



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# New Directions & Young People in Recovery Launch Ohio Chapters

## Community collaboration programs support recovery from substance abuse

**(Cleveland, OH)** – New Directions is collaborating with national and local resources to provide access to recovery support services for Cuyahoga County residents. Young People in Recovery (YPR), a national grassroots advocacy organization focused on creating recovery-ready communities for young people in or seeking recovery, is expanding its volunteer-led Chapters to Ohio.

**WHO:** New Directions, Young People in Recovery, Cleveland Foundation and the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County

**WHAT:** A Kickoff Event to launch YPR Chapters in Ohio and discuss mobile peer recovery coaching application program

**WHERE:** The Ford Room, Jerry Sue Thornton Center, Cuyahoga Community College (2500 East 22nd Street, Cleveland, 44115)

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm.

**RSVP:** FREE through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/>. Search “New Directions Cleveland.”

“Ohio, like many other states, has been feeling the effects substance use disorders have on the community,” said Michael Miller, YPR Chapter Coordinator. “It often seems as though things are getting worse. The reality is people can and *do* find recovery. The goal has to be showing both those struggling, and the general public, that recovery is possible. Chapters serve both their members and the greater community. By providing workshops in housing, education, employment and recovery messaging, Chapters have a measurable impact. Members in recovery and their allies, receive leadership development, community organizing and advocacy training to help create recovery-ready communities.”

New Directions (ND) has partnered with the Ascent Solution to launch a smart-phone application, which includes 24/7/365 peer recovery coaching that will focus on helping individuals with substance use disorders transitioning to treatment programs. Information and other resources are provided to support his/her abstinence from alcohol and drugs, especially heroin and opiates.

“The New Directions and Ascent Program team is privileged to collaborate with YPR, bringing Chapters to the Greater Cleveland Region,” said Mike Matoney, MBA, LICDC-CS, Executive Director of New Directions. “The heroin, opiate, and fentanyl epidemic has been devastating to individuals and families in our community. By creating Cleveland Chapters, YPR will empower young people to get involved in their communities, providing them with the resources and support to take charge of their futures.”

This local recovery app and peer coaching program is made possible with funding from the Cleveland Foundation and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County.

ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County CEO William M. Denihan explained the significance of the recovery app program as a tool to maintain long-term recovery. He said, “Individuals need access to recovery support services such as peer-support. This new application serves as a critical tool to helping individuals maintain their sobriety and help educate the community that addiction is a brain-disease, treatment works and people do recover.”

“The Cleveland Foundation has a long history of supporting innovative ideas to respond to community challenges,” said Kathleen Hallissey, Director of Community Responsive Grantmaking at the Cleveland Foundation. “Given the heightened pace of drug overdoses ravaging our community, we appreciate New Directions’ leadership in making sure young people and their families have access to the best resources necessary that promote recovery through long-term health and wellness interventions.”

Starting immediately, YPR will begin recruiting volunteers, developing chapters, and establishing workshops, activities and advocacy opportunities throughout Ohio, thanks to the generosity of the Cleveland Foundation. The ND and Ascent Program team has been providing treatment and peer support in the local community for quite some time.

Justin Riley, CEO of YPR said, “We are excited at the opportunity to partner with local stakeholders to assist in establishing Chapters in Cleveland and beyond. The work New Directions and Ascent have already undertaken in Ohio is incredible. We can’t wait to get started.”



### **About Young People in Recovery**

YPR Chapters are currently growing throughout the US. Their locations include both rural and urban communities, with over 90 volunteer-led chapters already established. We focus on improving access to treatment, educational resources, employment opportunities, and secure, quality housing on local, state, and national levels.

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### **About New Directions and Ascent**

At New Directions, our treatment team has provided quality, life-saving treatment to adolescents and young adults with substance use and mental health needs for more than 36 years. Regardless of their ability to pay, we provide comprehensive, holistic and personalized services to clients and their families/caregivers. A continuum of support includes residential treatment, outpatient counseling, and recovery housing. Our interactive Ascent Solution includes the Recovery App for New Directions' and partner agencies' clients, combining the best technology has to offer with that all-important human touch to help clear the path to recovery, with evidence-based peer recovery coaching.

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