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**“OUR STORIES HAVE POWER” RECOVERY COMMUNITY VIDEO AND DVD
RELEASED at 21st ANNUAL RECOVERY MONTH LUNCHEON
Ramstad/Kennedy award to Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D.**

(Washington, DC, September 16, 2010) – Faces & Voices of Recovery released the *Our Stories Have Power Recovery Community Messaging Training* at the 21st annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month luncheon hosted by the organization in Washington, DC today. Congressman Jim Ramstad (ret.) awarded Thomas A. Kirk, Jr. the Ramstad/Kennedy Legacy award on behalf of the Recovery Month Planning Partners, organizations that have come together to support addiction recovery walks, rallies and other activities nationwide during the month of September.

Kirk was honored for his service as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, where he pioneered the development of state level recovery-oriented systems of care and the engagement of people in recovery, their families, friends and allies. He is a regular participant in the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery’s September Recovery Walks! and serves on the organization’s board of directors.

The *Our Stories Have Power* DVD is a new tool for the growing numbers of people in recovery and family members who are talking about recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs to friends, relatives, neighbors, employers – and in the media.

“Across our country more and more people are speaking out so that others can get the help they need to recover,” said Faces & Voices board chair Stephen Gumbley. “Faces & Voices has trained over 3,000 people using our recovery messaging and we’re pleased to offer this new resource that includes a video and support materials to get the word out about the reality of recovery,” he concluded.

The video features trainers Tom Coderre and Betty Currier and recovery advocates from across the country and can be previewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/FacesandVoices?feature=mhum#p/a/u/1/fDLFCGV4ekc>

The DVD includes:

- A 90-minute video explaining Faces & Voices recovery community messaging and examples of how recovery advocates are using the messaging

- A 20-minute “Keys to Successful Interviews” video with tips on how to get your message across in print, radio and TV interviews
- An annotated PowerPoint presentation that can be used to hold recovery community messaging trainings in communities across the country
- All of the supporting documents including personal worksheets

Faces & Voices of Recovery is a national nonprofit organization working to mobilize, organize and rally the 20 million Americans in recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, their families, friends and allies in a campaign to end discrimination; broaden social understanding; and achieve a just response to addiction as a public health crisis. For more information, please visit: www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org.