



PRESS RELEASE

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Renowned Singer and Songwriter Paul Williams to Help Raise Funds for Substance Abuse and Addiction Treatment in Houston

Grammy, Golden Globe and Academy Award Winner Paul Williams to share personal story of recovery from addiction at annual fundraiser benefitting The Council on Recovery

HOUSTON, October 12, 2015 – Grammy, Golden Globe and Academy Award Winner Paul Williams will share the inspirational story of his battle against and recovery from substance abuse and addiction on Friday, October 30, at the Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series' 2015 Fall Luncheon in support of The Council on Recovery. Co-chaired by Tammy and Howard Lester and David Taylor and Eva Garcia, the luncheon will take place at the Hilton Americas-Houston.

Singer, songwriter, actor, recovery advocate, and presently President and Chairman of the Board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Paul Williams has been a fixture on the American cultural scene since the 1970s. He is in the Songwriters Hall of Fame and has been nominated for six Oscars with one awarded for his song "Evergreen." Additionally, Paul was nominated for eight Grammys, winning three; six Golden Globes, winning two; and he received two Emmy nominations. He has released twenty-four albums and he has scored endless films. Paul's most famous song is perhaps "Rainbow Connection," though his hits are too many to list. He was the star of a brave and heartwarming documentary, *Paul Williams Still Alive*, which followed his personal rise to fame, fall into addiction, and ultimately, his newfound celebrity as a recovery advocate and now legendary songwriter. Williams is the co-author, along with longtime friend and colleague Tracey Jackson, of The New York Times Bestselling book *Gratitude and Trust – Six Affirmations That Will Change Your Life*. Tracey Jackson will also make a special appearance at the Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series' 2015 Fall Luncheon.

"We are honored when someone as known and loved as Paul Williams opens up about the realities of addiction, and about the rebirth of self and of creativity that is one of recovery's many priceless gifts," said Mel Taylor, President and CEO of The Council on Recovery. "Individuals living a successful life in recovery know that staying sober can truly mean living up to your fullest potential, if you follow an aftercare program that includes the steady support of a recovery community. The joy of new life in recovery includes a willingness to share and help others find their path, and Paul Williams sets a fine example as a recovery advocate and our Fall Luncheon speaker."

Since the luncheon series' creation in 1999, it has attracted over 29,500 people and raised over \$12.3 million. Past luncheon speakers include Tom Arnold, Jeffrey Tambor, Natalie Cole, Jamie Lee Curtis, Ashley Judd, Carrie Fisher, and Jim Belushi. The Council directly touches over 60,000 lives each year. This prestigious fundraising series supports The Council in raising the financial resources to continue providing best-in-class services while turning no one away.

To discuss opportunities to attend this event on a special press pass or to request an interview with Paul Williams, please contact Claire Holmes at 281.200.9333 or cholmes@councilonrecovery.org.

About The Council on Recovery

With a combined 117 years of experience, The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston (founded 1946) and Austin Recovery (founded 1967), have rebranded as The Council on Recovery. The combined organization offers the best in behavioral healthcare for the diverse communities of Texas, and a full continuum of treatment services and recovery support including the highest quality of residential and outpatient services for all 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. For more information about The Council on Recovery, please visit www.councilonrecovery.org.

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