



PRESS RELEASE

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The Council on Recovery to Host Houston's Second Annual REEL Recovery Film Festival with The ARK *Multi-Day Festival to Feature Sixteen Films Focused on the Disease of Addiction and Process of Recovery*

HOUSTON, September 21, 2015 – The Council on Recovery, the leading Texas-based substance abuse prevention and treatment provider serving the greater Houston and Austin communities, will partner with The ARK to host Houston's Second Annual REEL Recovery Film Festival. The festival will be held the last weekend of September (25th, 26th, and 27th) in celebration of National Recovery Month. Films will be showcased at The Council on Recovery campus, at 303 Jackson Hill Street on days one and two of the festival. The finale will held at Sundance Cinemas in downtown Houston on 500 Texas Avenue, where The ARK will host a complimentary event across the street at Jones Plaza - "The Art of Recovery" Creative Arts Festival & Art Market.

The REEL Recovery Film Festival is a national festival celebrating the arts, film and creativity through an honest look at drug addiction, alcoholism, behavioral disorders, treatment and recovery. The film festival showcases documentary, short and feature films. This unique and impactful event was created by Leonard Buschel to support the cost of substance use disorder treatment for anyone who makes a living off the written word. The national Festival's non-profit "parent," Writers in Treatment, was co-founded in New York by Buschel and longtime friend Robert Downey, Sr.

As was the case with Houston's premiere festival last year, the film selection is intentionally eclectic. "We don't try to brainwash anybody. We don't try to do spontaneous interventions on the audience. We don't show films that preach or condescend," says Leonard Buschel. Instead, the films are "just honest depictions of addiction, recovery and sobriety."

In the past, REEL Recovery Film Festivals have taken place in typical film hot spots, such as Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco and Vancouver. They have since expanded to a total of nine cities in its seven year history. "These festivals are a celebration of the arts, writing, and creativity. Most importantly, they celebrate recovery," said Buschel.

Mel Taylor, President and CEO of The Council on Recovery, emphasized the significance of the festival for Houston's strong recovery scene. "Houston is the number one recovery community in the nation. I'm very excited about bringing the REEL Recovery Film Festival to our welcoming campus and venue spaces for its second season in Houston. It helps keep our city at the forefront of the national recovery movement, and will appeal to an audience that otherwise might be unaware of the true prevalence and impact of the disease of addiction," said Taylor.

The ARK is a Houston non-profit that builds recovery communities within the context of creative expression and collaboration. The ARK is Houston's parent host of The REEL Recovery Film Festival. The ARK Executive Director Tracy Abbott explains, "The medium of film offers an innocuous, non-confrontational, intimate way for moviegoers to take stock of personal and familial issues that may be related to substance use and addictive behavioral disorders. The Council on Recovery is the perfect venue and co-host for the festival, as it is Houston's premiere choice for recovery."

Tickets to the three-day event are available for prices between \$5 - \$25 and can be purchased online at www.councilonrecovery.org. Sponsorships, volunteer opportunities and tickets are still available. Through the support of sponsors and ticket buyers, the REEL Recovery Film Festival and associated activities will continue to educate audiences, advocate for hope and celebrate Houston's vibrant and strong recovery community.

About The Council on Recovery

With 117 years of experience, The Council on Recovery provides the full spectrum of prevention, education, intervention and treatment services. The Council on Recovery is committed to providing the highest quality of care at affordable rates for individuals and their loved ones. The nonprofit agency is affiliated with United Way, and receives funding from 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.

About The ARK

The ARK is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to harnessing the power of all creative art forms to enhance the process of inner healing, and to build safe communities through collective artistic expression. The mission is founded on the belief that, "art needs no conscious permission to touch the soul." For more information: <http://www.thearkhouston.org>.

About Writers In Treatment

Writers In Treatment is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to save lives through promoting and providing 'treatment' as the best first step solution for addiction, alcoholism and other self-destructive behaviors. They also offer educational, prevention and awareness programs that help reduce the stigma of addictive disorders. For more information: <http://www.writersintreatment.org> or <http://www.reelrecoveryfilmfestival.org>.

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