



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, DC 20503**

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White House Drug Policy Office Honors Harriet Rossetto of California

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Today during a ceremony at the White House, National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli honored Harriet Rossetto as an “Advocate for Action.” Every year, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy recognizes leaders who are making a difference in their communities through advocacy or direct services. Their work supports the Administration’s efforts to reduce drug use and its consequences through a public health and public safety approach.

Thirty years ago, Ms. Rossetto responded to a small classified ad in the Los Angeles Times: “... person of Jewish background and culture to work with Jewish criminal offenders ... MSW required.” As a self-titled “Jewish Jail Lady,” Ms. Rossetto was tasked with helping offenders with substance use disorders re-enter the community, but she quickly became frustrated by the lack of resources and the revolving door of recidivism.

With a one-time grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Ms. Rossetto bought an old house and called it Beit T’Shuvah – the house of Return and Redemption. Since then, it has grown from the original half-way house model to a nationally recognized faith-based recovery community serving people with substance use disorders and their families. Today, Beit T’Shuvah houses 140 residents and 100 employees (80 percent of whom are former residents) and continues to provide treatment to people who have limited or no financial resources.

“I am pleased to honor the work Harriet Rossetto is doing to make our communities healthier and safer,” said Director Botticelli. “By promoting evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery efforts, Advocates for Action are helping to reduce drug use and its consequences across the country.”

“For the past 30 years, we have been serving people with substance use disorders in our faith-based community by integrating spirituality with traditional therapy and the 12 steps,” said Ms. Rossetto. “Through work therapy, creative expression and social enterprise, they recover their passion and discover their purpose. I am so proud that 80 percent of our permanent staff and management are former residents--now part of the solution by helping us help others who still suffer.”

The Obama Administration’s budget for fiscal year 2016 contains more than \$12 billion for reducing drug use in the United States through prevention and treatment programs – an increase



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of more than \$768 million over the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. Combined with supply reduction funding, a total of nearly \$27.6 billion dollars was requested for Federal drug control programs for 2016. This budget demonstrates the Administration's ongoing commitment to a science-based drug policy with a balanced approach to public health and public safety.

For photos and videos of the 2015 Advocates for Action, please visit:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/national-drug-control-strategy/advocates-for-action-2015>

For more information on ONDCP's work to reduce drug use and its consequences, visit:

<http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/ONDCP>