



first
annual

Amethyst

Event for Recovery



Greetings friends and guests,

We are so glad to see you here at the First Annual Amethyst Event for Recovery and deeply grateful for your time and presence with us today.

It would be an understatement to say that the past year has been merely difficult for Minnesotans in recovery from substance use disorder. The COVID-19 pandemic ushered in stress, isolation, and economic upheaval — all known triggers for addiction and return to use — combined with the added difficulty of getting recovery support services with social-distancing rules in effect. We recognize this reality but we haven't lost hope as we've watched the recovery community respond resiliently and creatively to meet these challenging circumstances.

Today, we are thankful that you are joining us in this journey. You will hear from current and former AmeriCorps members who served in Recovery Corps, our strategic initiative to transform Minnesota's recovery infrastructure and help individuals maintain long-term recovery. You will be guided by Phil Rutherford, Chief Operating Officer of Faces & Voices of Recovery and ServeMinnesota Board Member. We hope that by the end of today's event, you will join us as partners in advancing this important work.

Sincerely,



Audrey Suker
Chief Executive Officer
ServeMinnesota



Lindsay Dolce, JD
Chief Advancement Officer
ServeMinnesota

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Agenda

- 10:30 Welcome!
- 11:00 Opening remarks: Lindsay Dolce
Introducing Recovery Corps as an investment: Phil Rutherford
Member perspectives: Four Recovery Corps members and alums tell their stories
- Jonda Crum
 - Quinn Forss
 - Leah Staples
 - Justin McNeal
- 11:40 Closing remarks: Phil Rutherford

65% of Recovery Corps participants increased their quality of life.

100% of sites with Project Coordinators reported increased capacity.

100% of Navigators reported that service supported their own recovery.

12:1 Return

Researchers at the Federal Reserve say that for every dollar state government invests in substance use recovery, the state sees a return of \$12.

We appreciate your support!
If you would like to give to Recovery Corps, please visit
www.serveminnesota.org/amethyst-event

Meet

our speakers

Phil Rutherford (he/him) Chief Operating Officer, Faces & Voices of Recovery



Philip is a recovery coach, a passionate member of the Recovery Community and possesses a self-described Doctorate from the School of Hard Knocks. As COO, he is responsible for multiple lines of business within the Faces & Voices ecosystem.

Phil has a BA in Psychology with a specialization in Substance Use Disorders. Phil's prior experience as Director of Operations at a Recovery Community Organization offered a front-row seat into the world of Peer Based Recovery Supports. Prior to that, he spent most of his career in corporate sales, marketing, and management at Microsoft, Micron Electronics, and companies within the Taylor Corporation. Phil is an active member of the Recovery community and has considerable experience in the areas of Substance Use Disorders, Recovery, and Re-entry. He is a member of the ServeMinnesota Board of Directors.

Jonda Crum (she/her) Recovery Corps Navigator, Minnesota Recovery Connection



Jonda is a woman in long term recovery. To her, that means being able to "be the person I should have been all along: sober, healthy, and happy." Jonda believes life is too precious to dwell in the past, instead cherishing every moment of every day and trying to give back by helping others find recovery. She says, "I was given a second chance at life and I am going to use it by advocating for the people who are still struggling to get sober."

Quinn Forss (he/him or they/them) Opioid Response Project Coordinator with Recovery Corps at the National Alliance of Recovery Residences



Quinn's first AmeriCorps term was serving as a Recovery Navigator at the sober high school P.E.A.S.E. Academy. It illustrated to him the vital need for recovery services based on peer support. Today, he uses his peer support; policy writing; and diversity, equity, and inclusion experience to assist NARR in important projects. This includes designing DEI trainings, writing grievance policy guidelines, and extending outreach through social media to promote the NARR Standard and Ethics in recovery

housing across the country. As a queer, disabled person in recovery, Quinn hopes to shine a light on nontraditional recovery pathways that center the needs of marginalized people. He looks forward to continuing his work in Recovery Support Services so as to help build access for all.

Leah Staples (she/her) Peer Recovery Program Coordinator, Northwest Indian Development Center



Leah is a proud Recovery Corps alum, having completed a year of service as a Recovery Navigator at the Northwest Community Indian Development Center in Bemidji. After her term of service, she was hired in a full time role as a Peer Recovery Program Coordinator, where she uses her skills, passion, and experience to guide expecting mothers and moms with young children to a future free of substance use disorder. Leah holds a Certified Nursing Assistant Certification, is a Peer Certified Recovery Specialist, and is a trained sexual assault advocate. Building a circle of healing and recovery, Leah now directly supervises two Recovery

Navigators at her location. She believes in the power of recovery to not only rebuild individual lives, but the lives of families and communities.

Justin McNeal (he/him) Trainer & Program Manager, Minnesota Recovery Connection



Justin is a person in long term recovery. He is a national- and state- Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist. He also has a state certification for Mental Health Peer Support. Justin started as an AmeriCorps member which led to the role he has now at Minnesota Recovery Connection. He is a trainer and manager for the Forensic Peer Recovery Specialist program. He is currently building a program that offers Peer Recovery Support to individuals who are incarcerated or on some sort of supervision. Justin believes everyone deserves a chance at recovery and that everyone is capable of change.

For every **\$500** we raise, one person receives Navigator support for **an entire year.**

Thank you

for your support of Recovery Corps

To donate, visit www.serveminnesota.org/amethyst-event

Checks can be mailed to ServeMinnesota, 120 S 6th Street, Suite 2260, Minneapolis, MN 55402