

PRESS RELEASE

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Songwriting Legend Paul Williams Helps Raise over \$400,000 for Texas' Largest Non-profit Substance Abuse Treatment Center

HOUSTON, Texas (November 3, 2015) – Legendary songwriter and performer Paul Williams shared his personal story of recovery from addiction to a crowd of over 900 at Hilton Americas-Houston on October 30, 2015, for The Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series' Annual Fall Luncheon presented by the Wayne Duddlesten Foundation. The luncheon, co-chaired by Tammy and Howard Lester, David Taylor and Eva Garcia, raised over \$400,000 for The Council on Recovery.

Paul William's personal story shared this past Friday reflected the songwriter's immense gratitude for the life he has regained today through sobriety. He acknowledged with thankfulness and humility the courage of friends who "dared to reflect the truth back to me, and I finally got sober. At that point, I realized I had been taken prisoner by my addiction."

Paul was introduced to the stage by his friend and creative partner, author Tracey Jackson. Citing excerpts from the book she co-wrote with Paul, the *New York Times*' Bestseller *Gratitude and Trust – Six Affirmations That Will Change Your Life*, Tracey highlighted the universal wisdom of the 12-Step recovery program, observing that "although I am not in the Program, I have always felt we all have something to recover from."

Council President & CEO Mel Taylor expressed gratitude for the generosity of luncheon donors, stating, "With heightened concern about the increasing rate of drug and alcohol abuse, related suicides, and tragic impact on the entire family, we are truly honored that our community is stepping up with such great support for our services." Series Benefactor June Waggoner was present as well as Wayne Duddlesten Foundation Board members Jerri Duddlesten Moore and Jim Moore, Karen Duddlesten, and David and Judy Kantorczyk.

The Council on Recovery directly touches over 80,000 lives each year through prevention, in-school counseling for teens, outpatient substance abuse treatment for adults, residential services in Austin, resources for children and family, and more. The annual Fall Luncheon in Houston raises financial resources in support of The Council's commitment to provide best-in-class services for both addiction and mental health disorders while turning no one away. For more information, visit www.councilonrecovery.org.

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About The Council on Recovery: The Council on Recovery represents a combined 117 years of nonprofit substance abuse treatment experience, merging the former Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston (founded 1946) and Austin Recovery (founded 1967). The Council offers the best in behavioral healthcare for the diverse communities of Texas, and a continuum of treatment and recovery support services including the highest quality of residential and outpatient care for individuals and families in need. The Council on Recovery is a nonprofit agency affiliated with the United Way, and also receives funding from The Texas Department of State Health Services as well as private contributions, special events and program fees on a sliding-scale basis according to client need.