



A Safe Haven Recovery Homes
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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**NORTHWESTERN FILMMAKERS TO RECEIVE
TOP HONORS FOR SERVICE TO CHICAGO**

**Recognition to center on documentary exposé produced during 2008-09 academic year
Other awardees to include Senator, Congressmen, CBS Journalist**

EVANSTON, Ill.—A major Chicagoland non-profit is honoring the most important advocates for drug policy reform—and a film crew at Northwestern University is among them.

The Throwaway War, produced by Inspire Films and directed by Communications senior Benjamin Singer in 2009, followed formerly incarcerated drug offenders as they sought to turn their lives around, struggling for basic resources. The film featured A Safe Haven, one of Chicago's most important networks of homes for recovering addicts. A Safe Haven provides housing and job assistance to its clients.

A Safe Haven is recognizing its key proponents, dubbed "Champions of Recovery," during September for National Recovery Month 2009. **The crew of *The Throwaway War* will be named Champions for Recovery for "Excellence in Filmmaking" at a ceremony on September 18th from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Union League Club (65 W. Jackson). A never-before-seen trailer of *The Throwaway War* and words from Singer will kick off the ceremony.**

Other members of the crew include Communications juniors Sky Dylan-Robbins (producer), Andrew Glor (editor) and Wolf Kirchner (editor), and Communications senior Sarah Klein (director of photography). A complete crew listing is included at the end of this piece.

Other honorees include Senator Dick Durbin for "Leadership for Veterans"; Congressman Danny Davis for "Leadership for the Second Chance Act"; Harry Porterfield, Emmy Award-Winning CBS Journalist for "Excellence in Media"; and others, most of whom will be in attendance. A Safe Haven is specifically recognizing Singer for the award, but Singer insists that it belongs to the larger group of students.

"Without the incredible dedication of the entire crew, this project never would have succeeded," said Singer, 21. "The artistry, incredible stories, and awareness raised by this project are accomplishments for which all the editors, producers, camera operators, researchers, and distribution chairs deserve major credit."

Neli Vazquez-Rowland, co-founder of A Safe Haven, also had kind words for the honorees.

"These Champions of Recovery work to bring awareness to the epidemic of the disease of addiction. This event will bring a unifying message from the different segments of the recovery community together in honor of National Recovery Month," she said.

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An extended version of this media advisory continues on the following page.

The focus of this year's National Recovery Month is the recognition of addiction and other mental illnesses as serious ailments that necessitate health insurance coverage. This includes a joint ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on September 24, honoring Rep. Patrick Kennedy for his work of the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. The act would "end the practice of insurance companies discriminating against people suffering from mental illness," according to spokeswoman Lynn Orman.

Orman says the bill would compel insurance companies to treat mental illness "the same as physical illness, given the overwhelming scientific evidence that mental illness is a disease every bit as real and serious as physical illness."

According to the National Drug Intelligence (which is a component of the DOJ), many chronic drug abusers or addicts often suffer from a serious mental disorder. This is also known as a co-occurring disorder or a dual-diagnosis.

"Addiction is a serious problem in America," Orman says. According the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), one of every eight Americans has a significant problem with alcohol or drugs. Approximately 27 million Americans either use illicit drugs regularly or are "heavy drinkers." Of these almost 16 million are estimated to need immediate treatment.

"A Safe Haven understands the need for treatment and actively works to change these statistics by providing a unique program to people who seek recovery from addiction," Orman said. She added, "A Safe Haven believes in providing an integrated, comprehensive continuum of care and housing as well as a robust economic development model that is focused on empowering those in recovery to become accountable, productive and self-sufficient citizens."

Orman went on to say that, as with any American suffering from the disease of addiction, a top priority for successful recovery starts with providing a supportive environment that is free of drugs and alcohol and conducive to recovery.

"Our success rate is three times that of the national average," Orman said.

Below are the names of NU students on the crew of *The Throwaway War*, as listed in the credits:

- Directed by Benjamin Singer
- Produced by Sky Dylan-Robbins
- Edited by Andrew Glor and Wolf Kirchner
- 1st AD Talia Alberts
- 2nd AD Mara Eckel
- Co-produced by Benjamin Singer
- Associate Producer James Kowalsky
- AP, Fundraising Emery Mathieson
- APs, Interviews: Katherine Cowell, Robin Levy, and Drea Woods
- APs, Talent: Katherine Cowell, Claire Young, and Mike Zaslow
- Locations Manager: Katherine Cowell
- Treasurer: Janel Montfort
- Camera Operators
 - Mara Eckel
 - Wolf Kirchner
 - Travis Labella
 - Jac Reyno
 - Benjamin Singer
- Grips
 - Wolf Kirchner
 - Jenn Lien
- Still Photographers
 - Wolf Kirchner
 - Travis Labella
 - Benjamin Singer
 - Paris West
- Sound Designed by Andrew Walker
- Sound Recorded by Shuling Yong
- Boom Operators
 - Wolf Kirchner
 - Janel Montfort

- Paris West
- Music Supervisor Collin Davis
- Composers
 - Collin Davis
 - Andrew Kim
 - Nic Park
 - Kelsey Wild
 - Jeff Zhao
 - Julian Zlatev

- Assistant Editors
 - Kara Goldsmith
 - Tony Mucia
 - Jac Reyno
 - Shuling Yong
 - Kana Yoo
 - Julian Zlatev

- Colorist Wolf Kirchner
- Graphic Design Sky Dylan-Robbins and Trevor Lazarus
- Policy Consultant Jenn Lien
- Vision Assistant Devin Balkind

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More about The Throwaway War: www.throwawaywar.com

Trailer for *Throwaway War* (not the one to debut at the event): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bVLkSPZxQw>

More about A Safe Haven: www.asafehaven.com

Harry Porterfield's coverage on A Safe Haven: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=6726168>