

A Brief History of CCAR

1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CCAR holds Connecticut's first Recovering Community Organization meeting
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery officially named ● 5 founding members spoke at statewide CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) conference, publicly for the first time putting a face on recovery, resulting in initial funding from DMHAS ● Mailing list topped 100 ● Awarded an original CSAT Recovery Community Support Program (RCSP) grant ● Awarded funding from DMHAS
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 60 members attended 1st Legislative Day at State Capitol ● 1st Board of Directors meeting held ● 15 members spoke at CSAT Public Hearing in Hartford "Changing the Conversation, A National Plan to Improve Substance Abuse Treatment" ● 140 attended CCAR Conference "In Celebration of Recovery!" ● 1st video "Putting a Face on Recovery" released ● 5 people in recovery selected to serve on DMHAS State Advisory Board, 2 appointed by Governor ● Recovery Support Services Concept Paper submitted to CSAT for conference grant
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-presented with Advocacy Unlimited, a mental health advocacy organization, on the "Recovery Basic Premises and Recovery Core Values" (Note: these values ultimately served as the basis for the DMHAS Recovery-Oriented System of Care) ● Hosted 2nd Legislative Day, over 100 people attended ● Started "Legacies" support group for parents who had lost children to addiction ● Hosted training – Racism of the Well-Intended, Slaying the Dragon ● 700 attended first annual Recovery Walks! at Bushnell Park in Hartford ● "Putting a Face on Recovery" video distributed to 700+ ● 1st edition of The Recovery Herald newsletter published and distributed to 6500+ ● 112 people attended 1st Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1st of 7 Chapters established giving CCAR local and regional presence ● 200+ people attended 3rd Legislative Day, 36 legislators sponsored the event with 3 talking about their own recovery ● Non-profit 501(c)3 status granted ● 10,000+ Recovery Posters distributed nationwide ● Website www.ccar-recovery.org goes live ● "Putting a Face on Recovery" video updated; 2000+ distributed nationwide ● Awarded CSAT Recovery Community Support Program (RCSP) Track II grant ● 2000+ participated in 2nd Recovery Walks! held 5 days after terrorist attack of 9/11
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 16 members testified at Informational Forum at the invitation by CT Legislature Judiciary Committee issues relating to felony conviction and sustained recovery ● 200+ people attended CCAR's trauma/recovery forum "Recovery Speaks in the Shadow of 9/11" in New London ● Membership topped 2000 ● 3000+ participated in 3rd annual Recovery Walks! in Hartford
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 200+ attended 2nd trauma/recovery forum in Bridgeport ● Code of Ethics established ● Shifted successfully from Recovery Community Support Program to Recovery Community Services Program ● 1st of 42 trainings in the "Recovery Training Series" delivered ● New video "Healing Power of Recover" completed ● 3000+ participated in 4th annual Recovery Walks! in Hartford ● Staff invited to "Innovator's Meeting: Strategic Planning for Peer Recovery Support Services" SAMHSA/CSAT Access to Recovery (ATR) Program ● First audit for year ending June 30, 2003 completed and earned a non-qualified opinion
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CCAR involved in development of state ATR proposal ● 200+ people attended Grand Opening of Windham Recovery Community Center ● First Family Support Group met in Windham Recovery Community Center

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition of leadership to new Executive Director • Executive Director Co-chairs state team with DMHAS Commissioner at National Policy Academy on Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders • Formal Volunteer Management System implemented • Awarded CSAT Recovery Community Services Program (RCSP) Track III grant • 3000+ participated in 5th annual Recovery Walks! in Hartford
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New London Recovery Community Center opened • Recovery Housing Project developed state-of-the-art internet database to include 100 independently owned, privately operated recovery houses covering 1069 beds • Recovery Housing Coalition of Connecticut (RHCC) established • RHCC established standards for independently owned, privately operated recovery housing • Recovery Housing Project training "So... You Want to Open a Recovery House" generated 7 new recovery houses totaling 70 new recovery beds • Prison Support Groups established in Enfield and Bridgeport • Comprehensive Volunteer Management System implemented • An article on Recovery Walks! appeared on the cover of the inaugural edition of Rising Recovery in Action, Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR)'s national magazine • Recovery Walks! model replicated in several other states • Recovery Walks! drew 2000+, Honor Guard established for first time • Executive Director served on CSAT Summit Planning Committee • Established Recovery Capital Tool and Recovery Friendly Tool for evaluation purposes • Hosts recognition dinner in honor of CCAR founder, Bob Savage • The WRCC attracted 10,000 visitors • More than 350 individuals attended Recovery Training Series • CCAR represented at historic Faces and Voices of Recovery summit in Washington, DC • Executive Director presented at CSAT Summit • Begin series of Oldtimer (20+ years of recovery) Retreats and Focus Groups • The 50th 'Hooked on Recovery' article penned
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Elements of a Recovery Community Center written • Volunteer Coordinator hired • Telephone Recovery Support became CCAR's first "fee-for-service" • Article published on Telephone Recovery Support in Addiction Professional magazine • New London Recovery Community Center held successful comedy night/pasta dinner event • Senior Peer Services Coordinator Diane Potvin received the Dr. Edward Brown Humanitarian Award for her work in support of recovery in Willimantic. • Executive Director traveled to AZ to serve as consultant to a sister Recovery Community Organization • Hosts 1st Annual Volunteer Recognition dinner with comedian Mark Lundholm, 144 registered CCAR volunteers invited, Keith Sawyer earns Presidential Award with over 1200 hours • Legacy of Hope: Recovery Elders Video Project launched • CCAR staff ran workshops, served on panels and introduced speakers in statewide DMHAS Recovery Conference: <i>Vision to Outcomes</i> • Bridgeport Recovery Community Center opened (#3) • Purchased a 3-story Victorian on 198 Wethersfield Avenue in Hartford to house the Hartford Recovery Community Center and the administrative offices • Individual Giving campaign launched • Recovery Walks! held for the 7th consecutive year, a lead event for Rally for Recovery, banner for 46 other events held nationally on same day • Executive Director Phillip Valentine received America Honors Recovery award from The Johnson Institute at the National Press Club, Washington DC • Executive Director presented on CCAR, recovery support services and promotes the RCSP at congressional briefing in Washington, DC • WRCC attracted more than 15,000 visitors

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hartford Recovery Community Center opened (#4) • Technology grant received from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted HBO "Addiction" premier at St. Francis Hospital Chawla Auditorium for 125 persons • Hosted 2nd Annual Volunteer Recognition dinner with comedian Mark Lundholm, more than 200 registered CCAR volunteers invited, 17 Presidential Awards given • The CCAR experience highlighted in interviews published on Faces &Voices of Recovery website, Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center (GLATTC) website, Recovery Solutions magazine • Hartford Recovery Community Center launched with Grand Opening for more than 200 people • CCAR leased space to Columbus House "Road to Recovery" program on 3rd floor of the HRCC • New author Richard Anthony (his pen name) began new recovery column that goes out on CCAR website and listserv, "Reflections of a 10th Leper" • Senior Peer Services Coordinator Diane Potvin celebrated 20 years of recovery • Legislative breakfasts held in each of the Recovery Community Centers • NLRCC held 2nd successful Comedy Night • CCAR presents at CCB conference on co-occurring disorders • Executive Director presents at NASADAD (National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors) on the CCAR experience in Burlington, VT • Senior Peer Services Coordinator Michael Askew retires and moves to North Carolina • Executive Director is lead author on a paper titled, " The Recovery Community Organization: Toward A Working Definition and Description" with Bill White and Pat Taylor • CCAR won \$270,000 DMHAS grant to provide Telephone Recovery Support to 2500 recoverees • Staff expanded from 10 to 15. • Recovery Walks! held for the 8th consecutive year, Songwriter/vocalist Paul Williams keynotes, first time weather bad, yet sun breaks out during Honor Guard • Senior Peer Services Coordinator Kim Haugabook represented CCAR at a Whitehouse Roundtable in Washington, DC • Senior Peer Services Coordinator Diane Potvin presented at New England Association of Drug Court Professionals in Boston, MA • Executive Director represented CCAR at CSAT Regional Recovery Summit state planning meeting • Executive Director served on a consensus panel for a Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) TIP (Treatment Improvement Protocol) on Relapse Prevention • Volunteer Manager Normajean Cefarelli presented on the CCAR Volunteer Management System in Kentucky • Findrecoveryhousing.com launched • Volunteer hours served topped 8,000