



## PRESS RELEASE

### ELLEN MOREHOUSE TO RECEIVE SOBER ST. PATRICK'S DAY® EMERALD SPIRIT AWARD AT 10TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

New Members Join Board of Directors

**New York City – February 5, 2021** – In anticipation of and preparation for its milestone 10th anniversary celebration on March 17, 2021, Sober St. Patrick's Day® Foundation, Inc., (SSPD) Board of Directors is proud to announce **Ellen Morehouse**, Executive Director of Student Assistance Services (SAS) Corp. as its 2021 **SSPD Emerald Spirit Award Honoree**. SAS is a non-profit mental health, substance abuse, bullying, and problem gambling prevention agency based in Tarrytown, NY.

SSPD Board members **Sis Gallagher Wenger**, **Patricia O'Gorman, PhD**, and **John Coppola** are all former recipients of the SSPD Emerald Spirit Award, presented annually to honor extraordinary dedication and devotion to improving the lives of family members of alcoholics and addicts.

*"I am so honored to receive the Emerald Spirit Award from the Sober St. Patrick's Day Foundation and join the impressive list of past honorees recognized for their commitment to improving the lives of family members of people with an alcohol or substance use disorder. Most people don't think of the impact on children witnessing St. Patrick's Day, New Year's Eve, and Superbowl binge drinking, or excessive marijuana use by adult family members. The Sober St. Patrick's Day Foundation and my award remind everyone that children in these families are a prevention priority and can benefit from education and support."* — **Ellen Morehouse, Executive, Director of Student Assistance Services**

*"The prevention field has been enhanced by the steadfast effort of Ellen Morehouse over decades. Ellen has been a warrior on behalf of prevention efforts throughout the US, refusing to back down when faced with a lack of vision by her peers. She embodies the Spirit of St. Patrick as a crusader for what is needed and for what is right for families faced with the disease of addiction. It is our great pleasure to present her The Emerald Spirit Award."* — **Patricia O'Gorman, PhD, SSPD Executive Board Member and Secretary**

CELEBRATING

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ST. PATRICK

HEALTHY & SAFE CELEBRATIONS

## **New Members Join Board of Directors**

“We are thrilled to welcome **Emily Whalen, Esq.**, of Brown & Weinraub in Albany, NY, **Dr. Elizabeth Stack, PhD**, Executive Director, Irish American Heritage Museum, also in Albany, and **Jim Frawley**; Executive Coach and founder of Bellwether, Westchester County, NY,” said **William Spencer Reilly, Founder and Chairman** (SSPDF).

“Emily, Elizabeth, and Jim join us at a pivotal point in our history — and during a global pandemic — as we prepare to honor our decade of changing the perception and experience of St. Patrick’s Day with family-friendly events,” added Mr. Reilly. “The team welcomes their respective style of grand Irish hospitality, and they are already recruiting their networks to join the celebration and support our mission.” Registration is now open at [www.soberstpatricksdays.org](http://www.soberstpatricksdays.org) for the global virtual celebration that will start at 4 p.m. in New York and 8 p.m. in Ireland featuring world class entertainment.

**Executive Director Tami Ellen McLaughlin**, who joined SSPD last July, says she is proud to be part of a foundation “that is guided by a strategic plan that prioritizes board development and leadership that sparks and maintains excitement and drives engagement. “With Emily, Elizabeth, and Jim on board, SSPD is stronger and will be even more impactful as we expand locally and globally. I know that our next 10 years will be extraordinary.”

## **About Sober St. Patrick’s Day® Movement**

Sober St. Patrick’s Day® was created by award-winning theater and television producer, William Spencer Reilly, who almost lost a member of his family to addiction in 2004. He first proposed the idea to leaders in the recovery and Irish American communities, a pitch that led, a year later, to the 2012 inaugural party.

The first eight signature event SSPD parties were held on parade day in New York City. Then in 2020, when Covid-19 arrived in New York City in early March, city and state officials cancelled the parade for the first time in more than 250 years. Nearly one year later, in 2021, Covid-19 concerns persist and have led parade officials to again cancel the parade and in person events.

The SSPD Board feels this is a blessing in disguise as it pivots to produce a virtual global event featuring SSPD world-class talent regulars: John Whelan, Brian Conway, Donie Carroll, and Donny Golden Dancers. The full entertainment lineup will be announced in mid-February.

Please visit [www.soberstpatricksdays.org](http://www.soberstpatricksdays.org) for more information. Press Inquiries: Bridget O'Brien PR, [bridget@bridgetobrienprandevents.com](mailto:bridget@bridgetobrienprandevents.com), (917) 780-5589.

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