

## RECOVERY MONTH CELEBRATES 15TH YEAR



Individuals, organizations, and communities nationwide are already planning their participation in the 15th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month this September.

The 2004 Recovery Month theme is "Join the Voices for Recovery . . . NOW!" It underscores the need to educate communities nationwide about the value and significance of alcohol and drug addiction treatment and the kinds of services that are available.

The celebration, coordinated by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), highlights the benefits of substance abuse treatment and promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible. NACoA is an active Planning Partner for this year-long effort.

Activities and materials in support of the Recovery Month campaign include a toolkit with comprehensive resource information, the Recovery Month home page on SAMHSA's web site, TV and radio public service announcements, community forums, and community-sponsored events. All of these materials provide comprehensive options for developing tailored Recovery Month events and activities in every community.

The toolkit also provides ideas for planning and tools for creating a variety of successful events. The kit features important resources for treatment providers, consumers, and prevention programs and offers event ideas and sample materials on how to reach local media. The kit also includes detailed fact sheets for state and local agencies, key constituency groups, and other special audiences. NACoA affiliates and Board members have received the kits.

SAMHSA also hosts an award-winning, interactive website at [www.recoverymonth.gov](http://www.recoverymonth.gov). For a Recovery Month toolkit, contact SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information – 1 (800) 729-6686.

## BOOK SHELF

by Stephanie Abbott

*Addict in the Family: Stories of Loss, Hope, and Recovery*



By Beverly Conyers

These are sadly familiar stories, told by members of "a Twelve Step recovery group", who are suffering from the drug and alcohol addiction of their adult children. They try all the remedies that don't work and eventually, with support, get to the conclusion of what is actually possible.

"Families ask themselves if their loved one is gone forever, replaced by an untrustworthy, soulless being like the empty eyed creatures in *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*," as the author sums up.

There is hope in education and support and the practical information that Ms. Conyers addresses. The real life stories are intended to reduce the feelings of isolation experienced by families who are coping with addiction.

*The paperback is published by Hazelden.*

## TWO BOARD MEMBERS ADDRESS POLICY ISSUES

William Cope Moyers, NACoA Board member, writes about "Making Recovery America's Business" in the June issue of Counselor magazine. He stresses the disconnect between alcohol and other drug abuse in the workplace and what to do about it.

"All of us in the addiction treatment field must encourage employers to teach everyone in their company about addiction and how to get help through company-wide forums and

other events, employee newsletters, intranets, videos, handbooks and printed resource guides," he writes.

Mr. Moyers is the Vice President of External Affairs for Hazelden Foundation.

In the same issue, Stephanie Abbott, editor of NACoA's NETWORK and liaison to the Board, writes about "Reducing Underage Drinking: Our Collective Responsibility." The article

looks at research bolstering the recent report by The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine. That publication includes recommendations for strategies and interventions for reducing underage drinking.

"We appear to be in the middle of a culture shift that will deglamorize alcohol and take addiction seriously," writes Ms. Abbott.