

Congratulations to Beth Corley, Mirci's Volunteer of the Year!



For the past decade, Mirci has been able to show grantors, donors and political leaders credible data on how Mirci reduces hospitalizations related to mental illness among clients and, in the process, saves the local health system \$5-7 million. Mirci volunteer and mathematician Beth Corley analyzes and writes that report each year using tracking data collected by the S.C. Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA). In recognition of this incredibly valuable service, Mirci has awarded Beth its 2022 Donald-Harding Volunteer of the Year Service Award.

The year-to-year study compares hospital inpatient and emergency room data one year pre- and post-enrollment in Mirci services and shows that the reduced utilization of these high cost services is sustained over time.

"Mirci does not have the in-house capacity to produce this study, so it would be impossible - or at least very expensive - without Beth's continued help," said Mirci Chief Operating Officer Anita Floyd, who nominated Beth for the honor. "She exemplifies the award criteria - reliability, longevity and passion for Mirci's mission."

Originally from Pennsylvania, Beth went to work for the State Budget and Control Board (the predecessor of the RFA) shortly after she moved to South Carolina in 1973. There, she was part of a team that in 1986 began building an ambitious integrated data warehouse.

"So often we look at statistics and our eyes glaze over," Beth said. "In my job, I discovered a passion for finding and sharing the real world stories data is trying to tell us."

South Carolina remains the only state in the U.S. with this kind of integrated system. From food stamp, education, hospital, Census, and criminal justice data, the system allows researchers to merge data to answer questions like, 'Did this project make a difference?'

Beth said she first learned about Mirci through the RFA.

"In the case of Mirci, we look for what changed in clients' lives after they were accepted into the program," she said. "In looking at the before and after, we see a tremendous difference - improvements in health outcomes, millions of dollars saved, and a big return in improved quality of life. It is rewarding and affirming to see and tell this story."

Stepmother to two grown children and grandmother to one, Beth retired in 2009 and now spends her time promoting social justice issues through her church and serving on her homeowner's association board. But she said her volunteer work with Mirci continues to be especially meaningful, in part because of the impact mental illness has had on her own family, with a beloved nephew ending his own life.

"It was a devastating illness that took a huge toll on our entire family," she said. "Mental illness is not something that happens to other people, it happens to all of us."

Anita Floyd said Beth's volunteer work for Mirci has been unusually influential.

"Having been a funder, grant writer and evaluator for Mirci before joining the team, I cannot exaggerate the impact these studies have had on Mirci's visibility and credibility among health care professionals, grantors, advocates and political leadership," she said.

Shown: Mathematician Beth Corley receives her award from Mirci CEO Julie Ann Avin.

Celebrating the Season at Merry Mirci Holiday!



About 130 people joined us at Senate's End on December 1st for *Merry Mirci Holiday*, our annual holiday celebration and wine tasting drop-in.

Thanks so much to our wonderful sponsors, guests, volunteers, silent auction donors, wine experts and musicians.





Thanks so much to Lexington Medical Center Foundation!

Thanks so much to the Lexington Medical Center (LMC) Board of Directors and the LMC Foundation Board of Directors for awarding Mirci a generous \$25,000 Community Outreach Grant for 2023. Community organizations that provide healthcare or medical services are eligible to apply for the annual grant.

MIRCI will use the funds to provide evidence-based behavioral healthcare that improves health outcomes for adults and youth experiencing or at risk of mental illness and/or homelessness.



Shown, l-r, are Lara Lott Moore, vice president of LMC Community Medical Centers; Amy Lanier, executive director of the LMC Foundation; Julie Ann Avin, chief executive officer of Mirci; Julie Plane, chief clinical officer of Mirci; and Thomas Tafel, manager of LMC's Community Outreach.

Why Mirci?

Mirci donor Jenny Scott, a retired social worker, shares why she has supported Mirci for years:



West Columbia resident Jenny Scott devoted her entire career to helping others. Now retired, the mom of four and grandmother of eight spent decades working as a licensed social worker in the public schools, as a special needs advocate for the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and as an advocate for and teacher of visually impaired children. Raised by two social workers and a Christian grandmother who 'gave, gave, gave,' she said she was shaped by strong family values that placed great emphasis on helping people in need.

Today, Jenny is a Mirci donor, one of the essential people who make the work of Mirci possible. Jenny first learned about Mirci eight years ago, when she read how its outreach workers were able to help a man she had seen wandering the streets of West Columbia and Shandon for years. She eventually decided to take a Mirci tour to see firsthand what the work was all about.

"We visited the outreach center and some of the apartments Mirci operates," Jenny said. "We were able to talk to clients. Hearing how Mirci had changed the course of their lives and made them safe solidified my understanding of Mirci's effectiveness. I realized that Mirci is what I want done for mankind."

Jenny said her husband, an attorney, was also impressed when she shared Mirci data that illustrated how dramatically Mirci reduces the need for hospitalizations among clients and, in the process, saves the healthcare system millions of dollars.

She also finds the personal client stories published in Mirci newsletters deeply moving.

"My soft spot is the youth," she said. "I think about how lost these kids - teenagers - have to be to need Mirci's services at that vulnerable age."

Jenny said that charitable giving is one way she continues to express her cherished personal values.

"Back when I still had my parents, we all decided to quit giving gifts we really didn't need and to donate to charity in honor of each other instead," she said. "I would ask my parents to tell me their favorite non-profit and I would make a donation in their name. It's a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas."

Jenny recently donated a portion of the required minimum distribution from her retirement account to Mirci. She said it was the largest single donation she has ever made to a charity.

Please Consider an End-of-Year Gift to Mirci

Please consider making an end-of-year donation to Mirci. You may save on your income taxes, and your gift will help Midlands residents who are navigating the emotional uncertainty of mental illness to find a way forward in 2023.

You can make your gift by mailing a check to Mirci, 1408 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, or electronically by clicking the link below. Thank you for whatever you are able to do!

Donate to Mirci Now - Thank You!

Happy Holidays
from your
friends at Mirci



For questions about volunteering or hosting a supply drive or fundraiser, please email:
mail@mirci.org



[Donate one of our most needed items.](#)



Become a monthly supporter at any amount.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}