

**For Immediate Release**  
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**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Julie Ann Avin, Executive Director  
Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc.  
(803)786.1844 or javin@mirci.org

**Grant to Support Continuation of Program Serving Homeless and Mentally Ill**

Columbia, S.C. – The Nord Family Foundation has recently awarded a \$30,000 grant to Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc. (MIRCI) to support a program that serves mentally ill, homeless individuals.

The grant will help sustain operations at MIRCI’s Homeless Recovery Center (HRC) in Columbia. HRC provides integrated Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services to chronically homeless individuals who are mentally ill or diagnosed with both a mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder. Originally funded largely by a five year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that expired in 2010, this grant from the Nord Family Foundation provides much-needed support for the continuation of services.

HRC has served over 800 homeless individuals since opening in 2005. The facility, open daily during daytime hours when most shelters are closed, provides laundry facilities, showers, lunch and a clinic where individuals receive treatment for mental illness and co-occurring substance use. HRC gets folks off the streets, engaged in treatment and into permanent supportive housing.

MIRCI also assists clients as they enroll in benefits to which they are entitled through programs like Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.

“We are thrilled about the opportunity to partner with the Nord Family Foundation. This support helps us to provide ongoing treatment and improve the quality of life for the individuals served at HRC,” said MIRCI Executive Director Julie Ann Avin.

*MIRCI – the Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc. ([www.mirci.org](http://www.mirci.org)) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide community based services to individuals recovering from mental illness and/or severe emotional problems in the Midlands of South Carolina. This is accomplished through a variety of counseling, housing and financial management initiatives including HomeBase and Supportive Housing programs, Representative Payee program, and the Homeless Recovery Center.*

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