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## **FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY AND HAZELDEN CENTER FOR PUBLIC ADVOCACY ANNOUNCE 2010 AMERICA HONORS RECOVERY RECIPIENTS**

Association of Persons Affected by Addiction to receive the Joel Hernandez Award; Earl Hightower, Joe Powell, Art Zwerling to receive the Vernon Johnson Award; Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) to receive Legacy Award

**(Washington, D.C., June 14, 2010)** – The America Honors Recovery selection committee announced the recipients of the Joel Hernandez and Vernon Johnson awards today, recognizing 2010's most influential recovery community leaders and organizations. Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), will receive the Legacy Award.

"We salute the members and leadership of The Association of Persons Affected by Addiction (APAA) in Dallas, Texas," said Carol McDaid, Faces & Voices board chair. The Joel Hernandez Award is the only recognition in the nation of the critical and inspiring work of the organized recovery community. Since opening its doors in 1998, APAA has worked tirelessly in the Dallas/Fort Worth community to educate the public and policymakers about the reality of recovery, advocate for policies that support recovery, and operate a peer-driven recovery community support program. "APAA has been a pioneering force in the recovery advocacy movement for close to 15 years; they provide a first-rate model of the passion and dedication we see in every recovery community organization across the country." said McDaid.

The Vernon Johnson award will be given to Earl Hightower (Hightower Intervention Services, Studio City, California), Art Zwerling (Anesthetists in Recovery, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania) and Joe Powell (APAA, Dallas, Texas). The award honors individuals who are the standard-bearers for putting a public face and voice on recovery and striving to make sustained recovery possible for even more Americans.

“Each Vernon Johnson award recipient has demonstrated the tremendous and varied impact a single person can make on the progress of a movement,” said William Moyers, Vice President of Foundation Relations at Hazelden. “We are proud to continue carrying the message of hope and honor the legacy of the Johnson Institute’s founder, Vernon Johnson, by co-hosting America Honors Recovery with Faces & Voices of Recovery.”

On July 28, 2010 the recipients will be honored along with Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI). Kennedy, will receive the America Honors Recovery Legacy Award. A reception will be held from 6-8pm at Suite 600 West, 101 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC. More information about the awardees, tickets and sponsorship are available online at [www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org).

#### About Faces & Voices of Recovery

Faces & Voices of Recovery is working to mobilize, organize and rally the millions of people in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, their families, friends and allies in a campaign to end discrimination; broaden social understanding; and achieve a just response to addiction as a public health crisis.

#### About Hazelden's Center for Public Advocacy

Hazelden’s Center for Public Advocacy exists to improve public understanding of alcoholism and drug addiction by serving as a leading national expert on issues related to addiction, treatment and recovery. In 2009 The Johnson Institute transferred key programs including America Honors Recovery to Hazelden’s Center for Public Advocacy to keep the Johnson Institute’s 43-year legacy alive for future generations. [www.hazelden.org](http://www.hazelden.org).