



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the happiness, well-being, and prosperity of our Commonwealth's families and communities, and behavioral health is an essential part of health and one's overall wellness; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug addictions are serious and treatable health problems currently impacting nearly 3.7 million Virginians, and it is important to recognize that untreated alcohol and drug addictions affect individuals, families and communities while also impacting the criminal justice system, child welfare system, family and social service agencies, and faith-based and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, of the 692 deaths from drugs or poisoning in 2010, 69.22% were the result of prescription drug misuse or abuse, signifying a critical and expanding problem in our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, more than 600,000 Virginians in need of substance abuse services could benefit from treatment, and it is incumbent on our Commonwealth to promote a message that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from substance abuse; people in recovery achieve healthy lifestyles, both physically and emotionally, and contribute in positive ways to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Virginians seeking treatment for addiction deserve affordable, individualized treatment programs that offer appropriate referrals as well as access to treatment services; and

WHEREAS, treatment for addiction is as effective as treatments for other chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and every \$1 invested in treatment results in a return of \$4 to \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs and theft; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission found that in 2006 untreated substance abuse cost the Commonwealth at least \$613 million; and

WHEREAS, with positive support and encouragement, people who are struggling with an addiction can overcome stigma and discrimination to recover and lead healthy and productive lives, and many recovering Virginians and their families and friends choose to share and celebrate their recovery experiences to inspire and educate others; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services along with the forty community services boards and private providers that constitute Virginia's publicly funded addictions treatment services system fully embrace the concepts of self-determination, empowerment, and recovery while promoting dignity, choice, and the highest possible level of participation in work, relationships, and community life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize September 2012 as **ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of our citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Substance Abuse Services (OSAS) of the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) are participating in the **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month** and embrace the theme for the 2012 observance, *Join the Voices for Recovery: It's Worth It.*




Governor


Secretary of the Commonwealth