



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Patrick Kennedy Incites a Packed House with Anecdotes on Recovery to Help Raise over \$450,000 for The Council on Recovery's 70<sup>th</sup> Year.**

**HOUSTON, Texas** (May 17, 2016) – Former US Representative (Rhode Island) and respected public figure Patrick Kennedy shared his personal story of recovery to a crowd of over 800 at Hilton Americas-Houston on May 5, 2016, for The Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series' 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon presented by the Wayne Duddleston Foundation. The luncheon, co-chaired by Meribeth and Lad Rack and Kathy and Craig Taylor, raised over \$450,000 for The Council on Recovery.

Patrick Kennedy co-founded *One Mind for Research*, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to curing the diseases of the brain. In a call to action, he charged the supporters of The Council with helping to shift perceptions and educating others on the importance of treating the brain just as we treat the body, "We ought to have a new paradigm in health care that accentuates healthy brains and mental health prevention. What a concept to have a checkup from the neck up!"

Patrick's personal story shared this past Thursday reminds us that the path of recovery does not happen in a vacuum; rather, one's greatest challenge is to "break the silence and get into a conversation about what our loved ones are suffering." He highlighted with gratitude that "Family matters, and I love the family-focused therapy that [The Council] has focused on because we cannot do it alone!" Throughout his speech, Patrick praised The Council on Recovery's individualized treatment approach and continuum of client care for every age and stage of the family disease of addiction. He touched on the sustainability and vitality that keeps an organization thriving and tied his speech to the celebration of The Council's 70th year.

Council President & CEO Mel Taylor highlighted The Council's Seven Generations of Generosity by taking audience members through a pictorial journey – from the founding of the Houston Committee for the Education on Alcoholism in 1946 to The Council today. This presentation illuminated The Council's enduring gratitude for the sustaining support of donors over the decades, without which The Council would not be where it is today. He emphasized that "Every gift, no matter how small or large, allows us to turn no one away. We hope to continue this tradition for the next seventy years and beyond - as long as people need our help."

This year's Jay Waggoner Service Award was given to George Joseph, recognized for his outstanding service and support on behalf of The Council on Recovery.

The Council on Recovery directly touches 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. The semiannual Luncheon raises financial resources in support of The Council's commitment to provide best-in-class behavioral health services while turning no one away. For more information, visit [www.councilonrecovery.org](http://www.councilonrecovery.org).

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**About The Council on Recovery:** With 70 years of experience, The Council on Recovery provides the full spectrum of prevention, education, intervention and treatment services for individuals of all ages. The Council on Recovery is committed to providing the highest quality of care at affordable rates for individuals and their loved ones. A non-profit agency affiliated with the United Way of Greater Houston, The Council receives funding from private contributions and grants, special events, and program fees on a sliding-scale basis according to client need.