



Phoenix House  
Rising Above Addiction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Liana Johnson  
Marketing and Communications  
646 505 2090  
[ljohnson@phoenixhouse.org](mailto:ljohnson@phoenixhouse.org)

Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Recovery set for Wednesday, September 16, 2015, in Arlington, Virginia.

Arlington, VA – September 14, 2015 – On September 16, 2015, Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic will host the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Recovery. The celebration is held annually to recognize clients' hard work and success in recovery. Phoenix House holds the event every year in September to commemorate National Recovery Month.

The guest speaker, Gerald Anderson, a graduate of the Phoenix Program in Arlington, will receive the Annual Celebration of Recovery Alumni Award for his inspirational story and leadership in the recovery community. When author and award-winning journalist, Susan Orkins, met Anderson he was selling *Street Sense*, Washington, DC's newspaper that is written and sold by homeless vendors. For 18 months they met weekly to talk. Anderson's memoir, *Still Standing: How an Ex-Con Found Salvation in the Floodwaters of Katrina* is the result. The book tells the inspiring story of Anderson's resilience and determination to turn his life around after prison, homelessness and drug addiction.

George Knoerlein, Director of Clinical Operations, will emcee, direct, and facilitate the event. As a creative activity, clients from each of Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic's programs will deliver spirited performances of their choosing that includes poems, music and dramatic readings illustrating their experiences in an uplifting way.

In its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Recovery Month promotes the societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders. It also spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover. Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic is proudly continuing its commitment to second chances, helping clients rise above addictions and start fresh in recovery.

The Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic Celebration of Recovery will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The free event will offer dinner to guests, is open to the public and media are invited to attend. For more information, please call 703 298 0442.

### About Phoenix House

As a leading nonprofit provider of substance abuse treatment and prevention services, Phoenix House is known for innovative and research-tested treatment methods and practices that strive to meet the distinct needs of each individual client. More than 120 programs in [California](#), [Florida](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New York](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Texas](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#), [Maryland](#), and [Metro D.C.](#) help individuals and families affected by substance abuse lay the foundation for long-lasting recovery so they can lead healthy, productive lives.

Since 1962, [Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic](#) has served more than 35,000 individuals. Every day, [our programs](#) help hundreds of people struggling with addiction. Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic operates 13 programs in the Metro D.C. area to meet the varied treatment needs of adults, adolescents, and mothers with children. To find out more about our programs and services, visit us online at [www.phoenixhouse.org](http://www.phoenixhouse.org), or call us at 703 841 0703.

###