



For Immediate Release

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Charlotte Behavioral Health Care Hosts Recovery Event to Raise Awareness of Mental and Substance Use Disorder Support Services in Charlotte County

Punta Gorda, FL - Mental and/or substance use disorders are a critical challenge that Charlotte County must address immediately. To draw attention to the issue, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC) will lead a Recovery Vigil to raise awareness for people in need of treatment and recovery support services. The vigil, which was attended by more than 250 people last year, draws support from many individuals in recovery, as well as their friends and families.

"This event emphasizes that individuals in recovery and their support systems can be change agents in our community," states Kelly Pomerville, Marketing & Public Relations Manager at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care. "It is critical that people experiencing mental and/or substance use disorders receive the support they need. The reality is that behavioral health is essential to health - prevention works, treatment is effective, and people recover."

National Recovery Month, now in its 27th year, highlights individuals who have reclaimed their lives and are living happy and healthy lives in long-term recovery and also honors the prevention, treatment, and recovery service providers who make recovery possible. The Annual Recovery Vigil promotes the message that recovery in all its forms is possible, and also encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those in need.

Each September, thousands of prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and services around the country celebrate their successes and share them with their neighbors, friends, and colleagues in an effort to educate the public about recovery, how it works, for whom, and why. There are millions of Americans whose lives have been transformed through recovery. These successes often go unnoticed by the broader population; therefore, **Recovery Month** provides a vehicle to celebrate these accomplishments.

"It is important that the momentum we've established at this event is carried over to tomorrow, and the next day, week, and year," said Pomerville "We all have the potential to make a difference and be visible, vocal and valuable to help spread the message that recovery is possible."

Please join us at our Candlelight Vigil on September 30th, 2016 kicking off at 7:00 at Lashley Park, 100 Nesbit Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

For more information, or to reserve a provider table please contact Kelly Pomerville, Marketing and Public Relations Manager at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care at kpomerville@cbhcfl.org or 941.639.8300 ext. 2275.

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