

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the first issue of ***Recovery Talk*** – Friends of Recovery – New York’s new monthly e-newsletter developed to bring you the latest news about our efforts to change the conversation about addiction and recovery in New York State and ultimately, throughout the nation.

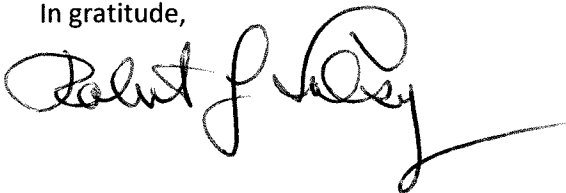
For any of you who may be new to Friends of Recovery - New York (FOR-NY), the organization was founded in 2008 by a group of volunteers dedicated to creating a voice for recovery. Until recently, FOR-NY had been led by an all-volunteer Board of Directors who committed a great deal of time and service in support our Mission. Today, thanks to a generous grant from the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), FOR-NY now has a paid team of dedicated and experienced staff responsible for the day-to-day activities of the organization and dedicated to advancing our critical mission, as directed and supported by the Board of Directors.

To that end, we are busily planning and conducting a variety of trainings, listening forums, and recovery-centered movie screenings throughout the state; developing tool kits to assist families and local Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs); and working on a brand new website slated to launch in January 2016. You’ll learn more about our efforts in this and future issues of ***Recovery Talk***. As always, we welcome your comments and encourage you to share this newsletter with friends, family and colleagues.

On a personal note, I have been privileged to spend my entire career working in the field of addiction prevention, treatment and recovery, having started as a community volunteer while in college. And, as a direct result of what I have learned, I have eleven family members living life in recovery! Recovery is a personal issue for me and I’m honored and grateful for the opportunity to continue in support of individuals and families impacted by addiction as the CEO of FOR-NY.

We know that Recovery is both possible and powerful. The value it brings to individuals, families and entire communities is immeasurable. Regrettably, it remains a secret for most. The general public has little or no idea of the 23 million people living life in recovery. Please join me in thanking our Board of Directors for their tireless dedication to changing the face of addiction and recovery throughout New York and for their continuing guidance and support of our efforts to effect positive change. With your help, support and engagement, we will change how New York supports Recovery!

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Kelly", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.