

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mental Health Awareness Coalition Hosts Candlelight Vigil

Event recognizes those in our community living with mental illness

PHOENIX — The Mental Health Awareness Coalition presents its 17th Annual Candlelight Vigil to celebrate recovery and to dispel the misinformation and stigma surrounding mental illness, on Thursday, October 25, 2012, at 6 p.m. at the Civic Space Park, 424 N. Central Avenue in downtown Phoenix.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with music, a board of remembrance and an information fair, and will be followed by dinner in ASU's A.E. England Building. The program begins at 7 p.m. at the park's stage area and will be emceed by Arizona Department of Health Services Director Will Humble. Speakers will address mental health from the perspective of a person living with mental illness, a family member and a youth/young adult with mental health issues. The winner of MHAC's logo contest will be announced as will the recipient of the Mental Health Awareness Coalition Scholarship. Finally, all attendees will have the opportunity to light a "candle of truth."

Hosted by the ASU Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy (CABHP) and supported by partners, Magellan Health Services of Arizona, Visions of Hope, MIKID, CHEEERS and S.T.A.R., this free event recognizes and honors people who live with mental illness and brings the community together to reduce the stigma associated with brain disorders.

"For years the community held the candlelight vigil to draw attention to the importance of mental health," said Humble. "Adding partners like ASU's Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy should increase the attention – helping more people understand the importance of mental health."

The Civic Space Park is located just north of the Van Buren St. and Central Ave. light rail station. For more information about the event, contact Jenny McLellan at 602-712-9200, ext. 206 or jmclellan@azabc.org, or visit <http://azmhac.org/>.

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About the Mental Health Awareness Coalition

Made up of representatives from mental health agencies, advocacy groups and individuals living with mental illness, the Mental Health Awareness Coalition is a 501 C(3) non-profit organization that focuses on educating the public regarding understanding, awareness and acceptance of mental health issues in the general community, while working to reduce stigma and discrimination associated with mental health in adults and children.