



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Andrew Zimmern, *Bizarre Foods* Star, to Speak at Council Luncheon**

**HOUSTON, Texas (April 5, 2017)** – Andrew Zimmern, host of the Travel Channel’s *Bizarre Foods*, will be the keynote speaker at The Council on Recovery’s Spring Luncheon, Friday, April 28, 2017, at the Hilton Americas—Houston Hotel. This is the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon in the Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series and is presented by the Wayne Duddleston Foundation.

Zimmern is a three-time James Beard Award-winning TV personality, chef, writer, teacher, and universally regarded as one of the most versatile and knowledgeable personalities in the food world. As the creator, executive producer, and host of the *Bizarre Foods* franchise on Travel Channel (including *Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern*, *Andrew Zimmern’s Bizarre World*, *Bizarre Foods America* and the new *Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations*), he has explored cultures in more than 170 countries, shining the spotlight on impactful ways to think about, create, and live with food.

The inspirational story Andrew Zimmern will share April 28<sup>th</sup> centers on his own personal recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction. Early in his career, these diseases had him spiraling out of control. Crashed and burnt, he lost his apartment and spent a year living on the streets, stealing to support his addiction, ultimately leading to one last intervention by close friends. Transforming his life around sobriety, Andrew began work again washing dishes and bussing tables, beginning an amazing ascent to the top of the food and entertainment world.

The period of his life as an alcoholic and addict is the frame of reference through which Zimmern views the world. “It opened my eyes to the value of what the world has to offer and what life experience is about,” he says. “It’s given me a globalist perspective. I’ve learned respect for people and to bring something to the world rather than ask what I can take.”

At the Spring Luncheon, The Council on Recovery will also present its first-ever “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Gary R. Petersen, in recognition of his inspiring commitment, dedication, service, and support of The Council for over two decades.

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**About The Council on Recovery:** Founded in 1946, The Council on Recovery is Houston’s oldest and largest non-profit organization providing the full spectrum of prevention, education, intervention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals of all ages. The Council on Recovery is committed to helping Houston overcome the addiction epidemic through a focus on family healing and long-term support that is equally accessible to all in need. Directly touching over 50,000 lives each year through prevention programs for children and youth, in-school and clinical counseling for teens, outpatient substance abuse treatment for adults, and more, our mission is to provide the highest quality of care at affordable rates for individuals and their families. Affiliated with the United Way of Greater Houston, The Council receives funding from private contributions and grants, special events, and program fees. For more information, visit [www.councilonrecovery.org](http://www.councilonrecovery.org).