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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIRCI receives \$125,000 from United Way of the Midlands and Women in Philanthropy to support Housing With Help Program

Columbia, S.C. (July 1, 2011) – Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc. (MIRCI) has announced that it will receive \$125,000 from United Way of the Midlands to support the Housing with Help Program for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The grant will be used to provide the necessary clinical and supportive services to assist individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness throughout the coming year. Individuals will receive treatment from a team to include psychiatrists, nurses, counselors, an addictions specialist, a homeless outreach worker, and an entitlement specialist. This team will assist individuals in securing and maintaining stable housing while working to manage their mental illness.

Previous funding from United Way of the Midlands includes a Community Impact grant received in 2010. Immediately upon receipt of the grant funding, the entitlement specialist at MIRCI's Homeless Recovery Center began assisting individuals with mental illness to gain benefits. The entitlement specialist far exceeded the expected outcomes by assisting 61 individuals in applying for benefits in the first six months. Even more impressive is the fact that 59 of these individuals were awarded benefits, resulting in an achievement rate of 97%.

"MIRCI is one of twenty-six new grants released for 2011-2012 to support programs that strive to make lasting improvements in the areas of health education and financial stability," said Mac Bennett, President & CEO, United Way of the Midlands. "Thanks to the tremendous generosity of business leaders, individuals and volunteers throughout the year, we are able to provide these funds for valuable programs like Housing with Help which in the long run truly benefit everyone in the six counties we serve." "Women in Philanthropy are honored to join with this outstanding organization to bring needed services to some of our community's most vulnerable citizens, women and children," said Stephanie Parrish, Women in Philanthropy Program Coordinator.

For more information on this or other United Way of the Midlands grants or grantees, contact Anita Floyd, Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of the Midlands, at 803.733.5407 or afloyd@uway.org.

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About United Way of the Midlands

United Way of the Midlands is the most organized, efficient and accountable system for investing in the community. With more than 80 certified partner agencies, United Way works to identify and respond to the critical human service needs of Calhoun, Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg and Richland counties. Funds are raised through workplace campaigns, grant writing and individual donations. For more information, please visit www.uway.org.

We unite people and resources to improve the quality of life in the Midlands.