

# 2008 Annual Report

## Letter From The Chairman

It's been a very successful and productive year for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, as we continue to make strides in the field of pathological and problem gambling.

A few of the key programs and services provided by the Alliance in 2008 include: the Problem Gambling Help Line (1-888-BETSOFF), the Bets Off Web site (888betsoff.org), the Voluntary Exclusion Program, also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP) and the inclusion of free compulsive gambling treatment services. In addition to the services provided during the past year, the Alliance successfully included problem gambling questions in the 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS).

The Alliance also made history this year with the addition of the first recovery community representative to the Board of Directors. Deborah Neal of Kansas City joined the Board in late 2008, and she has already become a valued and active participant in our discussions.

The Alliance will continue to work on various projects in 2009 including: the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, which will be held Aug. 12-14 in St. Louis; the completion and distribution of the revised youth addiction prevention program, "Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path;" and the implementation of a new strategic plan. The goals established in the plan include: continuing to raise awareness of the dangers of problem gambling; developing and implementing educational prevention programs; and continuing to make quality problem gambling assistance and treatment available to all Missouri residents.

On behalf of myself and the entire Alliance, thank you for your continued support and dedication. I hope to see everyone at the 2009 Midwest Conference in August.

Mike Winter  
Alliance Chairman



Michael Winter

## Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling Overview

The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling (MACPG), which was created in 1997, is a partnership between the Missouri Council on Problem Gambling Concerns Inc., the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Missouri Gaming Association, the Missouri Gaming Commission, the Missouri Lottery Commission, the Port Authority of Kansas City and a Recovery Community Member.

The purpose of the Alliance is to educate Missourians on the potential characteristics and dangers of problem and compulsive gambling, to refer compulsive gamblers and their family and friends to free treatment through a toll-free help line, to prevent underage play and to promote responsible gaming.

To learn more about the Alliance or view a list of voting member representatives, visit [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org).

## Highlights of MACPG Services Provided in 2008

### Problem Gambling Help Line: 1-888-BETSOFF

Life Crisis Services (LCS) operates a 24-hour help line service for callers seeking help for a gambling problem. The Missouri Gaming Association provides the funding for the help line. LCS received a total of 1,915 calls during 2008.

### Bets Off Web Site: [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org)

The Bets Off Web site provides a variety of resources including: a list of Missouri certified compulsive gambling counselors; facts about problem gambling (youth and adult); and information about the Voluntary Exclusion Program, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, the Bets Off Bulletin and more.

During 2008, the Web site had more than 500,000 visitors. Since the Web site began in 2002, there have been more than 1.6 million visitors.

(continued on page 2)

# Highlights of MACPG Services Provided in 2008

(continued from page 1)

## Voluntary Exclusion Program

The Missouri Gaming Commission administers a statewide self-exclusion program for problem and pathological gamblers. The voluntary exclusion program is also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP); the self-exclusion is currently a lifetime self-exclusion with no procedures for removal.

More than 1,279 individuals initiated applications for placement on the List of Disassociated Persons during 2008. More than 13,500 individuals have placed themselves on the state's self-exclusion list since it began in 1998.

## Free Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services

The Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse contracts with certified compulsive gambling counselors to provide free treatment services to both compulsive gamblers and their family members. Family members can access the free treatment services regardless of whether the problem gambler enters treatment. During 2008, more than 330 clients accessed the free treatment services.

Individuals seeking referral to a counselor in a specific area can view a list of Missouri certified compulsive gambling counselors online at [http://www.888betsoff.org/alliance/CCGC\\_providers.shtm](http://www.888betsoff.org/alliance/CCGC_providers.shtm) or call the help line at 1-888-BETSOFF.

## Statistics

| Calendar Year | Bets Off Help Line | Web Site Hits | Voluntary Exclusion | Free Treatment |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1998          | 871                | N/A           | 356                 | 54             |
| 1999          | 1,034              | N/A           | 596                 | 113            |
| 2000          | 1,738              | 18,171        | 1,093               | 186            |
| 2001          | 2,846              | 46,617        | 1,403               | 335            |
| 2002          | 2,889              | 31,522        | 1,290               | 373            |
| 2003          | 3,339              | 46,456        | 1,367               | 344            |
| 2004          | 3,527              | 75,264        | 1,506               | 377            |
| 2005          | 2,593              | 139,423       | 1,696               | 360            |
| 2006          | 1,834              | 118,920       | 1,553               | 370            |
| 2007          | 1,682              | 623,214       | 1,412               | 358            |
| 2008          | 1,915              | 508,746       | 1,279               | 332            |

## Alliance Welcomes First Recovery Community Member

In 2008, the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling welcomed Deborah Neal of Kansas City as a participating voting member. Neal's appointment as a recovery community representative, which grants her full voting privileges, is the first of its kind for the Alliance.

Neal noted that she is grateful for the invitation to join the Alliance.

"I am honored to serve on the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling," said Neal. "I look forward to being an instrument of hope and healing for individuals, families and communities affected by problem and compulsive gambling and related potential consequences."

Neal, who received a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio State University and a law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, has served on various community boards and committees, including serving as president of the Jackson County Bar Association and a member of the Judicial Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Association Board and Judicial Education Committee.

According to Steve Rinne, Alliance member and Port Authority of Kansas City staff member, there was a void on the Board of the Alliance from those who were in recovery.

"We chose Deborah because she was a high-profile public official whose gambling problem was well-publicized," explained Rinne. "She is devoted to becoming involved in the community in an effort to prevent others, especially minorities in the urban core, from suffering the nearly catastrophic loss that she did. We're very thankful to have her as an Alliance member."

To learn how to become a participating member of the Alliance or more about the Alliance's services, visit [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org) or call 1-888-BETSOFF.



Deborah Neal

## New Version of Youth Addiction Program to be Released in 2009

The award-winning “Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path” youth addiction prevention program has been updated. The program was originally released in 2002 to more than 700 Missouri schools. However, feedback from students and educators during the past several years suggested that a new version was needed.

According to Frank Finley, video producer for the Missouri Lottery, the goal of the second version of “Beat Addiction” was not only to address the spectrum of addictive and compulsive behaviors, but to do so in a more realistic manner.

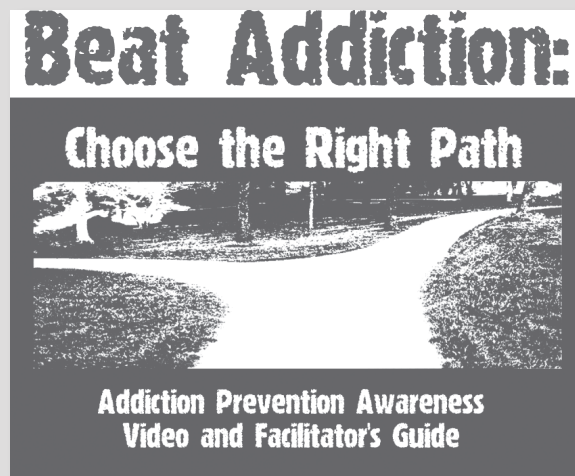
“Students that watched the first version of ‘Beat Addiction’ said they wanted to hear from people that were closer to their age. In the new version, we interviewed young addicts in recovery that were forced to overcome enormous obstacles,” said Finley.

The new version of “Beat Addiction” is recommended for students in grades 6-12, and it features four testimonials and re-enactments about teens that have battled various addictions including: gambling, marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and alcohol. The revised edition also includes the original program from 2002, which focuses on one woman and her family’s struggle with addiction.

The program was developed and produced by the Missouri Lottery for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The program was evaluated and approved by DESE as a resource that meets DESE-established Show Me Goals (SMG) and Guidance Grade Level Expectations (GLE) in the category of Personal Social Development.

The new program will be distributed to all Missouri junior and senior high schools later this year. Both versions of “Beat Addiction: Choose the Right Path” are currently available online at [888betsoff.org](http://888betsoff.org).

For more information about the program, contact Holly Koofer, responsible gaming coordinator for the Missouri Lottery, at (573) 526-7467.



## Project 21 Provides Scholarships for High School Students

Underage gambling is not only illegal, but it is also dangerous. Research suggests that adolescents that gamble are more likely than non-gamblers and those who begin gambling later to develop pathological gambling problems and behaviors. In an effort to curb underage gambling and help Missouri youth better understand the consequences of underage gambling, Project 21 was created.

Project 21, which is sponsored by the Missouri Gaming Association, is a scholarship contest that awards Missouri high school seniors scholarships for displaying an exceptional understanding of the risks associated with underage gambling. The goals of Project 21 are to raise awareness about underage gambling and to stop casino gambling by people under the age of 21.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship contest, Missouri high school seniors are required to submit a poster, essay or video themed around and/or addressing underage gambling to the Missouri Gaming Association by each year’s designated deadline.

A total of two first prize (\$1,500) and four second prize (\$1,000) scholarships are awarded each year through the contest. Since Project 21 began in 1996, students have received more than \$90,000.

To download a Project 21 application or learn more about Project 21, visit the Missouri Gaming Association’s Web site at [missouricasinos.org](http://missouricasinos.org).



## 2008 Midwest Conference Offers Attendees Insight; Plans Underway for 2009

More than 200 addiction experts, treatment providers and representatives of the gambling industry from 20 states and three countries gathered in St. Louis for the fifth annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Clayton, Aug. 13-15, 2008. “Roads to Recovery – A Collaborative Approach” was the focus of the



(continued on page 4)

# 2008 Midwest Conference Offers Attendees Insight; Plans Underway for 2009

(continued from page 3)

conference, which was partially funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The conference, which featured nationally acclaimed addiction experts from throughout the country, was a result of a joint endeavor by organizations throughout the five-state region – Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The three-day event provided more than 20 workshops and presentations from internationally and nationally renowned experts in the field of problem gambling, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.

Keynote speakers for the conference included: Dr. H. Westley Clark, director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Judge Mark Farrell, senior justice in the Amherst, N.Y. Criminal and Civil Court; Pamela Lightsey, dean of students at Garret-Evangelical Theological seminary; and Nancy Petry, professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Two individuals were recognized at the conference for their hard work and dedication to the field of problem gambling and substance abuse. Arlene Miller received the 2008 Outstanding Contributor Award, and Richard Cox was presented with the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's Service Award.

Plans are currently underway to make the 2009 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, which will be held Aug. 12-14 at the Hilton Frontenac in St. Louis, another exciting and educational event.

For more information on the 2008 conference and to learn about the 2009 conference, please visit the Alliance's Web site at: [www.888betsoff.org](http://www.888betsoff.org).



Arlene Miller



Richard Cox



## Save the Date!

Join the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling at the 2009 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, which will be held Aug. 12-14 at the Hilton Frontenac in St. Louis.

You won't want to miss this amazing opportunity to network, collaborate and learn from nationally recognized experts in the field of gambling treatment and substance abuse, discover new training tools and tips and much more!

To learn more about the 2009 Midwest Conference, visit [http://www.888betsoff.org/links/midwest\\_conference.shtm](http://www.888betsoff.org/links/midwest_conference.shtm).



# 1-888-BETSOFF

BETSOFF BULLETIN is produced by the Missouri Lottery for the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling.  
 Editor: Holly Kooper, responsible gaming program coordinator for the Missouri Lottery  
 Designer: Sonja Bechel, multimedia designer for the Missouri Lottery  
 Printer: Missouri State Printing Services, Jefferson City, Mo.

**If you would like to be added to our mailing list, contact Holly Kooper at [koofeh@molottery.com](mailto:koofeh@molottery.com).**



The Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling's mission is to heighten public awareness for the dangers of problem gambling; develop prevention and education programs for gamblers of all ages; and direct problem gamblers and their families to the 1-888-BETSOFF help line and treatment.