

For Immediate Release

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

Punta Gorda, FL (September 3, 2019) - 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 host its annual Candlelight Recovery Vigil to raise awareness for people in need of treatment and showcase recovery support services.

The Vigil takes place on Friday, September 20th, 2019, kicking off at 7:00 p.m. in Lashley Park, 100 Nesbit Street, Punta Gorda. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. This is a kid-friendly and pet-friendly event.

There will be booths staffed by our community's providers of mental and substance use disorder support services. The first 100 attendees will receive a free "R is for Recovery" t-shirt.

The presentation begins at 7:15 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer and a butterfly release.

"The release signifies how recovery helps so many people get their wings and fly off to new, brighter horizons," said Kelly Pomerville, director of marketing and PR at CBHC. "So, we release butterflies in hopes that we all release those shackles and troubles that hold us down - let the things holding us back from being our authentic selves fly off on the wings of the butterflies."

In addition, recovery honor beads are available free of charge, attendees may paint #RecoveryRocks, and peruse raffle prizes. The event ends with a candlelight vigil set to bagpipes 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 powerful testaments to the successes achieved through recovery," said Pomerville. "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."

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.

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

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