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# Health Check: National Recovery Month kicks off

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[Jim Gillen](#) is the organizer of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in [Rhode Island](#), and for [him](#) it's personal.

"I'm a person in long-term recovery, which means I haven't used alcohol or other drugs since 1998 and as a result my life has gotten a whole lot better," he said.

The eighth year for National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in [Rhode Island](#) kicked off on Wednesday. Each year, a quilt is unveiled.

"Unfortunately it reminds us of those individuals who have passed away but not to be forgotten. It reminds us of why we do this work," said [Craig Stenning](#) of the [Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare](#).

It's also a reminder that in the midst of hopelessness there is hope for a new beginning that takes courage and love, if you believe and want it.

"I started using at the age of nine. I started using marijuana" said [Joyce Bullock](#), a recovering addict.

[Bullock](#) is responsible for two pieces of the quilt.

"I can say I am 68 days clean today, which is beautiful for me because I couldn't get 24 hours to save my life," [Bullock](#) said.

[Jennifer Remuck](#) was a victim of domestic violence and is also a recovering addict.

"My teeth were knocked out. I've been hung outside windows, thrown down stairs, and using was my only option to hide," she said.

[Remuck](#) said she's been clean for three weeks, and trying to get joint custody of her kids.

"I have hope," she said.