



STAKEHOLDER'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016

Heartland Center Receives Highest CARF Accreditation Award



NOVEMBER 02, 2016

Hearthland Center is proud to share our most recent achievement. On November 2 we were notified that we



NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy's office will release an historic, first-ever report:

have been issued our second Three-Year Accreditation from CARF International. “This achievement is an indication of your organization’s dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. (Your) Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of conformance to standards,” Brian Boon, President of CARF, wrote in our award letter.

“This prestigious award, which is the highest level of accreditation possible, represents the commitment, dedication, hard-work, and most importantly, team work of all staff. The accreditation surveyors tearfully retold success stories shared with them by clients who are receiving our substance abuse services,” Myrna Trickey, President and CEO of Heartland Center, said. “We received accreditation for: Court Treatment, Detoxification/Withdrawal Support, Intensive Outpatient Treatment, and Outpatient Treatment,” she continued.

“I am so proud of our team. Everyone in the agency worked tirelessly to make this happen. What makes me especially proud, is the fact that our organization lives up to the CARF standards everyday—not just when the CARF surveyors are coming. I am very grateful for the work of our staff. Each one makes a difference and helps *people rebuild their lives,*” Trickey said.

***Facing Addiction in America:
The Surgeon Generals' Report
on Alcohol, Drugs, and
Health.***

To watch the Summit live on November 17 go to www.facingaddiction.org from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. PST

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**GABRIELLA C. BELIEVES
GIVING BACK IS IMPORTANT**

Gabriella C. (her friends call her Gabby) began her recovery journey in earnest a few years ago after years of abusing alcohol, prescription drugs, and eventually heroin. She has survived incarceration, homelessness, institutionalization, liver failure, and Hepatitis C. And today she is thriving!



M.O.R.E. GIVES BACK TO SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

It's hard to believe this year, BUT winter really is coming soon! [\[Keep reading...\]](#)

Gabby was recently asked by COMBAT to tell her story.

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And the M.O.R.E. group in Springfield will make surviving the winter a little easier for the homeless population in that area by collecting hats, coats, and gloves as well as other cold weather necessities. This is an activity they have done in November for the past three years.

And, right on the heels of the hats and coats is the annual toy drive. They are expanding their reach this year to include children in the children's wards at both Cox South Hospital and St. John's Mercy Hospitals in Springfield as well as seeing that homeless children in the area have something from Santa Claus.

This ambitious group is seldom idle. In September they collected money and bought backpacks and school supplies for the students at Ed. V. Williams Elementary School. "They went beyond amazing this year," Rhonda Richards, Heartland Center's Drug Court Coordinator, said. "They raised over \$2000 and were able to give 120 children a head start on a successful school year."

M.O.R.E. stands for Men Out Recovering Every day and the group is composed of Heartland Center alumni who have been through the Greene County Drug Court Program. "These gentlemen are

showing their dedication to their community and showing the world the benefits of sobriety and a life in recovery while working to overcome the stigma associated with addiction and criminal histories. We are very proud of the work they have done and continue to do for their community,” Richards said.

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Surgeon General to Release First-Ever Report On Alcohol, Drugs and Health

In two weeks—on November 17 in Los Angeles—the United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy will release his office’s historic, first-ever report called *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General’s Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health*.

The Surgeon General’s report is being compared in importance and long-term impact to the 1964 Surgeon General’s Report on Smoking and Health.

To watch the Summit live on November 17 go to www.facingaddiction.org from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. PST Please feel free to share with your friends and family.

Dr. Murthy announced his intention to undertake this groundbreaking report at the historic UNITE to Face Addiction national event held last October in Washington D.C. Dr. Murthy will provide keynote remarks and guide an interactive discussion of the report. There will be conversations with some of the nation's leading experts on substance use, misuse and addiction, an exploration of the state-of-the-science of addiction and a discussion of concrete steps that all of us can take to promote prevention, expand treatment and ensure that recovery is possible for everyone.

“Addressing the addiction crisis in America will require seeing addiction as a chronic illness – not as a moral failing,” said Murthy. “Addiction has been a challenge for a long time, but we finally have the opportunity and the tools to address it. By bringing together researchers, treatment providers, policy makers and key influencers, this summit will help our country see that a united front is necessary to address a public health challenge of this magnitude.”

“This national event is expected to jumpstart a productive national dialogue on specific ways we can begin to turn the tide on the addiction crisis, galvanize action on this difficult issue, and bring together the best and brightest to affect progress and save lives,” said Jim Hood, Co-Founder and CEO of Facing Addiction. “With alcohol and other drug-related deaths taking more than 350 Americans from us each and every day and 20.8 million people currently struggling with substance use disorders, virtually every family in America is affected – this is the moment to share what we know and what we can do about it.”

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Gabriella C. Believes Giving Back Is Important

Gabby was recently asked by COMBAT to tell her story as a testament to the miracle of recovery, and Gabby readily accepted. She believes that if her story can help one other person find the courage to take that first step to freedom, her personal trials and tribulations will have purpose. “Addiction is a terrible thing. It’s like being tied up tight and the harder you struggle, the tighter the ropes grip you. People need to know that addiction can hit anyone at any time. We’ve got to find a way to treat people, not shun them and abuse them,” she said.

Today Gabby is working two jobs and taking classes to satisfy requirements to become a pediatric nurse. “I love my new life! I have friends, self-worth, and a purpose. I sometimes look into the mirror and wonder who that is looking back at me. Then I smile and I remember,” she said.

Gabby attended Heartland Center’s medically monitored inpatient detoxification program and the Jackson County Drug Court program, both programs receive some COMBAT funding. In addition she received services from our Medication Assisted Treatment and CSTAR outpatient treatment programs funded by the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

“I started into my addiction when I was 12 years old. I had a lifetime of ‘bad’ to bury before I could let in the ‘good.’ It took every single treatment experience I had in order for me to begin to heal,” she said. “I am still receiving the Vivitrol shot every month, and I check in with my counselor. I know I would be dead by now if Heartland Center hadn’t been there for me,” she said.

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