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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2009

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ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

In 2007, more than 23 million people age 12 and older needed treatment for a substance use disorder in the United States. In Kansas, 225,155 people and their families are affected by this disease. From January 1 through December 31, 2008 there were 3,601 adult admissions into drug and alcohol treatment programs in Sedgwick County.

“Drug and alcohol addiction touches nearly everyone,” said Director of COMCARE’s Addiction Treatment Services Dee Staudt. “Each of us can provide a story involving a friend or family member who has been impacted by this disease. Many people do not understand that addiction is not only preventable but treatable, and this misconception can keep people from getting the help they need.”

Did you know?

- Almost two-thirds of Americans have friends or family members who have struggled with addiction.
- More than 21 million Americans suffer from addiction or dependence on alcohol and drugs and have yet to experience recovery.
- Nearly two-thirds of Americans view addiction as a form of illness and something individuals cannot remedy alone.
- One in four people in recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction say they have been discriminated against when trying to obtain employment or insurance.

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- Addiction, when left untreated, costs Americans more than 100,000 lives and \$400 billion each year.
- Every dollar spent on drug treatment in the community is estimated to return \$18.52 in benefits to society in terms of reduced incarceration rates and associated crime costs to taxpayers.

National Recovery Month offers an opportunity to celebrate the process of recovery and to help remove the stigmas that often accompany those who suffer from addictions. It also gives us a chance to recognize and thank the dedicated professionals who work each day in the challenging world of addiction treatment and prevention.

For more information, contact COMCARE of Sedgwick County at 660-7540. All calls are confidential.

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