

Rockin Recovery Fest 2014

With an estimated 22 million people in the United States suffering from an alcohol and/or drug addiction, a local agency held a community event designed to bring awareness to this issue. On September 20th, the Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse held the inaugural Rockin Recovery Fest at Centennial Park to recognize and celebrate the fact that recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction is possible. Nationally, the month of September is recognized as Recovery Month with events planned all over the United States. Kicking the event off was a 5k walk/run followed by a concert featuring two acts in recovery from addiction and five local artists. Coming all the way from Florida, recovering rap artist Orlino Esguerra provided inspiration and enthusiasm as he shared his own personal recovery message through song. Jacob of the iWorldband also shared his message of his struggle to overcome his addiction and thankful for the 28 years in recovery he now has. "To hear both of these gentleman openly discuss their path of addiction and recovery is inspiring, to say the least", said Mike Dennis, Executive Director of the Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "These two are great examples that recovery does occur and that there is help for those suffering from addiction".

Also providing entertainment were local artists Stephen Daniel Carpenter and Vondella Smith with the spoken word and the High Praise Youth Choir, Dee Glover, Jarvis Jet and Kristen Jamison all showing their immense talents. The following local community agencies were also on hand to share and distribute health information: CASA, Hope Health, Family Health Centers, Regional Medical Center, Orangeburg Area Mental Health, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon and the William J. McCord Adolescent Treatment Facility. Rounding out the event was a bounce house, rock climbing wall and face painting for children of all ages and Cornerstone Community Church provided a concession stand with wonderful food.

"It's exciting to see this community come together to recognize and support those with an active addiction and those in recovery." said Dennis. "This community realizes that all life is valued and those who have an addiction need our support. I had one person tell me at the event that he had been struggling with his addiction to heroin for years until 5 months ago when he walked through our doors. He told me his counselor, John Taylor, and our physician Dr. Robert Stafford, were heroes in his eyes as they have helped him see and learn there's a better way to live. It doesn't get any better than that. You can't put a price on a life restored."

With such great success, plans are already underway to build upon this event and make it an annual event. If you or someone you know is struggling with an addiction, contact the Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse at 803-536-4900.