

For Immediate Release

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Charlotte Behavioral Health Care Hosts *Recovery Rocks!* 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 200 people last year, draws support from many individuals in recovery, as well as their friends and families.

The Vigil will take place on Friday, September 22nd, 2017, kicking off at 7:00 p.m. in Lashley Park, 100 Nesbit Street, Punta Gorda. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

There will be a presentation featuring community members sharing their personal stories of recover, and booths staffed by our community's providers of mental and substance use disorder support services.

In keeping with the "Recovery Rocks!" theme, the first 100 attendees will receive a "Recovery Rocks" t-shirt. In addition, rockin' recovery honor beads will be on site, attendees can paint #RockingPuntaGorda recovery rocks (all supplies provided), and thematic rock music will be provided live by Tiki Tom and L.A. Daniels. There will be a raffle, and the event will end with a candlelight vigil and a moment of silence in honor of those struggling with this disease and in memory of those no longer with us.

"The personal stories shared at the vigil are a powerful testaments to the successes achieved through recovery. It is important that the momentum we establish at this event carries over to tomorrow, and the next day, week, and year," said Kelly Pomerville, director of marketing and pr at CBHC.

During Recovery Month each September, communities across the nation join together to help people recognize that substance abuse disorders and addiction are treatable medical conditions and that abusing alcohol or drugs is not a personal weakness or a moral failing.

The Recovery Candlelight Vigil in Charlotte County highlights the benefits of substance abuse treatments and the contributions of treatment providers. It also promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible and that addiction is a treatable disease.

"We hope that our candlelight vigil will create awareness of this problem by shining light onto something often kept hidden," said Pomerville. "The vigil allows us to reflect on what addiction and recovery are about and to be inspired to rise to the challenge to help combat drug and alcohol issues. Hand in hand, one life at a time, we can all make a difference through our lives, in the lives of loved ones, and in the community. Your presence at the vigil sends a message that recovery is possible."

For more information or to reserve a provider table, please contact Pomerville at kpomerville@cbhcfl.org or 941.639.8300 ext. 2275.