



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

August 30, 2006

*California Recovery Happens Month*

I am pleased to extend my warm greetings to all the attendees of the California Recovery Happens kick-off rally.

Substance abuse is a terrible affliction that destroys the lives of countless individuals. It hurts their bodies, strains their relationships, empties their pockets and darkens their souls. In addition, chemical dependency causes great harm to our economy, costing an estimated \$35 billion last year on medical, criminal justice and social services costs. While this is a miserable tragedy, hope arises from the ash heap of despair.

There are effective treatment and recovery support services that make it possible for people to recover from addiction. In partnership with the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and numerous community groups, recovering addicts have made tremendous strides in the fight to shake off drug and alcohol cravings and renew their lives. I congratulate all the recovering Californians in attendance today for their dedication to becoming clean and sober.

Please accept my best wishes for every continued and future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Arnold Schwarzenegger'.

Arnold Schwarzenegger