

## Meet Ohio's 2010 Recovery Delegate!

**Bobby Ringle** is no stranger to recovery. He has been in long-term recovery from addiction for 22 years – and he lives and breathes recovery every day helping others to find the way and fostering a better understanding of the disease to anyone who will listen.



photo by Jonathan Harada

Bobby will be proudly representing Ohio at the third annual national *Recovery Walks!* on Saturday, September 25 at Philadelphia's Penn's Landing to demonstrate the reality of recovery from addiction. In 2008 A&E Network created [The Recovery Project](#) as a national effort to raise awareness that addiction to alcohol and other drugs has become an enormous public health problem in this country and that recovery from addiction is possible.

During his visit to Philadelphia Bobby will be sharing his experience and overall story of recovery in an attempt to motivate others. In order to be chosen as a delegate, individuals must be in recovery for at least ten years and be an active member in the recovery community.

Bobby describes himself as a person “with 22 years of recovery – who happens to be Deaf.” As the result, he is keenly aware of the additional barriers to recovery faced by Deaf and hard of hearing people. Bobby is actively involved with Deaf off Drugs and Alcohol (DODA), a grant-funded project to improve alcohol and drug treatment services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

For Bobby, participation in *Recovery Walks!* is an opportunity to increase awareness of addiction in the Deaf community and to make contact with other people who can help. “It’s all about people working together to break down the barriers between us,” he says, and looks forward to sharing the successes of DODA and getting new ideas that he can use back home in the outreach he does to the Deaf community in his role as Deaf Preacher at Eastpointe Christian Church in Blacklick, Ohio.

Over ten thousand individuals and families in recovery, treatments partners and advocates from all fifty states will join together at *Recovery Walks!*, which was named as the National Hub event for [Faces and Voices of Recovery's Rally for Recovery](#). As the hub event, local recovery rallies taking place across the country, will be calling-in to Philadelphia to report their numbers of walkers, runners and participants. Fifty-one recovery delegates from all fifty states and the District of Columbia, along with A&E's first National Youth Delegate have been chosen to represent their home states. Last year's *Rally for Recovery* hub event, the New York City Recovery Rally, featured a crowd of more than 10,000 recovering addicts from across the country and their friends, family and advocates, plus a host of celebrities and political leaders, all sharing their stories of determination and hope while walking across the Brooklyn Bridge.

Bobby lives in Columbus with his wife Missy and four children. To read more about Bobby's story, visit the Delegates page at [The Recovery Project](#).