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## **SEPTEMBER IS RECOVERY MONTH JOIN A SAFE HAVEN IN HONORING ' CHAMPIONS FOR RECOVERY'**

CHICAGO—September 18, 2009 A Safe Haven LLC. September is National Recovery Month. A Safe Haven will hold a 'Champions for Recovery' awards ceremony on September 18 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Union League Club (65 W. Jackson). The ceremony will include the following Honorees: 'Advocate for Veterans': Senator Dick Durbin, 'Advocate for The Second Chance Act', Congressman Danny Davis, 'Excellence in Media': Harry Porterfield, Emmy Award Winning CBS Journalist; 'Excellence in Research': Dr. Art Lurigio Loyola University Director of the Center for the Advancement of Research, Training and Education (CARTE); 'Advocate for Musical Artists': Harold Owens, Senior Director of MusiCares Foundation, and 'In Documentary Film": Benjamin Singer, Student Northwestern University "The Throwaway War". Print publications, Streetwise, Negocios Now and The Southtown Star will be presented with awards for 'Excellence in Journalism'. The event will begin with a presentation and a testimonial from a graduate of A Safe Haven. Abe Thompson will be the honorary chair of the event. Mr. Thompson is a Broadcast owner, author, international film juror, business consultant, motivational speaker and Emmy Award winner in film projects. Abe Thompson is also on the Board of Directors for the A Safe Haven Foundation and is a 2008 A Safe Haven 'Champion for Recovery' 'Philanthropist' Award Recipient.

"These Champions for Recovery have, in their own areas of expertise, brought awareness to the epidemic of the disease of addiction. This event will bring a unifying message from the different segments of the recovery community in honor of National Recovery Month," said Brian Rowland, CEO of A Safe Haven.

According the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), one of every eight Americans has a significant problem with alcohol or drugs. Approximately 27 million Americans either use illicit drugs regularly or are "heavy drinkers." Of these almost 16 million are estimated to need immediate treatment. A Safe Haven understands the need for treatment and actively works to change these statistics by providing a unique program to people who seek recovery from addiction. A Safe Haven believes in providing an integrated, comprehensive continuum of care and housing as well as a robust economic development model that is focused on empowering those in recovery to become accountable, productive and self-sufficient citizens. As with any American suffering from the disease of addiction, a top priority for successful recovery starts with providing a supportive environment that is free of drugs and alcohol and conducive to recovery. A Safe Haven's success rate is three times that of the national average.

A press conference will also be held in Washington D.C. to honor Rep. Patrick Kennedy as a Champion for Recovery for his work on the Wellstone Bill on September 24 from 5 p.m. to 7p.m. at the Rayburn House Office Building House room B369. The Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act is legislation that would end the practice of insurance companies discriminating against people suffering from mental illness. The bill would compel insurance companies to treat mental illness the same as physical illness, given the overwhelming scientific evidence that mental illness is a disease every bit as real and serious as physical illness. Substance abuse and alcoholism has been recognized as a 'Disease' since it fits the criteria of a disease as chronic, progressive and leads to death if left untreated. The *American Medical Association* endorsed the concept in 1957.

**More Information:** A Safe Haven: [www.asafehaven.com](http://www.asafehaven.com)

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