

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rock Legend Alice Cooper Helps The Council on Recovery Raise \$495K to Fund Addiction Prevention, Education, & Treatment Programs



HOUSTON, Texas (November 2, 2018) – Alice Cooper, the Godfather of Shock-Rock and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer thrilled an audience of more than 1100 with his personal story recovery from addiction and alcoholism November 2nd at the Hilton Americas-Houston. In the process, he helped The Council on Recovery raise more than \$495,000 to provide addiction prevention, education, and treatment services in the Greater Houston area.

Alice was the keynote speaker at the 36th Annual Spring Luncheon in The Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series presented by the Wayne Duddlesten Foundation. The Luncheon was chaired by Council board members Dennis Robinson and Tony Valdez, each of whom related their own personal experience with recovery.

With preceding remarks from The Council's President/CEO, Mel Taylor and Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Newhouse, a heartfelt introduction by Jerri Duddlesten-Moore brought Alice Cooper to the stage. In an intimate interview conducted by KPRC/Channel 2's Frank Billingsly, Alice opened up about his illustrious career in rock & roll that spanned the last fifty years. Like many rockers of the late 60's and early 70's, Alice's trajectory into stardom was fueled by drugs and alcohol.

"I was never a drunk 'drunk', but I never got sober," Cooper said. "I used to like to drink, but then I got to the point where I hated it."

In his late twenties, after performing his "Welcome to My Nightmare" show in 65 cities over 72 days, exhaustion and drinking had finally taken their toll.

"I got up and threw up blood, that's probably a bad sign," Cooper said. "My wife [Sheryl], we've been married 43 years..., she's the one who said, 'Hey, superstar, party's over.' I was hospitalized...in 1977...for about three months."

Asked about that experience, Cooper said, "The crazy thing about my sobriety was...no one is ever a cured alcoholic, but I'm a healed alcoholic. I came out of the hospital and I was the classic alcoholic. I went right to a bar, sat down with a Coca Cola and waited for the craving to come. And it didn't come...it never came. Thirty-five years later and it never came. Even the doctors said it was a biblical miracle."

Relating his role as a sober rock star and the new generation of younger fans, Cooper reminisced about Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, and Janis Joplin who were brilliant in their field, but never stopped using and all died at 27. "Kids [today] look at us that got sober and they're smart enough to go 'ah', that's what I'm looking at. It's not that cool to be high anymore," Cooper said. "In my lyrics in my songs you're going to find a lot of warning about drugs and alcohol...some people pick up on it which is good. People [tell me], 'that one song saved my life', a simple song can affect somebody enough that they don't either commit suicide or they get the picture that drugs or alcohol are gonna kill you."

When asked what he would say to people who are on-the-fence about having a problem with drugs or alcohol, Cooper said, "When you face that realization, and want to go on, you have to face that problem. It took me getting sick before I got control of it. If you think you're an alcoholic, go two weeks without it and see if it's part of your body, if it's an everyday thing."

Cooper is well-known for helping to support other musicians who struggle with addiction, and has even opened a nonprofit program, Solid Rock, dedicated to helping vulnerable teenagers make healthy choices.

June Waggoner and late husband Virgil are the benefactors of The Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series in honor and memory of their son, Jay Waggoner, whom they lost to alcoholism. Since the luncheon series' creation in 1999, it has attracted nearly 35,000 people and raised over \$14 Million. Past luncheon speakers include Rob Lowe, Patrick Kennedy, Ashley Judd, Tom Arnold, Lynda Carter, Paul Williams, Richard Dreyfuss, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jim Belushi, and Earl Campbell.

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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 60,000 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.