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Grant Supports Behavioral Health Clinics and Assertive Community Treatment Teams of MIRCI

Columbia, SC – Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company has awarded the Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc. (MIRCI) a \$10,000 grant to support its Behavioral Health Clinics and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams. These behavioral healthcare services will be provided to individuals who are or have been homeless, and have a mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorder. MIRCI utilizes the ACT treatment modality to engage and retain individuals in treatment. ACT is a national Best Practice recognized by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Services are individualized and intensive, including 24/7 availability. ACT is perhaps best described as a “hospital without walls”.

Funds from the Colonial Life grant will assist MIRCI in providing behavioral healthcare to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured. Services to be provided will include a full array of case management, group and individual therapy, physician services, nursing services, outreach services and alcohol/drug disorder counseling.

“We are thrilled to have the support for our behavioral healthcare clinics from a corporate leader like Colonial Life. This partnership allows MIRCI to provide the intensive treatment and supportive services to keep individuals stable in recovery and transitioned from homelessness to permanent housing.” said MIRCI Executive Director Julie Ann Avin.

Data used to evaluate the effectiveness of MIRCI’s Behavioral Healthcare Clinics for 2014 showed inpatient hospitalizations dropped by 38% from the year preceding entry in MIRCI services. When mental illness/substance abuse was the reason for hospitalization, the number of hospitalizations dropped by 67% pre- to post-entry into MIRCI. Emergency department visits where mental illness was the reason for the visit dropped by 54% and inpatient hospitalizations in psychiatric specialty hospital dropped by 89% in the year following enrollment.

“Supporting programs that improve health is a key part of Colonial Life’s social responsibility commitment,” said Ronda Tranter, vice president in the company’s Law department and chair of MIRCI’s board of directors. “It’s important to partner with organizations such as MIRCI that are making a real difference in the lives of many in our community.”

MIRCI – the Mental Illness Recovery Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist individuals with mental illness to recover in the areas of their lives impacted by their illness through housing, behavioral healthcare, and assistance with obtaining and managing their disability income.

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