



Recovery Community Services

# Project Profiles

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**RCSP Project:** Futuros Saludables

**Grantee:** Serving Children and Adolescents in Need, Inc.  
(SCAN)

**Contact(s):** Christopher Craddock  
Principle Investigator  
(956) 724-3177 ext. 123  
chris@scan-inc.org

Grizelda Carrillo  
Program Director  
(956) 724-3177  
grizelda@scan-inc.org

**Web site:** <http://www.scan-inc.org>

Serving Children and Adolescents in Need (SCAN), a provider of prevention and treatment services, is implementing its peer services project, Futuros Saludables, in Webb County, Texas. The county abuts the Texas-Mexico border, and illicit drugs are easily available. Many residents of Webb County live in poverty, and a large population of minimally acculturated Mexican-Americans do not speak English. Compounding these risk factors, the area has only limited treatment services. Futuros Saluables trains culturally appropriate peer leaders to serve as peer mentors or coaches for adults and adolescents seeking recovery, conduct life and job skills and wellness trainings, and create community events that strengthen the connection between individuals seeking recovery and the larger community of recovering people and their families.

**RCSP Project:** Honoring Every Woman’s Right to Safety (HERS)

**Grantee:** AIDS Service Center of New York City

**Contact(s):** Sharen Duke  
Executive Director/CEO  
(212) 645-0875 ext. 304  
sharen@ascnyc.org

Ramona Cummings  
Co-director of Prevention Services  
(212) 645-0875 ext. 342  
ramona@ascnyc.org

**Web site:** <http://www.ascnyc.org>

The AIDS Service Center of NYC (ASC) is replicating an earlier, mixed-gender, RCSP peer recovery support project, but adapting and tailoring it specifically to economically disenfranchised African American and Latina women living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS who also have a history of alcohol and/or drug problems and are currently in or seeking to enter recovery. Women served by Honoring Every Woman’s Right to Safety (H.E.R.S) include those who are homeless or marginally housed ex-offenders, HIV-positive individuals in recovery, and active alcohol and/or drug users contemplating recovery, as well as those engaged in treatment including methadone maintenance. Peer services include recovery coaching, women’s support groups, life skills workshops, health and wellness workshops, community outreach, and the facilitation of pro-recovery social networks. H.E.R.S. provides extensive on-going peer leader training, using a curriculum adapted from ASC’s previous RCSP project.

**RCSP Project:** Our Common Welfare (OCW)

**Grantee:** Women in New Recovery (WINR)

**Contact(s):** Patricia Henderson  
Executive Director, WINR  
(480) 464-5764  
winrpah@winr.org

**Web site:** <http://www.winr.org>

Our Common Welfare (OCW), a project of Women in New Recovery (WINR), is expanding a previously funded RCSP peer program by developing new peer leaders from among the more than 45 operators and 2,100 residents of recovery homes in Maricopa and Yavapai Counties, Arizona. Historically, recovery homes have been resource-poor and unable to provide support services for their residents. New peer recovery support services in these environments are reaching underserved populations of women and men and building the capacity of the recovery housing community to meet the needs of those seeking recovery. In addition to providing leadership and tools, OCW and its trained peer leaders offer such services as strengths- mapping workshops, peer coaching, peer case management, ex-offender reentry assistance, and peer-led support groups. OCW also maintains a recovery resource center and sponsors a Holistic Health Fair.

**RCSP Project:** Peer Support Recovery Program (PSRP)

**Grantee:** Community Bridges

**Contact(s):** Dr. Frank Scarpati  
Chief Executive Officer  
(480) 831-7566  
fscarpati@cbridges.com

John Hogeboom  
Project Director  
(480) 831-7566  
jhogeboom@cbridges.com

**Web site:** <http://www.communitybridgesaz.org>

Community Bridges is the primary provider of crisis care, medical detoxification, and outpatient services to homeless, indigent, and working poor residents of Maricopa County, Arizona. In its Peer Support Recovery Program, peer support specialists work in homeless and crisis centers, as well as on the street, to reach out to individuals—including recently released prisoners seeking recovery—to provide peer support in accessing services. For those in treatment, peer support specialists provide a variety of support services, including assistance in making transitions between levels of care. As needed, they also offer help in accessing other services, such as housing, employment, and health care. The peer support specialists, who receive 160 hours of classroom and on-the-job training, are supervised by a peer support manager.

**RCSP Project:** Pennsylvania Recovery Organization  
Achieving Community Together (PRO-ACT)

**Grantee:** Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug  
Dependence (BCCADD)

**Contact(s):** Beverly J. Haberle  
Executive Director  
(215) 345-6644  
haberle@bccadd.org

Heidi Gordon  
Program Manager  
(215) 345-6644  
hgordon@bccadd.org

**Web site:** <http://www.bccadd.org>

PRO-ACT, a project of the Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, is spearheading an effort to replicate its peer recovery support service model—developed in Philadelphia and Bucks County—in Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware Counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. Peer recovery support services are provided to individuals and families seeking any route to recovery, including medical assistance. PRO-ACT specifically targets those seeking recovery from co-existing disorders and those desiring recovery support related to their gender (such as women’s reproductive health problems), experience (such as military or correctional system involvement), or goals (such as family reunification or continuing education and career planning). Peer recovery support services are delivered primarily by volunteers from the local recovery community. PRO-ACT has identified specific stakeholders and locales, including recovery homes and community recovery resource centers, to conduct early service roll-outs. Services include peer-led support groups, peer-delivered life skills workshops and trainings, one-on-one coaching and mentoring, information services, and referral to local resources. Health and wellness groups are available, along with cultural and socialization activities.

**RCSP Project:** Reach 1 Teach 1

**Grantee:** SAARA of Virginia, Inc.

**Contact(s):** Mark Blackwell  
Executive Director  
(804) 762-4445  
director@saara.org

Jean Govoni  
Project Administrator  
(804) 762-4445  
jean@govoni.biz

**Web site:** <http://www.saara.org>

The Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia (SAARA), a recovery community advocacy organization, is collaborating with the local public treatment agency and a recovery support foundation that provides recovery housing to open a Recovery Center in Chesterfield County, Virginia. The SAARA Recovery Center will target individuals leaving treatment or on the waiting list for treatment, and will also be open to those who are seeking recovery through avenues other than treatment. The Recovery Center will operate as a drop-in center and house one-on-one peer mentoring, small-group peer case management, support groups, and a Peer Leadership Institute to train and sustain peer leaders.

**RCSP Project:** Recovery Annex

**Grantee:** Exponents, Inc.

**Contact(s):** Howard Josepher  
Executive Director  
(212) 243-3434 ext. 102  
hjosepher@mac.com

Sam Rivera  
Project Director  
(212) 243-3434 ext. 155  
srivera@exponents.org

**Web site:** <http://www.exponents.org>

Exponents is a community-based organization in the heart of Manhattan serving individuals with substance use problems and/or HIV/AIDs. In Exponents' RCSP project, The Recovery Annex, peer-to-peer recovery support strategies currently available to HIV-positive clients are being adapted to serve individuals in or seeking recovery from substance use problems who are not HIV-positive. The support service model centers on Mentoring Circles that use peer group dynamics and one-on-one peer support to discern important recovery lessons and then help individuals apply these lessons to the real challenges of life in the community. The Mentoring Circles are backed by various services, including a peer-staffed vocational center, to link participants to important community resources. Most individuals served by the Recovery Annex are people of color, drawn from New York City communities with the highest rates of drug use and co-existing disorders and conditions.

**RCSP Project:** Seattle/King County Peer Recovery Services Network

**Grantee:** Multifaith Works

**Contact(s):** Arthur Padilla  
Project Director  
(206) 324-1520 ext. 223  
arthur@multifaith.org

Shane Rossow  
(206) 324-1520 ext. 244  
Shane@multifaith.org

**Web site:** <http://www.seattlecounseling.org>  
<http://www.multifaith.org>

The Seattle/King County Peer Recovery Services Network is a collaboration among the grantee, Multifaith Works, a nondenominational nonprofit organization providing housing and other supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS, and three other Seattle organizations: a counseling organization serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) communities; a gay city health project providing HIV and STD testing; and a program hosting multiple support groups composed of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Network operates as a peer-led clearinghouse facilitating referral and access to services provided by the partners and other Seattle health and human service agencies. It also serves as the organizational hub for engaging, training and retaining peer volunteers in the partnering organizations, and works to elevate the profile of recovery in the GLBTQ communities of Seattle and reduce the stigma associated with addiction and recovery in these communities.

**RCSP Project:** A Recovery Community Services Project to Establish a Peer-to-Peer System

**Grantee:** Tohono O’odham Nation

**Contact(s):** Jane LaTané  
Project Director  
(520) 603-2477  
janelatane@hotmail.com

Art Wilson  
Project Manager  
(520) 603-2477  
arthur.wilson@tonation-nsn.gov

**Web site:** <http://www.itcaonline.com/tribes-tohono>

The Tohono O’odham Nation, a federally recognized Tribal Organization with one of the highest rates of substance abuse among all populations in the U.S., will implement a comprehensive peer-to-peer program to support individuals in recovery with a full range of culturally-appropriate recovery support services in the 11 districts that comprise the Nation. The project will engage at least four individuals from each of the 11 districts of the Nation to serve as peer mentors and promote recovery. Each peer mentor will provide peer-to-peer support services to at least three individuals each year, for a total of 528 individuals served over the 4-year project. Trained peer mentors also will facilitate at least one recovery support service each year to enable the Nation to reestablish culturally appropriate individual and community supports for recovery to individuals and their family members who seek help.

**RCSP Project:** Free Mind

**Grantee:** Pima Prevention Partnership  
Tucson, Arizona

**Contact(s):** Harry Kressler  
Executive Director  
(520) 624-5800 ext. 1101  
hkressler@thepartnership.us

Dennis Noonan  
Program Director  
(520) 624-5806 ext. 108  
dnoonan@thepartnership.us

**Web site:** <http://www.thepartnership.us>

Pima Prevention Partnership (PPP), a nonprofit, youth and family services agency based in Tucson, Arizona, is working in collaboration with the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Arizona, the Pima County Juvenile Court, and COMPASS Health Care's Clean and Sober Theater, with pro bono assistance from the Journal Broadcasting Group, to create and develop a peer-based recovery community model for youth ages 14-18 that can be replicated nationwide.

PPP will recruit and train a 10-member core group of peer leaders in recovery who will develop and implement services. The program will target marginalized and/or adjudicated youths from multi-ethnic communities (approximately 60% Hispanic, 17% White, non-Hispanic, 10% Native American, 10% African American, 3% Asian/Pacific Islanders). Peer recovery support services will be offered at the Pima Prevention Partnership Learning Center, a newly remodeled 17,500 square foot site that will also house a Cyber Café for the youth recovery community. The Learning Center will offer peer-led emotional, informational, instrumental, and affiliational support services five afternoons and evenings per week plus Saturdays.

**RCSP Project:** Medication Assisted Recovery Services Project (MARS)

**Grantee:** National Alliance of Methadone Advocates, Inc. (NAMA)  
Bronx, New York

**Contact(s):** Walter Ginter  
Project Director, MARS  
(718) 993-3397 ext. 3216  
namavp@yahoo.com

Joycelyn Sue Woods  
President, NAMA  
(212) 595-6262  
nama.president@verizon.net

**Web site:** <http://www.methadone.org>

The peer facilitated Medication Assisted Recovery Services (MARS) project is a collaboration between the National Alliance of Methadone Advocates (NAMA) and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM), Division of Substance Abuse (DoSA). MARS is located in the Bronx, New York and will provide peer recovery support services to patients at the medical college's Methadone Maintenance Treatment program. The organized provision of peer recovery support services is completely new within medication assisted treatment (MAT), as is the collaboration of a peer-based recovery community organization (NAMA) with a major treatment provider (AECOM).

The overall goal of MARS is to design, implement, and evaluate selected peer-delivered recovery support services that will complement the existing treatment program. The MARS project will provide persons whose recovery is assisted by medication with the tools they need to be more effective facilitators of their *own* recovery.

MARS services will include: training in medication-assisted recovery, a mix of culturally appropriate support groups, drug and alcohol free social activities celebrating recovery, and peer leader training and mentoring. A peer council will help to direct the development of the project.

**RCSP Project:** Recovery Alliance Peer Support Services

**Grantee:** El Paso Alliance, Inc.  
El Paso, Texas

**Contact(s):** Ben Bass  
Executive Director  
(915) 594-7000 ext. 11  
bbass@recoveryalliance.net

**Web site:** <http://www.recoveryalliance.net>

The Recovery Alliance is a peer-led recovery community organization that provides wrap-around services for persons in recovery and their family and friends. The Alliance works with existing social, health, and criminal justice systems to put a positive face and voice on recovery and acts as a bridge between the treatment provider, drug courts or probation officers, and other service providers in the local community to provide long-term peer recovery support services.

The organization strives to ensure diversity in volunteers, staff, membership, activities, and services, and offers culturally competent peer recovery support services to all demographic and cultural segments of the El Paso community (approximately 78% Hispanic, 17.2% Anglo, and 4% African American), and serves both men (49.9%) and women (50.1%). The Alliance will deliver peer support services for people seeking recovery from alcoholism or addiction including recovery coaching, Recovery 101, spiritual support, housing and job supports, and coordination of social services.

**RCSP Project:** Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc. (RCA)

**Grantee:** Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc. (RCA)  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Contact(s):** David L. Whithers  
Executive Director  
(404) 370-0123  
david@recoveryconsultants.org

Cassandra Collins  
Associate Director  
(404) 370-0123  
cassandra@recoveryconsultants.org

**Web site:** <http://www.recoveryconsultants.org>

Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc. (RCA) is a faith-based recovery community organization designed to provide peer recovery support services to members of Atlanta's inner-city addiction recovery community. RCA also facilitates a faith-based coalition that includes six predominately African American churches and a historically black college.

Through its "Linkage to Care" outreach program, individuals in recovery canvas inner-city Atlanta communities and engage substance users who are in the precontemplation, contemplation, or preparation stages of change in dialogue aimed at linking them with publicly funded detoxification programs. Individuals who complete a 7-day detoxification program or who are already in early recovery are linked with other RCA and publicly-funded services that include: access to the recovery center, more than 40 weekly 12-Step, faith-based, health specific (HIV and HCV), gender-specific, and family-specific support groups; transitional housing; addictive disorder treatment programs; and educational programs that help to improve parenting skills. RCA also provides incentives for sustained recovery through its workforce development and business development initiatives.

**RCSP Project:** Recovery Network of New York (RNNY)

**Grantee:** Center for Community Alternatives  
Syracuse, New York

**Contact(s):** Marsha Weissman  
Executive Director  
(315) 422-5638 ext. 218  
mweissman@communityalternatives.org

Jackson Davis  
Project Director  
(315) 422-5638 ext. 222  
jdavis@communityalternatives.org

**Web site:** <http://www.communityalternatives.org>

The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) is the facilitating organization for the Recovery Network of New York (RNNY), a peer-led recovery community that will serve recovering people leaving the criminal justice system in the Rochester and Albany area. Participants will include people in recovery from the African American and Latino communities as well as growing numbers of women. Services offered by the RNNY will also take into account gender, age, linguistic, and sexual orientation.

Peer leaders in Rochester and Albany, in concert with the existing program in Syracuse, a former SAMHSA/CSAT funded initiative, will develop peer recovery support services in these cities to form a broad network that will serve Upstate New York. The aim of these community-based programs is to address the long-term social and practical needs of people leaving the criminal justice system—parolees, drug court participants, and participants in alternative-to-incarceration programs—who intend to take up healthy and responsible lives and to address the double stigma associated with addiction and possession of a criminal record. This is a pioneering project for Upstate New York.

CCA will serve to support the work of peer leaders at each site as they begin to design, implement, and manage programs; administer GPRA; and conduct program evaluation. The Rochester and Albany communities are currently in the final phases of a strengths and needs assessment, but examples of peer delivered services are likely to include: civic restoration, employment services, social support services, leadership training, peer-delivered HIV prevention education, mentoring, and housing assistance. Leadership training and community outreach will be a major emphasis in year one to ensure that a sound foundation is built in establishing recovery community support services outside the Syracuse area in the subsequent grant years.

<b>RCSP Project:</b>	Sister to Sister
<b>Grantee:</b>	Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery and Treatment Association (OCARTA) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
<b>Contact(s):</b>	Donna Woods-Bauer Executive Director (405) 848-7555 donna@ocarta.org
<b>Web site:</b>	<a href="http://www.ocarta.org">http://www.ocarta.org</a>

In collaboration with over a dozen community organizations, substance use and prevention programs, and law enforcement agencies, the Oklahoma Citizen Advocates for Recovery and Treatment Association (OCARTA), through Sister to Sister, will implement the first peer recovery support services in Oklahoma County for women in all stages of recovery and their children.

The goals of Sister to Sister are to help women in recovery develop self-sufficiency and improve family functioning. Working in conjunction with a trained Peer Leader, each peer member will develop an individualized Peer Recovery Plan for entrance to the program. Services will be delivered through *The Recovery Zone*, a clubhouse-type environment where women in recovery can socialize and access services in a child-friendly setting. The project will provide these women with a number of emotional, informational, affiliational, and instrumental supports that include: (1) one-on-one peer mentoring in support of family unification, (2) life and jobs skills training, (3) parenting education, (4) childcare, (5) transportation assistance, and (6) family-oriented recreational and social activities and other sober activities.

## 2004 Grantees

<b>RCSP Project:</b>	Accessing Success
<b>Grantee:</b>	Relief Nursery, Inc. Eugene, Oregon
<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>Sharri Da Silva</b> Project Director (541) 485-0007 sharrids@reliefnursery.org  Ray Brown Project Supervisor (541) 485-0007 ext. 205 raybr@reliefnursery.org
<b>Web site:</b>	<a href="http://www.reliefnursery.org">http://www.reliefnursery.org</a>

The mission of Relief Nursery is to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing early family interventions focused on building resilient children, strengthening parents, and preserving families. Accessing Success addresses the recovery issues of parents in the criminal justice system with children under 6 who may be at risk of abuse or neglect. The peer services are available at Relief Nursery's Eugene headquarters and in Salem and Cottage Grove, Oregon.

### **Peer Support Interventionists**

Accessing Success's peer support interventionists (PSIs) provide peer counseling in home visits or phone calls and conduct crisis intervention when necessary. They also lead recovery support groups and classes in anger management, parent education, and social skills.

The PSIs accompany peers to court and child welfare agencies, providing support and advocating on their behalf. They provide support to other family members as well.

### **Orientation, Training, and Supervision**

Accessing Success has developed a strong supervisory plan and an orientation and training program for peers interested in becoming PSIs. Working with a supervisor, each PSI creates a professional development plan that identifies goals and skills to be acquired. An experienced PSI "shadows" a new PSI during home visits, court hearings, family meetings, 12-step meetings, and other activities. Mentoring is available from Relief Nursery staff.

<b>RCSP Project:</b>	Circles of Recovery III
<b>Grantee:</b>	White Bison, Inc. Colorado Springs, Colorado
<b>Contacts:</b>	Don L. Coyhis Project Director (719) 548-1000 don@whitebison.org info@whitebison.org  Amanda Manbeck Project Manager (719) 548-1000 amanda@whitebison.org
<b>Web site:</b>	<a href="http://www.whitebison.org">http://www.whitebison.org</a>

White Bison is an American Indian nonprofit organization with the goal of bringing 100 Indian communities into healing by 2010. Based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, it operates throughout Indian Country, spreading its philosophy of “wellbriety”, which means being both sober and well. Its RCSP project, Circles of Recovery III, aims to develop an infrastructure of recovery support services in 15 local communities to help prevent relapse, promote holistic health, and reframe community norms about recovery.

### **Recovery Services Coaches/Firestarters**

Through leadership development and training, Circles of Recovery III develops Firestarters, also known as recovery services coaches men and women in recovery with the facilitative and leadership skills to coordinate and deliver a range of culturally appropriate social supports for recovery in their home communities.

### **Wellness Coalitions**

Circles of Recovery III is helping local Native American communities reframe traditional clan knowledge into strategies for building productive coalitions for recovery and holistic health in individuals, families, and communities.

### **Seven Trainings**

White Bison’s Seven Trainings are having an impact and being used to develop additional programs. The seven trainings are based on the Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps, each specially targeted to men, women, adult children of alcoholics, Native American children of alcoholics, families, daughters, or sons. Firestarters are trained to facilitate these curricula.

### **Web site**

The White Bison website, which is used to communicate instantly with Firestarters across the country, is getting one million hits a month, and hits seem to be increasing by 100,000 per week. Sharing “how we did it” information in

discussion groups hosted on the website have increased the quality of peer learning and supervision among the Firestarters.

**Warrior Down**

Based on the cultural tradition of never leaving a warrior on the battlefield, Circles of Recovery III is using the Firestarters to help people coming out of treatment or prison. In Idaho, a Firestarter is considered as an Elder and paired with individuals newly released from prison or treatment to help them with issues and provide support. Assistance can take the form, for example, of helping the person obtain a driver's license or find a job. In 6 months since the program started, not one of the 36 people in the program has relapsed or been returned to an institution. This peer-to-peer program will be repeated at the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota.

**RCSP Project  
& Grantee:**

Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)  
Hartford, Connecticut

**Contacts:**

Phillip Valentine  
Executive Director  
(860) 244-2227  
phillip@ccar.us

Cheryle Pacapelli  
Director of Operations  
(860) 244-2227  
cheryle@ccar.us

**Web site:**

<http://www.ccar.us>

CCAR is a recovery community membership organization that promotes recovery through advocacy, education, and service. Its RCSP project uses a peer-based social support model to build recovery capital throughout Connecticut. CCAR's definition of recovery capital is "individual, relational, and community resources that support sustained recovery."

**Recovery Community Centers**

Building on the success of its center in Windham, Connecticut, CCAR opened its second recovery community center in late 2005 in New London, Connecticut. Both recovery centers host an array of peer recovery support services, including trainings, workshops, vocational services, informal recovery coaching, and clean and sober social events.

The recovery community centers "anchor" recovery in a visible way in the heart of the communities they serve. CCAR plans to have a total of nine recovery centers by the end of the grant.

**All-Recovery Groups**

All-Recovery groups meet regularly meeting at both centers. These are recovery support groups that welcome members from any "form" of recovery 12-step, Christian, other faith-based, methadone maintenance, medication assisted, dual diagnosis, individual, and any other type. All-Recovery meetings discuss topics related to recovery and close with affirmations.

**Telephone Recovery Support**

CCAR has developed a telephone recovery support program for people completing treatment for a substance use disorder. Trained peers call people leaving treatment programs once a week for 12 weeks to check on their status and progress and to offer support where needed. CCAR has developed a case rate for this phone service and expects to provide it as an Access to Recovery (ATR)-funded service in Connecticut.

## **Volunteer Management System**

CCAR has developed a Volunteer Management System which includes job descriptions for 19 different volunteer positions. In 2005, volunteers recorded more than 3,000 hours of service time.

## **Recovery Housing Project**

The Recovery Housing Project is a three-pronged effort consisting of a recovery housing data base, a Recovery Housing Coalition, and technical assistance on how to open a recovery home. The searchable data base of recovery housing in Connecticut contains information on 107 houses with a combined capacity of more than 1,100 beds. The project gets 50-60 calls a week for information from the data base; the Department of Corrections uses it to get people out of correctional halfway housing and into recovery housing that meets the standards set by the Recovery Housing Coalition.

CCAR's technical assistance, provided four times a year in training sessions, covers standards established by the Coalition, zoning laws, funding, and other key issues. About 70 people have attended each training, and seven new houses have been opened by attendees, adding 70 new beds.

## **Family Support and Education Groups**

Recognizing the importance of engaging the family in the recovery process, CCAR has instituted family support groups and a family/ community education series.

## **Recovery Walks!**

CCAR's annual walk in support of recovery has become a community tradition. In 2005, an honor guard of 68 men and women with at least 10 years of recovery led the march, inspiring the 2,000 other marchers and the many others who came out to cheer for Recovery Walks!

**Grantee:** Welcome Home Ministries  
Oceanside, California

**Contacts:** Carmen Warner-Robbins  
Executive Director  
(760) 439-1136  
jnhrrbbs@sbcglobal.net

**Web site:** <http://www.welcomehomeministries.org>

A faith-based organization, Welcome Home helps women move from the correctional systems of San Diego County into productive lives in the community. Through Face to Face, women who have made that transition successfully offer peer support to others coming out, helping them break the cycle of addiction and incarceration, choose options for recovery, and find hope for the future. Welcome Home has two offices strategically located close to detention facilities.

**Peer Mentors**

Peer mentors in Face to Face provide supportive services to women in jail and, following release, in treatment facilities or other types of rehabilitation programs. The companionship of “women who have been there before” is the common thread in all contacts with the women served, whether in outreach visits in jail, letters to incarcerated women, or one-on-one contacts during and after treatment.

**Instrumental Supports**

In addition to providing emotional and/or spiritual support, peer leaders accompany the former inmates to court or to dental, eye, or medical appointments. Instrumental support is provided in the form of emergency food supplies or clothing, bus passes, hygiene items, and transportation.

**Recovery Support Group**

Face to Face conducts a weekly recovery support group for women. Women in the group explore relationships with family, friends, significant others, children, and other women in the program.

**Employment and Housing Support**

Peers receiving services from the Face to Face Program are helped to find employment and/or enrolled in adult education activities. Face to Face peer mentors also help women find safe housing in the community.

**Dental and Vision Ministry**

Welcome Home has organized a network of dentists supporting recovery who provide free or deeply discounted dental work for women enrolled in Face to Face. The local Lions Club also offers vision exams and eyeglasses at a fraction of the normal cost.

## **Pilot Program with Corrections Department**

Previously, Welcome Home Ministries has only been able to work with women in local jails. In the fall of 2005, negotiations were completed with the California Department of Corrections for Face to Face to begin working with women in State institutions at the California Institution for Women (CIW) and Puerta La Cruz Conservation Camp. In addition, Face to Face is developing relationships with the CIW Chaplains' Department and the Parole Planning Unit.

## **Leadership Development**

Face to Face is developing formal peer-to-peer training and protocols to educate peer leaders in best practices for one-on-one peer counseling, effective goal setting, and other important peer support skills. Welcome Home also is writing several articles on peer services for publication in professional journals.

**RCSP Project  
& Grantee:**

Heartland Cares, Inc.  
Paducah, Kentucky

**Contacts:**

Krista Wood  
Executive Director  
(270) 444-8183 ext. 103  
[kwood@hcares.org](mailto:kwood@hcares.org)

James Michael Elliott  
Project Supervisor  
(270) 444-8183  
[melliott@hcares.org](mailto:melliott@hcares.org)

Molly Stephens  
Project Coordinator  
(270) 331-7788  
[mstephens@hcares.org](mailto:mstephens@hcares.org)

**Web site:**

<http://www.hcares.org>

The purposes of this peer project are to promote effective recovery from substance use disorders and prevent relapse among HIV-positive persons throughout 27 counties of western Kentucky and 17 counties of southern Illinois. The facilitating organization provides primary care and outreach, prevention, and social support services for persons living with HIV infection.

**Buddy System Peer Mentoring**

Peers needing services are paired with peer mentors in a “buddy system.” Because service recipients are dispersed sparsely throughout a 250-square-mile rural area and many do not have cars, much of the mentoring takes place in telephone conversations. The project gives peers prepaid cell phones programmed for up to 300 minutes a month, enabling them to be in frequent contact with the peer leader who is mentoring them.

**Life Skills Support Groups**

Peer leaders are paired with staff to lead support groups aimed at helping peers develop life skills in areas such as relationships, anger management, and healthy living. Peers lead the sessions, but a staff member also is available to handle the complex emotional and medical issues that may come up in people dealing with both HIV infection and substance use disorder.

**Peer Outreach**

Peer leaders perform critical, life-saving tasks by engaging and supporting new peer service recipients in various locations in the Kentucky-Illinois service area. Peer leaders are supported with travel vouchers, training, and the availability of project staff.

## **Education-Socialization Events**

Because of what project leaders term “extreme isolation” and a “desperate need” for socialization activities among recovering people in rural western Kentucky and southern Illinois, an important peer service offered by Heartland CARES combines education and socialization opportunities. Classes are led by peers on topics related to wellness, and are followed by outdoor social activities such as picnics in the summer and indoor activities such as games during the winter. Peer supportive educational and social activities have recently been increased and extended to three new locations: Marion, Illinois and Hopkinsville and Paducah, Kentucky.

**RCSP Project  
& Grantee:**

Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA)  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Contacts:**

Anita Bertrand  
Executive Director  
(216) 391-6672  
abertrand@norainc.org

Judy Wright  
Program Manager  
(216) 391-6672  
jwright@norainc.org

**Web site:**

<http://www.norainc.org>

NORA is engaging the recovery community in developing and providing culturally competent peer recovery support services in three counties in northern Ohio. The peer support services are designed to prevent relapse, reengage recovering persons in the community, and promote high-level wellness.

**Resource Centers**

NORA provides peer services and recovery support groups at four sites. Two county resource centers one in Cleveland (Cuyahoga County) and the other one in Elyria (Lorain County) were opened in the first year of the grant, and a third is planned for Summit County. These centers provide space for support groups and serve as a hub for other peer support activities, including peer mentoring and connecting people in early recovery to resources.

NORA also operates from its office in East Cleveland, maintains an office at the Salvation Army in Elyria, and provides mentor-led support groups at a nearby recovery house for men that opened in Elyria early this year. Recovery support group meetings are held at all sites.

**Peer Mentors and Support/Education Groups**

Peer mentors provide one-on-one support for people in early recovery (including adolescents in treatment) and lead recovery support and education groups, including a number of nontraditional groups. Some of the groups offered are Pattern Changing for Abused Women, focusing on the recovery needs of abused women; Transitions, a re-entry group; an anger management group for men; and life skills and job readiness groups.

**Linkages with Stakeholders**

NORA has developed productive linkages with many organizations, including Iron Bar Ministries, Phase I Recovery House, Salvation Army, and the Lorain County Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Project. These stakeholders refer people in need of social support to NORA and help NORA identify potential mentors. In addition, some provide space for NORA mentors to work.

## **Special Events**

In the last year, NORA has held a number of trainings, including two peer mentor trainings. In addition, it convened a weekend conference on “Building Bridges” for the recovery, faith, and treatment communities which drew 250 participants and an open house attended by the new mayor of Cleveland.

**RCSP Project:** Peer to Peer Project

**Grantee:** The Fortune Society  
New York, New York

**Contacts:** Stanley Richards  
Deputy Executive Director  
(212) 691-7554  
srichards@fortunesociety.org

Ana Matos  
Senior Director of Treatment Services  
(212) 206-7070  
amatos@fortunesociety.org

**Web site:** <http://www.fortunesociety.org>

Staffed primarily by former prisoners, The Fortune Society is a not-for-profit community-based organization offering a broad range of services to help ex-prisoners and at-risk youth break the cycle of crime and incarceration. Peer to Peer develops peer leaders who model successful recovery and provide support for peers at early stages of the recovery process who are reentering the community from a correctional facility.

#### **Peer Support**

Peer leaders provide ongoing support consisting of companionship, listening to emotional problems, giving advice on social networking and lifestyle changes, and providing information in one-on-one and group formats.

#### **Instrumental Support**

Help in completing applications for employment and/or housing is available from the peer leaders. Other peer services include escorting clients when they leave the building for therapy or doctors' appointments, helping them apply for Medicaid or public assistance, providing assistance with reading documents received in the mail, navigating public transportation, and alleviating stress.

#### **Curriculum Development**

A peer leader training curriculum has been completed. It consists of eight modules: orientation and overview; social skills and conflict resolution; conflict resolution skills and active listening; training; cognitive distortions; decision making and problem solving I and II; and losses in addiction.

#### **Leadership Development**

Two groups of peers have completed the 12-week training for peer leaders and The Fortune Society's human resources orientation. In addition, they received group facilitation training from Fortune's clinical supervisor, and were briefed on processes for establishing and maintaining boundaries when working with peers.

**RCSP Project:** PROSPER–Peers Reach Out Supporting Peers to Embrace Recovery

**Grantee:** Walden House, Inc.  
San Francisco, California

**Contact:** Demetrius Andreas  
Program Director  
(213) 741-3731  
dandreas@waldenhouse.org

Salvador Wilson  
Program Manager  
(213) 741-3709  
swilson@waldenhouse.org

**Web site:** <http://www.waldenhouse.org>

Walden House is a nonprofit substance use disorder treatment agency providing services throughout California. Under the Walden umbrella, PROSPER is building a strength-based peer-to-peer recovery community in Los Angeles among men and women reentering the community from prison, as well as their families.

### **Drop-in Center**

Located in downtown Los Angeles, the PROSPER drop-in center provides peer-to-peer reentry and social support opportunities for ex-offenders and their families. Ex-offenders are encouraged to come directly to the drop-in center following release from prison. Peer leaders work with each incoming peer to develop an individualized recovery and reentry plan. The center is open until 9:00 p.m. so that peers can drop by after work.

### **Resource Connection**

The center also houses a Resource Center designed to offer its members access to vocational and housing placements and other ancillary services vital to persons in recovery who are reentering the community.

### **Instrumental Supports for Employment**

PROSPER offers its members access to fax machines, e-mail, and a telephone to receive calls from prospective employers, assistance with resume development, and clothing vouchers. In addition, it connects its members with agencies throughout Los Angeles that offer jobs to ex-offenders.

### **Workshops, Support Groups and Wellness Activities**

The PROSPER center offers a number of resources including educational seminars on relapse prevention, money management, career planning, and creative art classes. Many, although not all, of the classes are peer-led. The center also hosts an active peer-led support group called “Be Real With Self” which

promotes socialization and provides mutual support and a women’s support group. PROSPER sponsors a softball team and has a weekly yoga class.

### **Family Socialization Events**

Every Friday night is “Kick-It-Night” at the PROSPER drop-in center. Families come together to watch videos, eat popcorn, and play board games. These weekly gatherings are highly valued by PROSPER peers and provide a good opportunity for building social skills, strengthening families, and creating a sense of shared community.

### **Peer Leader Steering Committee**

A Peer Leader Steering Committee guides the development and implementation of all services.