

**EXPERT RESOURCES  
FOR THE MEDIA**



**Recovery  
Advocacy Toolkit**

MAKING OUR VOICES COUNT

**Recovery**

## EXPERT RESOURCES FOR THE MEDIA

Faces & Voices leaders are experts in the national movement to promote opportunities for more Americans to experience recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. We do this through grassroots organizing, public education, legislative outreach, and other activities that help raise awareness about the power of long-term recovery. The experts listed are willing to assist the media with facts or commentary on solutions to the nation's alcohol and drug problems and policies that promote or deter recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs.

Additionally, Faces and Voices leaders can link members of the press to people in recovery and family members in each region of the U.S., researchers in the field of addiction and seasoned recovery advocates. Your recovery community organization may have media spokespeople as well. Please feel free to contact us if you'd like information about how to reach any of the individuals below or how to put together an Expert Resources for the Media guide for your organization by emailing [info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](mailto:info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org).

### **Patricia (Pat) Taylor**

Executive Director  
Faces & Voices of Recovery  
[info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](mailto:info@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org)  
(202) 737-0690 (office)

#### **Topic Areas:**

- **Long-term recovery**
- **Recovery community organizations**
- **Grassroots organizing**
- **Portrayal of people in both active addiction and recovery in the media**
- **Why the voice of the recovery community is important**
- **Local, state, and federal policy advocacy, including discriminatory policies; supporting the recovery community's involvement in decision-making**

Pat joined Faces & Voices of Recovery in 2004, bringing over 25 years of grassroots advocacy leadership to the organization. Under her leadership, Faces & Voices has grown by supporting the development of grassroots recovery community organizations; developing messaging and trainings so that people in recovery and their family members can get out the story of long-term recovery from addiction to policymakers and the media; and developing a growing recovery advocacy movement that raises the profile of the recovery movement as a constituency of consequence and influencing policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels.

Prior to her work at Faces & Voices, Pat worked in the addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery community at Ensuring Solutions to Alcohol Problems, at the George Washington University Medical Center and the Center for Science in the Public Interest, where she led successful legislative advocacy campaigns at the organization's Alcohol Policies Project. Her other work includes service at the Neighborhood Funders Group, Families USA, a health advocacy group, as well as a U.S. Senate campaign in Vermont. A resident of the Washington, D.C. suburb Takoma Park, MD, Pat and her husband, Bill Batko are the parents of one daughter, Abby Batko-Taylor.

## EXPERT RESOURCES FOR THE MEDIA

### Tom Coderre

National Field Director  
Faces & Voices of Recovery

#### Topic Areas:

- **Community organizing for recovery issues**
- **Portrayal of people in active addiction and people in recovery in the media**
- **Recovery community organizations**
- **Why the voice of the recovery community is important**
- **State and federal policy advocacy – discriminatory policies**

Tom joined Faces & Voices as National Field Director in 2006 to continue building grassroots recovery advocacy campaigns around the country. He leads Faces & Voices 2008 Recovery Voices Count program, a nationwide nonpartisan civic engagement campaign. One of his first projects at Faces & Voices was organizing a successful grassroots campaign around the Emmy® award- winning HBO documentary, *Addiction*. He also led organizing efforts around Rally for Recovery! in September 2007, which brought together over 30,000 people at 60 events around the country. He is a nationally recognized organizer and speaker.

Tom has an extensive background in government and politics, serving in the Rhode Island State Senate from 1995-2003. He spent many years in non-profit management & development as a professional fundraiser and executive director. Tom is a person in long-term recovery, which means he hasn't used drugs or alcohol since May of 2003. He first became active in recovery advocacy as a board member of Rhode Island CAREs (Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts) and served as chairman of their advocacy committee. Tom continues to live in Rhode Island and travels extensively promoting Faces & Voices of Recovery advocacy efforts. He is a graduate of Rhode Island College.

## EXPERT RESOURCES FOR THE MEDIA

### **Carol McDaid**

Principal  
Capitol Decisions  
Vice Chair  
Faces & Voices Board of Directors

#### **Topic Areas:**

- **Drug and alcohol policy at the federal, state, and local levels**
- **Addiction treatment and recovery support services; treatment quality**
- **Mental health and addiction health insurance parity**
- **Long-term recovery from addiction**

Carol is co-founder of Capitol Decisions, one of the only government relations firms in the nation's capital with a special focus on influencing national alcohol and other drug policy, Carol has dedicated her life to recovery at the national, state, and local level. She uses her experience in the federal legislative arena to impact policies affecting alcohol and other drug treatment and recovery support services. She represents a broad spectrum of healthcare organizations including hospitals and addiction treatment providers, such as the American Society of Addiction Medicine, Betty Ford Center, Bradford Health Services, and Hazelden Foundation, in a national effort to end insurance discrimination against those who have addictive and mental illnesses.

A person in long-term recovery, Carol splits her time between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA, where she lives with her husband, John Shinholser. They co-founded the McShin Foundation, a peer-led recovery community organization serving the Richmond recovery community. A North Carolina native, she is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Carol received the Johnson Institute's America Honors Recovery award in 2007.

## EXPERT RESOURCES FOR THE MEDIA

### Phillip Valentine

Executive Director  
Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)  
Board member, Faces & Voices of Recovery

#### Topic Areas:

- **Supporting people in recovery**
- **Public education about recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs**
- **Drug and alcohol policy at the state level**
- **Recovery and families**
- **Long-term recovery from addiction**

Phillip has been with CCAR, one of the nation's premiere statewide recovery community organizations, since its beginnings in 1998. He is spearheading CCAR's effort to build a statewide network of Recovery Community Centers that feature many innovative peer recovery support services, such as Telephone Recovery Support and All-Recovery Groups.

"Putting a Face on Recovery!," "The Healing Power of Recovery," and "Legacy of Hope: Recovery Elders Video Project" are three video projects he helped create. He was the point man for all seven CCAR Recovery Walks!, which have served as a model for dozens of others across the country.

Phillip received the Johnson Institute's America Honors Recovery award in 2006. Having been in recovery since December 28, 1987, Phillip writes a column, "Hooked on Recovery," where he shares his personal recovery process with the public to help ease the discrimination surrounding addiction and recovery, striving to "soften the community" to recovery. A University of Connecticut graduate, Phil is married and has five children. He coaches youth travel soccer and his favorite hobbies are surf, fishing, golf, and movies.