There are tens of thousands of men and women across our country just like you who want to speak out about their recovery experiences while honoring the principles that have worked so well for so many. This pamphlet answers questions that people who want to speak out are asking as they think about how to share their experiences and make it possible for others to get the help they need. Here's what one person has to say,

I'm feeling better in my sobriety as I work a twelve-step program and am grateful for the blessings it has brought me. I want to reach out and help others who are still in the throes of active discrimination, and other barriers to treatment and recovery support services.

Anonymity...
The principle of anonymity was established to assure a safe place for people to recover and keep focused on their primary purpose of helping alcoholics and addicts to recover.

...at the level of the media, is the cornerstone principle of many twelve-step groups and recovery programs. It is an essential element of success because it gives the recovering person the protection he/she needs from scrutiny.

...also plays a crucial role in establishing personal humility, which is a cornerstone of the spiritual foundation of recovery.

Here are the traditions that lay out the principle of anonymity as it applies to many twelve-step groups.

Tradition 6
“A [twelve-step group] ought never endorse, finance or lend the [twelve-step group] name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

Tradition 10
“The [twelve-step group] has no opinion on outside issues; hence, the [twelve-step group] ought never to be drawn into any public controversy.”

Tradition 11
“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

So, this means that you can speak about your own recovery and advocate for the rights of others, as long as you do not involve the twelve-step group by name.

Here are a few “portals” where you can find links to critical information and other organizations:

Faces & Voices of Recovery
www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org
202.737.0690
Faces & Voices is a national campaign founded by the recovery community in 2001. Faces & Voices is committed to mobilizing and organizing the millions of Americans in long-term recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, our families, friends and allies to change public perceptions of recovery, end discrimination and keep focus on the fact that recovery works and is making life better for millions of Americans.

Johnson Institute
www.johnsoninstitute.org
202.662.7104
The Johnson Institute has pioneered intervention, treatment, and recovery strategies for more than 40 years. It has stood for honoring recovery - not hiding it. The Johnson Institute was founded by Dr. Vernon Johnson, an Episcopal priest and recovered alcoholic. As one of the oldest service non-profit organizations in the addiction recovery field, the Johnson Institute is composed of and serving people in recovery with offices in Washington, D.C.; Austin, Texas; and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Join Together
www.jointogether.org
617.437.1500
Since 1991 Join Together, a program of the Boston University School of Public Health, has been the nation’s leading provider of information, strategic assistance, and leadership development for community-based efforts to advance effective alcohol and drug policy, prevention, and treatment. Through extensive online information resources and national policy panels, Join Together helps community leaders understand and use the most current scientifically valid prevention and treatment approaches.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD)
www.ncadd.org
212.269.7797
Founded in 1944, NCADD is dedicated to increasing public awareness and understanding of the disease of alcoholism and drug dependence. NCADD’s leadership and advocacy on policy issues at the national level has changed the course of alcoholism and addiction treatment in America. The NCADD network of state/local Affiliates provides education, prevention, information/referral, intervention and treatment services and has helped hundreds of thousands of individuals and families into recovery.

Marty Mann, NCADD’s founder, was a recovering alcoholic with long-term sobriety, and was dedicated to three basic principles: alcoholism is a disease and the alcoholic is a sick person; the alcoholic can be helped and is worth helping; and, this is a public health problem and a public responsibility.

Additional copies of this pamphlet are available from any of the organizations listed above.

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month
www.recoverymonth.gov
An annual September celebration of Recovery Month that takes place in communities across the country. The observance celebrates people and families in recovery from addiction who have overcome stigma, discrimination, and other barriers to treatment and recovery support services.
Here are some questions that may help you think about how you can tell others what recovery means to you and your family.

Q: How do I start?
A: As with most activities in our lives, you will need to get comfortable by seeking support and guidance from people you trust. If there’s not a recovery community organization in your area yet, it may make the most sense to join together with a few others and map out a strategy for getting started. That way, if you are new to public speaking for example, you can practice with each other and then move out into the community.

Q: How can I advocate if I am uncomfortable speaking publicly?
A: There are many ways to support recovery. You can write letters to your local newspaper responding to an article; or submit an Op-Ed piece on topics like expanding insurance coverage for treatment or making recovery housing available to people in need. Write to or visit your elected officials, or invite them to activities that you are involved in. Your very presence may break some stereotypes they may hold. Policy makers often relate best to real, human stories of their constituents and your story will help them understand how policies impact people who are rebuilding their lives.

Q: Where should I speak out?
A: Start by talking with one other person, a friend or neighbor or a small group. As you become more comfortable, expand your audience. As you gain more experience, you may want to speak publicly or privately with your city council, state legislators or other public officials. You can coordinate your advocacy work with others.

Q: If I recovered through Alcoholics Anonymous or another twelve-step group, how do I talk about my recovery in the media without referring to AA or my mutual support group?
A: Faces & Voices of Recovery has developed language that you can use to talk about your recovery that doesn’t mention any particular pathway.

“I am an advocate so my kids don’t have to suffer with addiction like I did.”
Joo Powell, in long-term recovery, Association of Persons Affected by Addiction, Dallas, Texas.

I’m (your name) and I am in long-term recovery, which means that I have not used (insert alcohol or drugs or the name of the drugs that you used) for more than (insert the number of years that you are in recovery) years. I am committed to recovery because it has given me and my family new purpose and hope for the future, while helping me gain stability in my life. I am now speaking out because long-term recovery has helped me change my life for the better, and I want to make it possible for others to do the same.

You can also simply say, “I found recovery through a twelve-step group, but our traditions do not permit me to name it in the media” or if you are an Al-Anon member, you can simply say, “I’m a family member in recovery from a relative or friend’s alcoholism.”

Q: How can I get involved?
A: There are many ways that you can speak out and get involved. Each person supports recovery in his or her own way. You can:

1. Make it personal.
2. Keep it simple and in the present tense, so that it’s real and understandable.
3. Help people understand that recovery means that you, or the person that you care about, are no longer using alcohol or other drugs. You can do this by saying “long-term recovery,” talking about stability and mentioning the length of time that you or that person have been in recovery.
4. Talk about your recovery—not your addiction.
5. Help people understand that there’s more to recovery than not using alcohol or other drugs, and that part of recovery is creating a better life.

Q: Why does the recovery community need to organize and advocate for policies that support long-term recovery?
A: To make recovery a reality for even more Americans, we need our special endorsement; they need only a helping hand, when, as individuals, we can possibly give it. Our experience shows that when people in recovery talk, policy makers sit up and listen. Together, we have a powerful message and as a result of our advocacy efforts, more people get help today than ever before! But, we need to do more!“

“...so let us hasten to work alongside those projects of promise to hasten the recovery of millions who have not yet found their way out. These varied labors do not need our special endorsements; they need only a helping hand, when, as individuals, we can possibly give it.”

Benjamin A. Jones, Executive Director, NCADD-Greater Detroit Area.

The most important thing is to get started. Here are some common sense things to think about as you move forward:

• No recovering person should advocate publicly if his or her sobriety, job or financial well-being will be put into jeopardy.
• No recovering person should advocate at the level of public media unless he or she has two years of recovery.
• You may disclose your identity and speak as a person in long-term recovery so long as your membership in a particular program of recovery is not revealed.

Here is another thought from Bill Wilson to keep in mind as we proceed together:

So let us hasten to work alongside those projects of promise to hasten the recovery of millions who have not yet found their way out. These varied labors do not need our special endorsements; they need only a helping hand, when, as individuals, we can possibly give it.

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Building community collaborations to reduce the impact of substance abuse in our community through education, advocacy, and training.

Brauchtworks Consultation & Training
Applying Science to Practice
brauchtworks.com
Recovery Definition


Recovery from Mental Disorders and Substance Use Disorders is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

Four major dimensions that support a life in recovery:

1. **Health**: overcoming or managing one’s disease(s) or symptoms—for example, abstaining from use of alcohol, illicit drugs, and non-prescribed medications if one has an addiction problem—and for everyone in recovery, making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional wellbeing.
2. **Home**: a stable and safe place to live;
3. **Purpose**: meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school, volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income and resources to participate in society; and
4. **Community**: relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.


On average, recovery is sustained another year by:

- 36% of people 1-11 months in (early) recovery
- 66% of the 1-3 year (sustained) group
- 86% of those with 4-7 years (stable)
Participant Feedback

Presenter(s): ___________________________________________________

Date: ________________   Location: _______________________________

Check all that apply:  Male □   Female □
American Indian/Alaska Native □
Asian □
Black or African American □
Hispanic or Latino □
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander □
White □
Other: _________________________________ □

1. Please indicate your overall impression of this workshop/presentation .................................. □ □ □ □ □

Rate the presenter(s) on each of the following:

2. Explained the purpose of the session .................. □ □ □ □ □
3. Defined terms and concepts clearly .................... □ □ □ □ □
4. Gave clear instructions ...................................... □ □ □ □ □
5. Is knowledgeable about the concepts presented. □ □ □ □ □
6. Established an environment conducive to learning .......................................................... □ □ □ □ □
7. Answered questions clearly and completely ........ □ □ □ □ □
8. Provided reasonable opportunities for participation and interaction .......................... □ □ □ □ □
9. Made learning interesting and exciting through her/his enthusiasm ............................. □ □ □ □ □

Please continue on the back.

Brauchtworks Consultation & Training Applying Science to Practice

www.brauchtworks.com
Please rate the presentation/workshop on:

10. Content relevance ............................................ Poor □ □ □ □ □ Excellent □ □ □ □ □
11. Training methods ........................................... Poor □ □ □ □ □ Excellent □ □ □ □ □
12. Handouts ....................................................... Poor □ □ □ □ □ Excellent □ □ □ □ □
13. Training site location ....................................... Poor □ □ □ □ □ Excellent □ □ □ □ □
14. Training room comfort - space, lighting, temperature, acoustics & ventilation ............. Poor □ □ □ □ □ Excellent □ □ □ □ □

Based on this workshop, I am able to:

15. Explain the neurobiology of addiction and recovery .......................................................... Poor □ □ □ □ □ Excellent □ □ □ □ □
16. Describe how the neurobiology is important for recovery advocacy and the recovery community .................................................. Poor □ □ □ □ □ Excellent □ □ □ □ □

17. What aspects of the presentation did you find most helpful?

18. What aspects of this presentation could be improved?

19. If an advanced presentation were held on this topic, what content would you hope to see addressed or covered?

20. In summary, I would like the presentation organizers and presenter to know... (please comment)

Thank YOU for attending this workshop and for spreading the word: Recovery Happens!
The Science of Addiction and Recovery (SOAR) Presentation Report

After delivering SOAR, please let us know how it went by submitting this report and copies of the Participant Feedback forms. Your information will be forwarded to Faces and Voices of Recovery who will update the information on their web site.

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- Participant Feedback Form are attached.

Please send the completed Presentation Report and copies of the Participant Feedback forms by either:

- a. email to: neil@gasubstanceabuse.org;
- b. fax to: 404-523-3649
- c. mail to: 100 Edgewood Avenue, Suite 1685, Atlanta GA 30303

Thank YOU for being a face and voice of recovery!
Participant Feedback

Check Presenter(s):  George Braucht □ & ______________________ □

Date: ________________   Location: _______________________________

Check all that apply:
- Male □  Female □
- American Indian/Alaska Native □
- Asian □
- Black or African American □
- Hispanic or Latino □
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander □
- White □
- Other: _________________________________ □

1. Please rate your overall impression of this workshop/presentation .................................. □ □ □ □ □

Please rate the presenter(s) on each of the following aspects of effectiveness:

2. Explained the purpose of the session .................. □ □ □ □ □
3. Defined terms and concepts clearly .................... □ □ □ □ □
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8. Provided reasonable opportunities for participation and interaction ......................... □ □ □ □ □
9. Made learning interesting and exciting through her/his enthusiasm .................................. □ □ □ □ □

Please continue on the back.
Please rate the presentation/workshop on each of the following:

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<td>15. List at least five pathways to recovery</td>
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<td>18. Identify three keys to becoming a successful trainer</td>
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<td>19. Explain the three W’s for organizing your SOAR presentation</td>
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22. What aspects of the presentation did you find most helpful?

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Thank **YOU** for attending this workshop and for spreading the word: **Recovery Happens!**