

2017

West Virginia Day of Hope: *Miracles Happen*

A Celebration of Prevention and Recovery

September 17, 2017

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/WVDayofHope • Twitter: #WVDayofHope

Dear Friend,

Over the past year, the West Virginia Council of Churches facilitated a series of listening events on substance use disorder across the state of West Virginia. The listening events were intense, often personal, and a calling for faith communities to become places of healing, both within and outside our walls. To make that happen, faith communities need to have accurate information, opportunities for sharing that information, and a sense of the hope that we can offer to families and persons in the midst of their suffering. The 2017 Day of Hope: A Celebration of Prevention and Recovery is one such time when we can lift up resources, offer a time of consolation, and share stories of recovery.

To reach recovery is often a long journey, with many setbacks, tears, and false starts, but recovery is real and a source of hope for those still struggling. In sharing stories of recovery, we remember the brokenness we encounter in the world and often in our own lives, as well. Brokenness by its nature is uncomfortable and faith communities often struggle with the brokenness we find in our congregations and in our neighborhoods, but we are often the stronger for it and we do not face that brokenness alone. For those who have made that journey to recovery, for their families, friends, and those who walked with them in that journey, we give thanks. For those still making the journey, we offer hope and our promise to walk with you.



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Hope for Recovery

The National Institute of Drug Abuse reports that “Relapse rates (i.e., how often symptoms recur) for people with addiction and other substance use disorders are similar to relapse rates for other well-understood chronic medical illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma” (<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugs-brains-behavior-science-addiction/treatment-recovery>).

Naloxone saves lives.

Recovery happens, but happens over time.

Learn from those in recovery. “Talk to people in recovery. Relapse can be a learning tool. Realize recovery is a process and not an overnight change. Early recovery can be quite difficult emotionally. Also it’s important to understand that there are ups and downs to recovery even if abstinence is achieved. Understanding and patience are useful” (Someone in long-term recovery).

Help is available for families and persons struggling with addiction at www.help4wv.com and 1-844-HELP-4-WV (Call, text or click for instant help).

Prevention Resources

Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention
mball@brookhancockfrn.org

Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership
ccsapp@unitedwayrivercities.org
304-523-8920

Community Impact Coalition
martha.impactov@gmail.com
304-233-2045

Jackson County Anti-Drug Coalition
amy.r.haskins@wv.gov
304-913-4956

Kanawha Communities That Care
director@kanawhactc.org
304-687-4177

Morgan County Partnership
megan@morganpartnership.org
304-258-7807

Partnership of African American Churches
Patterson@paac2.org
304-768-1186

Putnam Wellness Coalition
billodell@regionalfnrn.org
304-553-1186

STOP Coalition
stopev@yahoo.com
304-644-3986

Funding for the 2017 Day of Hope is generously provided by the United Methodist Foundation

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