



Richard "Rich" Jones is a person in long-term recovery since 2001 and is an experienced healthcare and non-profit executive. Rich has experience in developing clinical programs, human resource management, systems restructuring and all aspects of financial management. He has worked across multiple domains including mental health, substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, and intellectual disabilities. He has over 17 years of management experience and has provided leadership and administration to start-up non-profit organizations and program rebuilds nationally and regionally.

READ MORE FROM RICHARD JONES
AT: www.talkgreenville.com

15 MINUTES with RICHARD JONES

Written by Kim Hassold | Photographed by Nathan Gray

Rich is currently the CEO/COO of Faces And Voices Of Recovery (FAVOR) Greenville. FAVOR Greenville is an exceptionally innovative and unique program that aggressively attacks the problem of addiction and other behavioral health issues. FAVOR Greenville is focused on fundamentally changing the way that recovery support is provided. Rich has been able to guide FAVOR Greenville from a start-up idea/concept to the premier provider of recovery support services nationwide. FAVOR Greenville has served over 30,000 individuals and over 8,000 families in the past five years. Service delivery includes 20 plus locations in Greenville county and expansion satellites in Anderson and Spartanburg County. In 2017, FAVOR Greenville was named a national model program by the federal government (SAMHSA) and again in 2018 by the federal Department of Justice. Check out his blog at www.recoverycartel.com and his organization FAVOR Greenville at www.favorgreenville.org.

TALK GREENVILLE: What is one thing you wish everyone knew about FAVOR?

RICHARD JONES: The most important thing I wish people knew about FAVOR Greenville is that we work with all issues related to substance misuse. Not just “addicted people.” We have worked with over 30,000 people over the past five years and almost half of those folks have been family members, friends and loved ones of the person misusing substances

TG: What was your first job?

RJ: My first job ever was delivering newspapers. Back in the day every neighborhood had a paperboy. I was 12 and I was a horrible paperboy. I would stop half through the route to play pickup sports.

TG: What is the first thing you do every day when you get to work?

RJ: Many days I am involved with off-campus meetings and initiatives. More and more my role involves statewide, regional and national collaboration. FAVOR Greenville has grown five fold over the past three years and is poised to double in scope again this year. On those days I get right to the agenda. Lots of phone calls and problems to solve

TG: What is your favorite thing about what you do?

RJ: I love working with individuals and families in need and despite my role as CEO I make sure I carry a “caseload.” I will always carry a caseload. Another thing that is awesome about FAVOR Greenville

is the opportunity we have to invent new solutions to the addiction epidemic.

TG: What is the hardest part about your job?

RJ: Talking to parents who have lost a child to addiction. It’s not an exaggeration to say I get at least one phone call a week regarding this issue. I feel useless and I frequently don’t know how to respond. I just listen. I also tell the parents that “I am sorry we (our industry) have let you down assertive outreach to people. It’s very, very hard to hear these stories over and over. And it’s out of control. There were 73,000 overdose deaths in 2017.

TG: What did you believe when you started in your career that you don’t believe now?

RJ: When I first started in this field I believed there was “one best way to do recovery.” The facts are there are about 30 million people in America who identify as having resolved a substance misuse issue and they cite many different pathways for resolution.

TG: What is the best advice you ever got?

RJ: The best advice I ever got was follow your passion. It sounds cliché but it’s true. If I did not love what I do I would most certainly have quit a long time ago. unproven concept. I could have sat back and cruised in my previous job. However, I would have wasted away.

TG: What is absolutely true about people who struggle with addiction?

RJ: We are good people and we cross all socio-economic lines. We recover and we are among the most productive and dynamic people you will encounter

TG: What is not true?

RJ: The stereotype is not true. Some people reached the stereotypical bottom but many of us are functioning in all aspects of society. Addiction is a disorder not a moral issue or bad behavior.

TG: What is at the top of your bucket list?

RJ: Quite frankly I am obsessed with fundamentally changing the way addiction treatment and recovery services are delivered so I don’t know that I have a typical bucket list. The top of my bucket list would be seeing the FAVOR Greenville model in every city in America.