and spirit of individuals. h. Provide means to gain new skills in order to live a healthy, balanced, self-directed life. <p>This approach fuels the following services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Peer Support Services to help connect people to the recovery community and resources. b. Recovery Residences to provide safe, healthy, abstinent living environments based on the social model of recovery. c. THRIVE! Teen Recovery to provide young people a safe place to discuss and work through everyday issues. d. An Art Center to exploring the arts as a trauma-informed resilience-focused venue for healing by providing space for exhibitions and a safe place to be heard. e. TRANSFORM to teach people to free their minds and transform their lives by thinking about their emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, social, financial, occupational and environmental well being differently.

	<p>f. Benevolence to we help our community partners invest in individuals either in recovery or seeking recovery.</p> <p>g. Volunteer Services to find opportunities for those in recovery to give back and serve others in our community.</p> <p>h. Give It Forward Thrift Store to give and receive clothing and household items at 301 E. Illinois.</p>
Awards and honors if any	Thriving United has received two proclamations from the City of Midland.

Nominated Organization	Casa Esperanza, Inc.
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am a clinical psychologist who has worked in a consulting role for Casa Esperanza since 2008, first as a grant writer, and now (and for the past 7+ years) as a clinical consultant. I support the organization in thinking through and implementing trauma-informed, recovery-oriented care in a complex integrated model. During the first year of the pandemic, I led process groups for team members across the organization to help them manage the stress and trauma of this experience.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	Casa Esperanza provides an urgently needed, bilingual/bicultural community of recovery for the Latinx/e community in the Boston area and beyond. Founded by people in recovery as the first bilingual residential program in Massachusetts, Casa has continued to represent people in recovery, their families, friends, and allies. Casa's Board, leadership team, and staff include people with lived experience of recovery, as well as family members, friends and other allies. The most recent survey of Casa staff indicated that 29% are people in recovery; 91% have a loved one in recovery; and 44% have experienced homelessness. Every individual who comes to a Casa program is encouraged and supported to take the lead in their own recovery journey, with the Casa team providing the tools and support they need to develop their own plans for safety, wellness, and recovery. Casa engages family members and other friends and allies of every client, whenever possible, and often connects family members with the supports they need. For a community that often experiences discrimination in other healthcare and recovery settings (as well as in other encounters with the system) and is subject to serious health disparities, Casa has become a home where people in recovery and their family, friends, and allies feel welcomed.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	Casa Esperanza plays a leading role in advocating for and educating the public about the unique recovery needs of the Latinx/e community. Casa's clients and staff participate in Recovery Month activities each year with the MA Organization for Addiction Recovery and attend health fairs and community events throughout the year to speak about recovery, particularly in the context of the Latinx/e experience. Recent examples include: Annual "Love Yourself" harm reduction and healthy relationship education events (2022, 2023); Annual "World AIDS Day" outreach, resources, and activities; Annual Hispanic Heritage Month outreach, events, and resources; MassHealth Redetermination community education campaign and outreach efforts (2023); and social media campaigns for Recovery Month (2021, 2022) National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (2021, 2022), Promoting HIV Testing (2021, 2022), Black History Month (2022), Hispanic Heritage Month (2021, 2022), World Mental Health Day (2021, 2022), BIPOC Mental Health Month (2021), Minority Mental Health Awareness Month (2022), and more. Casa team members participate in the Massachusetts Social

	<p>Media Health Equity Committee. Casa's Mi Vida, Mi Historia program uses Storytelling for Empowerment, an evidence-based model based in cultural empowerment and resiliency models, to educate young people ages 13-24 about prevention. The impact of Casa's public education efforts is captured by the following powerful local news stories that Casa has contributed to, reaching large audiences:</p> <p>https://www.wbur.org/news/2018/05/03/latino-opioid-overdose-deaths</p> <p>https://www.boston25news.com/news/health/isolation-social-distancing-protocols-linked-increase-overdoses/BDPZ5X4U6ZDI7CXJHQVET4GLIE/</p> <p>Casa's leadership team, many of whom have lived experience of recovery, work actively to increase attention to, and understanding of the needs of people in recovery, among policy makers at local, state, and national levels. Examples include: responding to RFIs, such as City of Boston's Vision for a Racism-Free Boston and MA Dept of Public Health's RFI on housing, where Casa advocated for low-threshold affordable access to housing and housing justice; participating in the MA Association for Behavioral Healthcare's Lobby Day and providing testimony around ensuring access to care for people incarcerated and leaving incarceration as essential to addressing disparities in racial and ethnic health equity; and serving on numerous task forces, including the District Attorney's Taskforce on Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health, Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services, Statewide Reentry TaskForce, Strong Leaders Program, Together in Recovery Advisory Committee, and the Boston Youth Resiliency Recovery Collaborative. Casa's Executive Director, Emily Stewart's role as Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Partnering with Underserved Populations Committee for the Association for Behavioral Healthcare demonstrates the leadership role that Casa occupies in advocacy and public education activities.</p> <p>Casa also partners with researchers at Brandeis University to ensure that meaningful data about recovery needs, services, and outcomes for the Latinx/e community is gathered and disseminated nationwide. In addition to publications, just two examples of *numerous* national presentations that illustrate Casa's impact on the field are: "Promoting Health & Empowerment among Latinx with Co-occurring Disorder: A Community-Research Partnership," presentation to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and "Culturally Focused Integrated Care in a Research to Practice Model," presented to the Brandeis University Heller IBH Behavioral Health Seminar in March 2021. Casa's national impact is evidenced by their selection as a technical assistance provider for the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>Casa Esperanza provides a full spectrum of bilingual/bicultural services, including clinical stabilization services for people leaving detox; residential recovery services for men and women, including women with children; supportive housing; and outpatient services that include individual and group psychotherapy, intensive outpatient programming, intensive case management and advocacy, and a full range of recovery services. All Casa's services are integrated with access to medical and mental health care, so that people in recovery can have a holistic health home at Casa. Central to all of Casa's services is a model of</p>

	<p>empowering people in recovery to build the resources they need to thrive. Every program includes Recovery Specialists and/or Peer Recovery Coaches who have lived experience of recovery and can model a future of purpose to those in early recovery. Casa's programming operates according to a phased model of recovery, that helps those they serve move from building safety and stabilization, through health and wellness, purpose and empowerment, and finally to community and recovery. Many of our clients express a keen interest in giving back to the community, but the lack the self-management, interpersonal, life, and leadership skills, which can lead to frustration and deepening disconnection. To address this, Casa staff see leadership development as central to the work of supporting clients in their recovery journey, as well as part of Casa's commitment to cultivating Latinx/e recovery leaders. Daily modeling, coaching, and mentoring interactions provide opportunities for apprenticeship, including organizing social activities and learning about group facilitation. As clients build their own skills and resources, they have opportunities to share their learning and growth with peers, in group settings (such as AA/NA meetings, Health and Recovery Peer (HARP) Program) and through more informal mentoring in residential programs and at community-wide social events, where the community comes together to celebrate recovery and cultural pride. For some, these opportunities serve as an entryway to a career as a Peer Recovery Coach or Counselor. For others, leadership opportunities are a way to strengthen community and familial ties and experience a sense of purpose as they give back to the community.</p>
Awards & Honors if any	<p>Casa Esperanza's expertise has been recognized in various ways, including through appointments to the Health Policy Commission Advisory Council, Massachusetts Coalition for Addiction Services, and the Statewide Reentry TaskForce, as well as being selected as a technical assistance provider for the national Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center, and being entrusted with leadership of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare's Partnering with Underserved Populations Committee.</p>

STOP

Go to Recovery Organization of the Year (Part 2) Form to continue scoring

Recovery Organization of the Year (Part 2)

Nominated Organization	Kimmie's Recovery Zone
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I met Al when I worked at Centerstone in 2020. Centerstone provides community based mental health an substance abuse treatment. He stopped by just to introduce himself. He told me about how his daughter passed away from an overdose in 2015. She was in her mid 20s at the time. He explained his vision of how he wanted to start a community clubhouse type space for individuals in recovery. However, COVID was in the mix and he plans were on hold. In 3 short years, Al now has a space to provide services to the community where he holds cooking classes, yoga, art classes and a fit zone.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	Kimmies recovery zone is open to ANYONE in recovery. They provider the classes mentioned before and Peer Support.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	Al has gone around to about every organization in the community spreading awareness of the opioid epidemic. He trained our staff on how to use NARCAN and gave us over 300 units to give out to our clients.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	They just received a grant to train 600 individuals in the community over the next 5 years to become Certified Peer Specialist. He has developed partnerships with the community to hire these individuals and provide opportunities to volunteer.
Awards and honors if any	Many - Check Facebook

Nominated Organization	Live Rite Recovery Resource Center (please note this organization received two entries from the same individual, as well as three nominations from different individuals)
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	<p>First entry: Peer mentor</p> <p>Second entry: I am a past resident of the recovery homes and a current CPRM at Live Rite</p> <p>Second nomination: I started out as a client, coming out of treatment and moving into their recovery homes. I then followed all rules and made my best efforts to get everything I could out of the programs and trainings they had to offer. I quickly learned how amazing this organization was and that I wanted to be apart of it in a bigger capacity, so I decided to apply for a job after taking the CCAR Training course here at Live Rite. I was offered the job and love every second of the on going training I receive, the support of my continues sobriety and the amazing relationships I am building within the business/organization and the community.</p>

	<p>Third nomination: She is my aunt</p>
<p>Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.</p>	<p>First entry: We offer family and peer coaches, meetings vocational training, resume building, And food, clothing, staffing assistance to the public.</p> <p>Second entry: There are too many to list. We have family events, such as Easter egg hunts, trunk or treat, day camps, children's day, and bingo. We also promote local agencies by supporting their events.</p> <p>Second nomination: The organization offers so many classes, trainings and out reach programs. We offer free clothing and food to the less fortunate, provide transportation to all clients inside the Live Rite Recovery homes for meeting located at said organization. We also just received the first vending machine in Macomb county to dispense FREE Narcan, which we have been giving out free to the public sine the organization has opened. We give back by volunteering very Friday at a local food drive , offer peer coaching services to clients in and out of the Live Rite Program.</p> <p>Third nomination: She's always there</p>
<p>Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>First entry: We attend Ufam United to face addiction rally in Lansing yearly.</p> <p>Second entry: Live Rite has gone to high schools recently with education on substance abuse. Live Rite has also advocated on a board of rco's and advocates at the state level yearly.</p> <p>Second nomination: We offer many classes every week to the public, including computer literacy, teen and peer support. NA and AA classes and much more</p> <p>Third nomination: Her company has so much to offer everyone. From arts & crafts, yoga, computer classes, support groups and much more</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>First entry: We currently have our residents in our recovery homes advance to management and house monitor position.</p> <p>Second entry: House manager positions are available while in the recovery homes. CCAR training for PRC certification. Live Rite currently employs current and previous residents in all departments. Including our lead CPRM in her current position. An outreach coordinator, Recovery Care Tech, Drivers, monitors, and peer coaches.</p> <p>Second nomination: Being a manager of the home you live in after so any weeks/ months clean. Gives a responsibility and accountability factor to your recovery. Being responsible for Drug testing, keeping the house clean, etc. n Certification trainings are always available for Narcan training, peer coaching, you can get many services positions and all of our meetings. Being a transporter to and from meetings.</p> <p>Third nomination: Support groups, open gym, mentorship, GED classes and much more</p>

Awards and honors if any	<p>First entry: Our president was Nominated for the athena awards. Our organization was chosen by Samsha's to present our programs in their yearly spotlight. as Key to the city of Roseville.</p> <p>Second entry: MARR AND NARR certified, our president has been nominated for Roseville most inspirational business woman.</p>
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Nominated Organization	The Hope Dealer Project
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	The Hope Dealer project is near and dear to my heart because it represents recovery in my hometown of Martinsburg, WV.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	The Hope Dealer Project has partnered with a lot of local recovery organizations to fulfill its mission of raising the voice of those impacted by addiction, providing awareness and recovery resources. The Hope Dealer Project has united many organizations, families, friends and allies together to save families, providing hope, and fighting addiction.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	The Hope Dealer Project is dedicated to raising the voices of people whose lives are affected by addiction. From direct outreach to civic and community engagement, The Hope Dealer Project focus is recovery and engaging people in advocacy in a new, vital, and meaningful way. The Hope Dealer Project has hosted many events such as Annual Community United in Recovery, Naloxone Training, Paint Nights, Ride for Recovery, Weekly Recovery Meeting, Heroin's Grip WV Premiere, Eastern Panhandle Budgeting/Finance Workshop, Facebook Live events during COVID-19 pandemic and upcoming the Inaugural Gratitude Gala: Celebrating Recovery. Coverage areas include West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The Hope Dealer Project has been recognized and honored by many well-known media outlets such as People Magazine, WV Wonder Woman, CBS News, DC News Now and The New Yorker.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	The Hope Dealer Project provides advocates for substance abuse and sober living placement, employment resources, court appearances for diversion and alternatives to incarceration, reintegration support services, and opioid death and grief intervention. In addition, The Hope Dealer Project provides financial assistance for detox/rehab, admission necessities, and financial assistance for cremation or burial expenses due to overdose of a loved one. The Hope Dealer Project also has hosted many recovery events such as educational seminars and symposiums.
Awards and honors if any	<p>The Hope Dealer Project has been recognized and honored by many well-known media outlets such as People Magazine, WV Wonder Woman, CBS News, DC News Now and The New Yorker. The Hope Dealer Project is currently rated 4.9/5.0 on Facebook reviews since its creation in February 2016.</p> <p>West Virginia women help offer hope to opioid addicts https://www.cbsnews.com/video/west-virginia-women-help-offer-hope-to-opioid-addicts/</p>

	<p>Four West Virginia Moms Offer Support to Opioid Addicts: 'We're the Dealers of Hope'</p> <p>https://people.com/human-interest/four-west-virginia-moms-hope-dealer-project/</p> <p>Hope Dealer Project</p> <p>https://wvliving.com/wonder-women-2017/</p> <p>The Addicts Next Door</p> <p>https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/06/05/the-addicts-next-door</p> <p>Martinsburg Women Form Group to Deal in Hope</p> <p>https://www.journal-news.net/news/local-news/martinsburg-women-form-group-to-deal-in-hope/article_aaf92c84-0e34-50ef-93f8-1f4eccbb3e9d.html</p> <p>Moms Unite To Combat Drugs in Martinsburg</p> <p>https://www.dcnewsnow.com/news/moms-unite-to-combat-drugs-in-martinsburg/</p>
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Nominated Organization	Reboot Jackson
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am a person living and working in recovery, so these are two parts for me. One, I go for check-ins and support. I also have an amazing working relationship with Reboot. When I worked with individuals experiencing homelessness, they helped me find recovery and housing for my clients. Now we resource together to help support the participants in Drug Court.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	Reboot has so many pieces at work. They have a beautiful open space for groups and meetings. A place the whole family can go, even toys and video games for kids. They also have food, clothes, and showers if someone is hungry or needs to prepare for a job interview. They have a Peer that helps folks find jobs. A Peer that works with Family and Children Service/Schools. A Peer that works with the Accountability Courts in Jackson, Barrow, and Clarke County. Reboot Jackso is all about rebooting the community around them and hosting community events fundraisers and housing meetings. Being in resources together to meet and build the community up together.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	They work closely with the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse, Georgia Overdose Prevention, and the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network to stay trained and updated on when, where, and how to advocate for ALL Peers. They have rides to raise money to provide Narcan to the community and first responders in rule areas that can afford it. Reboot goes to the Capital annually to advocate for recovery/mental health legislation. They push for returning citizen to have safe housing and recovery services even in such a rule area.

Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	<p>Individual and group check-ins.</p> <p>Community outreach and connection.</p> <p>All recovery meetings.</p> <p>Job training and placement resources.</p> <p>Housing resources.</p> <p>Food</p> <p>Hope</p> <p>Peers getting to lead groups</p>
Awards and honors if any	<p>They have so many and not just as an Organization, but the Peers that work there have won things.</p> <p>Citizen of the year. A Karen Daniels award from the Georgia Council of Substance Abuse. I don't know all the things they have won. This isn't an award, but the city of Jefferson renamed the road that Reboot is on from 102 Clover Leaf Cr. to 102 Recovery Path, which, being from Jefferson, is a lot.</p>

Nominated Organization	Volusia Recovery Alliance
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	<p>As the Recovery Oriented System of Care Specialist at the Northeast Region Managing Entity for the state of Florida, I have been a part of the grass-roots work to develop Volusia Recovery Alliance as an emerging RCO. The need for recovery capital in Volusia County, home of the Daytona Beach International Speedway and the O.G. Spring Breakers, is strong, and so are the recovery champions who live there and are committed to saving lives, as someone once did for them. More than two years ago I participated in VRA's Listening Symposium and promoted the visioning meetings and trainings designed to set VRA up for success. I've linked VRA to Faces & Voices of Recovery subject matter experts and helped facilitate a team approach to success in North Florida, collaborating with the Department of Children & Families' SAMH Office and the statewide RCO. Today VRA is a healthy teen-ager who is embracing their commitment to provide hope to the communities they serve. As a person in long-term recovery myself, I have been in awe watching VRA evolve; it is a privilege to have helped this RCO meet its state contract deliverables and share in the promise of a New Recovery Day in the Sunshine State.</p>
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	<p>From the beginning, VRA formed an organized outreach to the diverse population of Volusia County. After creating a 501c3 board of individuals allied with the movement in a number of ways, and attracting a small staff of people trained in recovery peer support with a specific and varied skills sets, the team got busy. Especially its executive director, Karen Chaprek. As a person in decades-long recovery with a life centered on spreading the message of hope, Karen took steps to ensure people suffering in addiction AND their families would have support and be offered a path out. She leveraged her connections from co-occurring treatment facilities that served veterans, she met up with business and career vocational leaders in Daytona Beach and visited the county jail and hospitals. In the last year VRA has opened its own Hope Hub, a brick and mortar building where families attend weekly Invitation to Change Family groups. There they learn practices and tools that empower family members to be a part of creating conditions for families to change. Karen diversified VRA's funding through building a relationship - and MOU - with the area's</p>

	<p>Career Source, providing career development services to persons affected by substance use disorder. VRA consistently and regularly seeks volunteers in recovery and their allies to assist in the mission to build recovery capital and spread the message of multiple pathways.</p>
<p>Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>VRA's strategic plan has intersected many times with policy makers at the state and county level. Karen's GPS today does not need to be turned on for her car to find a parking space at Tallahassee's Capitol Building. Her ride and die passengers have shown up on Recovery Awareness days, Opioid Overdose Days and just to pay a visit to a senator's office where key legislation is on the desk. Recently Karen was an invited recovery messenger at a gathering of mostly top narcotics enforcers organized by Florida Sen. Rick Scott. VRA brought the message of recovery and resilience. She talked about the worth and strengths of individuals mired in a cycle of drug use. At the local level, VRA is even busier. Karen has met with Volusia's delegation of legislators and county commissioners and judges, who are all influencers on when and how Medicated Assisted Treatment and Narcan is brought into jails. VRA has become a source of subject matter expertise on the opioid epidemic, hope and recovery. VRA staffers have traveled throughout the state and nation to present and participate in behavioral health summits over the last two years; this writer has seen Karen corner a background exemption officer for the state of Florida in a breakout room to talk about changes to the Level 2 background check process for the peer workforce. VRA identified champions in the Florida Legislature and influenced legislation that removed specific disqualifying arrests for peer specialists along with the wait time for an exemption review. VRA continues to advocate for more changes that will make the peer workforce stronger and more sustainable. Along with harm reduction community education events, criminal justice is a focus sourced from the community's spoken needs: A Recovery 101 Presentation was made at the Volusia County Sheriff's Academy at the end of last year.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>Highlights from its inception in 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 1,700 referrals to resources in the community for those seeking recovery * 5,130 Narcan kits handed out * 2,208 individuals trained how to use Narcan * 139 community reported reversals * 122 "community rides" to meetings, appointments, recovery activities * 66 monthly bus passes * 120 individuals received recovery support and coaching services <p>Professional development for its key staff is prioritized; VRA makes time for staff to attend trainings that are delivered remotely and in person.</p>
<p>Awards and honors if any</p>	<p>During the most isolated months of the early COVID-19 pandemic, LSF Health Systems recognized VRA for being one of the first RCOs in the Northeast Region to deliver All Recovery Meetings via zoom. VRA launched a staff-rotating "warm line" for community residents to call and ask for help. The web site and the Facebook/social media platforms for VRA are impressive; check them out, please: https://volusiarecoveryalliance.org/</p>

	<p>https://www.facebook.com/VolusiaRecoveryAlliance/</p> <p>As a partner with Career Source of Flagler/Volusia, VRA was part of a U.S Department of Labor grant award to address the health and economic impacts of widespread substance and opioid misuse, substance use disorder, and overdoses in these counties.</p>
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Nominated Organization	South Florida Wellness Network, Inc
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am the Program Director at our RCC North Location.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	South Florida Wellness Network, Inc is a Recovery Community Organization in Broward County that currently has two locations. We provide a broad array of services from prevention through recovery management. Serving youth, young adults, adults and families with or at risk of chronic health conditions known as MH/SUD's. Through their assertive outreach and engagement they have engaged numerous services systems including schools systems including high schools and higher education institutes, child welfare, department of corrections, hospitality industry, emergency departments, law enforcement and first responders. They continue to expand their reach and engagement seeking to transform their community to a recovery oriented recovery ready community.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	SFWN is well known in their area and across the state of Florida for education and advocating on both the micro and macro level of service delivery. Our CEO serves on several Boards in order to expand our network and share knowledge to support the advocacy efforts for recovery.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	<p>SFWN is an education provider educating people in recovery about numerous topics regarding various aspects of recovery, harm reduction, safe using, and wellness supports (having fun in recovery is not an option it is a necessity) inclusive of the trainings necessary to become a Certified Recovery Peer Specialist.</p> <p>We also run an advisory committee made up of the Broward community members to discuss and educate around advocacy and leadership opportunities. SFWN is a leader in recovery support services and advocacy for individuals and families, as well as system transformation. We could not be who we are without community involvement and support. People seeking or in recovery are our largest asset to system transformation and the recovery movement.</p>
Awards and honors if any	We will received an award from One Community Partnership for our impact in the lives of Young Adults. We are also nationally know by the Federation of Families for our infographics and our impact across youth and family services. Many individuals as our agency have received awards for their efforts. This is our first time that I am aware that we will be pursuing an award for the agency at large :)

Nominated Organization	Recovery Cafe Network
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am currently the executive director of Recovery Cafe Lexington, a member cafe of the Recovery Cafe Network, and have had the privilege to work with the Network since 2016 as we embarked on the adventure of opening our RCC in Lexington, Kentucky.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	The Recovery Cafe Network embraces all pathways of recovery, and provides support to all who might be struggling. They believe that everyone is recovering from something in their lives, and welcome all who are willing to grow.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	The Recovery Cafe Network, when raising up member cafes across the country, provides numerous tools and support for member cafes to conduct public education and advocacy efforts in their communities.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	Detailed information can be found at: https://recoverycafe.org/about/history/

Nominated Organization	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	My name is Kathy Tahtinen, I am the Behavioral Health Department Manager for Grand Traverse Band (GTB) of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. I have been in my position with the tribe since April 2022. GTB services six counties in Northern Michigan: Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Charlevoix, Antrim, Benzie, and Manistee. The GTB tribe has over 4,000 members, with roughly half of the membership living in the six-county service area. The Behavioral Health Department has an organization chart of 17 staff members, however, due to a highly competitive employment market, there are only 3 current staff members in this department currently: an Office Coordinator, a Prevention Specialist, and a Peer Recovery Coach, all other services are currently being outsourced.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	This nomination is specifically for the Grand Traverse Band (GTB) of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians' Peer Recovery Coach, Scott Scholten. Scott has been working for GTB for four years and has more than 14 years of sobriety after years of lived experiences that contribute to his ability to help the tribal community. Scott is distinguished as a national trainer who trains other peer recovery support specialists across the United States, he has been recognized for his passion and efforts as a Peer Recovery Coach for the GTB community (both locally and nationally), and the recovery community at large. Scott has persevered through challenging times with significant departmental change, including the covid pandemic and adapting to virtual and alternative methods of contact; four management changes in four short years; and severe staff shortages, including currently having no counselors on staff in-house. When GTB lost several counselors due to the competitive market in Northern Michigan, Scott was able to adapt and find creative solutions to meet the needs of clients and the significant increase in the need for peer mentorship and advocacy for those in recovery. Scott has been instrumental in developing options for outsourcing services, creating partnerships and collaborations, and

	<p>finding local community resources to provide continuity of care for his clients. Scott's ability to pivot through adversity has proven his dedication to the tribal community and his strong desire to make a difference in the healing and wellness of the community, one client at a time. As the Peer Recovery Coach with many years of lived experience, Scott understands the need, and has found solutions to persevere through a less than ideal situation. Schott has been able to facilitate opportunities of collaboration and partnership with Addiction Treatment Services in Traverse City for a wide variety of outpatient services and has developed a strong relationship with Seven Arrows Recovery in Arizona for inpatient treatment, which provides a strong cultural component to the healing of GTB tribal members. Scott has also initiated collaborations with other recovery agencies and resources to ensure continued quality services for clients despite the internal staff shortages. Scott's reputation has allowed him access to county jails, that have otherwise been closed to outside visitors since the covid pandemic, which has allowed him access to clients and provided opportunities to coordinate intake assessments and referrals for clients going to inpatient treatment in lieu of incarceration. Scott's advocacy in sending several his clients to Seven Arrows Recovery inpatient treatment facility is now buzzing through the six county courtrooms with judges and prosecutors seeing the success of GTB clients who have been through treatment, who have demonstrated a decrease in recidivism rates and having a higher success rate of achieving a sustained lifestyle of recovery. GTB is fortunate to have Scott as part of the Behavioral Health team; the GTB community is fortunate to have a Peer Recovery Coach whose passion is to promote awareness and healing; as the department manager, I am fortunate to have an employee so willing to adjust to the everchanging employment challenges without missing a beat.</p>
<p>Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>Having only been with the organization for a year, my historical knowledge is somewhat limited, however, the current staffing situation is unprecedented, in that GTB currently does not have any in-house counselors on staff, and the Behavioral Health Department only has three employees: an Office Coordinator, a Prevention Specialist, and a Peer Recovery Coach. Despite the staffing challenge, in the last year, the community events relative to peer recovery, advocacy, prevention, and awareness have included: Jump into Spring (held at each of the satellite offices), serving 53 members; Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) event, serving 112 participants; Community Dance, 138 participants; Sobriety Camp Out, 100 participants; Michigan Adventure collaboration day with Youth Services, 316 participants; Addiction Treatment Services Recovery Month Porch-a-Palooza collaboration day, roughly 250 participants; Annual Membership Meeting, with approximately 300 in attendance; Community Readiness Plan, with 15 collaborators; local drug coalition advocacy meetings with more than 12 other community organizations; hosting and facilitating community trainings such as Mental Health First Aid, Adult Life Skills, Suicide Prevention, Naloxone Administration; cultural crafting events; Traditional Healer Appointments, Meet & Greet events, and Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, with hundreds of members utilizing these cultural activities; Powwow and Round Dance events with more than a thousand in attendance. And, most recently, GTB Peer Recovery is creating a recovery podcast, Reservation Conversation, to provide a digital resource that is relevant, relatable, and accessible to the entire tribal community.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides,</p>	<p>Scott, the GTB Peer Recovery Coach, is a strong advocate for recovery starting at home, on the rez, and branching out to the greater local</p>

including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	area, collaborating with other in-state tribes, and searching for ways to make a greater impact through connections with leaders on the local and state level. Scott is preparing to attend an event in the state capital in May for recovery advocacy, meeting with state representatives and discussing the drastic increase in drug crisis impacting the community. Through his peer recovery efforts, Scott is working to reduce the numbers of mothers who must bury their child, or children who lose their parent by bringing awareness to the drug crisis plaguing our country by providing resources, prevention, mentorship, and hope.
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Nominated Organization	UnityPoint Community Crisis Center- Living Room Program
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am a Recovery Support Specialist at the Living Room Program at UnityPoint Community Crisis Center.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	At the Living Room Program, we deal with people in crisis. We work with people individually and do all we can to provide resources and advocate for them if needed. We are the stop that most people take before they are put into the psych floor at a hospital, and we talk with them give them positive reinforcements resources for whatever their crisis is, and we are there to speak with them because we all have some lived experience with what they are going through.
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	The Community Crisis Center has ERS (Emergency Response System), a detox program, and the Living Room Program. In the Living Room Program, we work with people one-on-one; we call them each week to ensure they are doing well and don't need any new help, and we give so many resources. We have now begun a group called The Wellness and Recovery Group, and we do it each Friday from 1-2 pm, and we go over a wide variety of different helping mechanisms. Some of the things we have already done are How to Be Mindful with Your Time and Emotions, Setting Healthy Boundaries for Yourself, and so much more that we have in store. We have only done two groups, but people love that we are doing these.
Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.	We have resources for people for housing and recovery services; we advocate to get them into rehab if needed; we spend one-on-one time with them, meet each person where they are, and practice motivational interviewing. After one year of working there, we all have the opportunity to become CRSS. We help people with whatever their crisis is at that moment; we are understanding, and we do not pass judgment.

Nominated Organization	OCARTA
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I am the Director of Operations at OCARTA. I over see the staff, activities, outreach, and programs that happen at OCARTA.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	We are partnered with many organizations in the community of Oklahoma. We are a family ran grass root agency that is willing to help how ever we need to for families and individuals to be successful in their recovery. We also have been doing a lot research to create resource binders for everyone in our community including but not limited too LGBTQI+, Indigenous, African American, and many more communities that we are constantly working on. We have also been

	<p>going to do outreach to the people who are experiencing homelessness by giving them supplies that they may need including hygiene, food, and resources.</p>
<p>Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.</p>	<p>OCARTA conducts advocacy and public education activities through community outreach into several different behavioral health facilities, throughout Oklahoma. We conduct educational groups and speak outs at Universities and public awareness events. Additionally, OCARTA has two advocacy events a year for the public. We have a recovery rally at the state capitol in the spring and a recovery walk in early fall. These public events bring a face and voice of recovery to the legislators and have helped to pass many laws helping Oklahomans that need treatment and other resources in Oklahoma. Likewise, OCARTA attends several conferences yearly and hands out educational materials and has no cost trainings both at OCARTA and at Oklahoma State University monthly.</p> <p>The advocacy efforts have impacted the way Oklahoma looks at the recovery process and in the last 20+ years there has been a positive shift in public opinion and stigma associated with Behavioral Health disorders, especially for addicted individuals. Due to OCARTA's involvement with National Recovery Advocacies the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has worked with us and created a program that trains individuals in recovery to become Recovery Support Specialists. These individuals are now part of treatment models throughout all contracted Oklahoma behavioral health agencies.</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>OCARTA provides peer support services such as mentoring, life skill groups, recovery management plans, transitional housing, clothing, food, Peer Certification Training, on-the-job experience for the Peers in Training, community sober events, All Recovery Meetings (an introduction and all pathways recovery meeting), volunteer opportunities including community sentencing, computer access, and also help with specific needs such as steel toed boots or money for prescriptions, transportation like bus passes and gas vouchers. We like to think of ourselves as a hub to the recovery communities needs for everyday life. We also work with treatment and behavioral health providers and the Department of Corrections to help navigate and support individuals in recovery and their families.</p> <p>Our founder likes to say, "If you were an alien from space and wanted to know about or get help with recovery and landed at OCARTA you'd have a team of people who would help guide and mentor you."</p>
<p>Awards and honors if any</p>	<p>CAPRSS Accreditation Certified Recovery Community Organization by ODMHSAS Chosen as the 2023 Hub Event for Recovery Month DBSA Partner of the Year in 2017 NABVETS Partner of the Year 2009 BJA-COSSAP Mentor 2023 Awarded 3 Citations from the Oklahoma State Legislator for Work in the Recovery Field Proclamations for Recovery Month in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and the State of Oklahoma</p>

Nominated Organization	The Chris Atwood Foundation
Describe your role and relationship with the organization you are nominating.	I started with The Chris Atwood Foundation as a volunteer in 2016. Since then I've been on the board of directors, provided volunteer family programming and currently hold the Director of Programs position.
Describe how the organization represents the broad spectrum of the recovery community, including family, friends, and allies.	<p>The Chris Atwood Foundation was founded by the Atwood family in 2013 after Christopher passed away from an opioid overdose. The family's initial intent was to reduce stigma and raise awareness around addiction and recovery. Family members and friends joined the efforts to raise awareness by volunteering for the organization. As the organization grew and developed, Ginny, Christopher's sister became a force for advocacy and rallied politicians, family members and allies to support legislative change.</p> <p>The organization is comprised of a diverse group of individuals with broad lived experience. Beginning with a volunteer staff of one in 2013, increasing to 2 volunteer staff in 2015 while funded by donations. Identifying gaps in community care and listening closely to community need, the focus soon turned to providing naloxone access and safe recovery housing. The CAF identified a demand for peer support so the CAF hired its first peer recovery specialist in 2018 and expanded to a team of 5 in 2019. As a peer driven organization listening closely for gaps in the continuum of care for people in active use and seeking recovery, The CAF expanded services to include harm reduction, truly meeting people where they were with a mobile harm reduction van distributing free safe use supplies, naloxone, resources and peer support services.</p> <p>In her role as Executive Director, Ginny Atwood Lovitt grew the organization from humble beginning of one volunteer staff member to its current \$2.3M budget employing 21 peer recovery specialists as well as operations and leadership staff. Current staff consists of individuals in recovery, family members, and allies for harm reduction and recovery. The board consists of people in recovery, family members, friends and allies as well. The CAF is funded by state and federal grants including SAMSHA's Building Communities of Recovery Grant, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia DBHDS as well as county grants, corporate partners and allies such as Leidos, Elevance, Cigna, Anthem and local community partners such as the Fairfax County Community Services Board and family foundations.</p>
Describe the organization's history of conducting advocacy and public education activities, sharing highlights of the impact of advocacy efforts on the local, state, or national level.	<p>The CAF supports a variety of local, state, and federal advocacy objectives that increase access to services, support, and rights of people in recovery and people who use drugs. Among other successes, our work has resulted in 6 Virginia laws that increase access to naloxone, strengthen protections for people calling for help during an overdose, expand access to comprehensive harm reduction programs, and created a naloxone access pilot project at Carillion hospital. Following is a list of Virginia legislation that the CAF had direct impact on.</p> <p>2017- Community Naloxone Distribution 2018 – Affordable naloxone access 2019 – Streamlining naloxone access 2020 – Expanding Comprehensive Harm Reduction Programs</p>

	<p>2020 - Safe Reporting of Overdoses</p> <p>2021 – Danny’s Law / Emergency Department Naloxone</p> <p>2022 – Expanding Danny’s Law</p> <p>The CAF is a leader in community education providing overdose prevention, REVIVE training and Harm Reduction Education</p>
<p>Describe the types of services the organization provides, including any leadership opportunities for people in recovery.</p>	<p>The Chris Atwood Foundation provides a full continuum of free harm reduction and peer support services to the community in our Revive to Thrive program. As of January 1, 2023 18,200 people have been served through the following programs.</p> <p>Recovery Housing Grants: providing move + rent for individuals leaving incarceration or treatment. 1683 housing grantees to date.</p> <p>Reentry/HOPE Team: Providing in person peer recovery support services during and post incarceration including housing grants, groups and 1:1 peer support, care coordination, MAT support. In partnership with Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, Fairfax County Community Services Board at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center has now helped over 400 members successfully reintegrate into the community using recovery and harm reduction principles. This innovative program was highlighted in best-selling author Beth Macy's new book - Raising Lazarus.</p> <p>Comprehensive Harm Reduction (CHR): Mobile unit serving the Northern Virginia area with free safe use supplies, narcan, fentanyl test strips, wound care, testing, referrals, 1:1 peer engagements. 600+ members have enrolled in the CHR program. Harm Reduction education programs. Distributed 100,000 doses of naloxone, recorded 1700+ overdose reversals with CAF provided naloxone. Mailbased Naloxone Distribution to 130 counties in Virginia.</p> <p>Community Program: Community outreach to recovery house residents, peer group facilitation at local shelters and community organizations, free 1:1 peer support. Community Overdose Reversal Training, Warmline for on demand peer support for individuals and family members. In May 2023 The CAF will be launching a full service drop in center, The CAF Recovery Community Center, providing 1:1 peer engagements, on demand peer support, meetings, groups, wellness activities, pro-social activities and volunteer opportunities. Peer support is provided to an average of 350 members annually.</p> <p>The Recovery Academy: Quarterly Free Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Trainings with opportunities for paid internships to earn 500hrs needed for certification as well as a test prep course and future employment support. Started in 2022, the Recovery Academy has trained 43 new peer recovery specialists. 5 of which are now employed by the CAF as peers and three are currently in the internship program. One trainee is our volunteer, Volunteer Coordinator.</p>

	<p>STAR Family Program: Monthly Family program for incarcerated individuals and their families in person in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center with the Striving To Achieve Recovery Program also featured in Beth Macy's book Raising Lazarus. This program is in partnership with the Sheriff's department. Each month family members and STAR individuals meet for education, skill building and creating a recovery oriented family system.</p> <p>Advocacy: Peer led advocacy opportunities, local task force participation, community education and subject matter expertise.</p> <p>Volunteer: Volunteers are invited to support the harm reduction program with kit packing, join advocacy efforts and special events</p>
Awards and honors if any	<p>The CAF - 2016 Community Champion award from the Unified Prevention Coalition</p> <p>The CAF - 2017 Advocacy Organization Award from Caron Foundation Ginny Atwood Lovitt, Executive Director - 2020 Recovery Hero Award from Oxford House</p> <p>The CAF - 2019 Commending Resolution from the General Assembly of VA</p> <p>The CAF - Regional Leadership Award from Leadership Fairfax Featured in Beth Macy's latest book, Raising Lazarus</p>