



## A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

### Happy fall y'all!

Here in the south, we've already had a fake fall and as I write this column, we're in the midst of our second summer with daytime temperatures in the 80s. But weather aside, we're entering the season of Thanksgiving and preparing for the end of year holidays. And here at Mirci we have so many reasons to give thanks in 2024.

After several years of assessments, property searches and focus groups with staff, Mirci consolidated staff from four previous locations into one safe, well designed and comfortable space in late May. From private, individual and group counseling spaces to a spacious nursing station, to conference and training rooms, and with secure entrances and a full-time security officer, we're all thankful for our new work home. Our clients can now come to one location for an appointment with their psychiatrist, to med pack with their nurse, to renew their lease with the supportive housing staff and even to apply for insurance and benefits coverage.

There are many other reasons for our thanks throughout 2024. We added a QA Director and quarterly trainings to enhance our clinical department. We broke ground in late September on a 10 bedroom female youth home, with support from funders, elected officials and neighborhood leaders.

Mirci was the featured non-profit for the Taste of the South gala in DC, and we're anxiously

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Page 2: Staff Awards*

*Page 3: End of Year Giving*

awaiting details on the funds raised at the gala to enhance our work to create pathways to emotional and social well-being.

And perhaps the most meaningful reason for giving thanks is the honor and opportunity to help so many people living with mental illness to find a way forward when life is at an impasse. We're thankful for the young man living in our youth home who passed his test for a commercial driver's license, and will now have a sustaining income. We're thankful to provide support to the working young mother with three children who entered our supportive housing and mental health services upon graduation from Toby's Place. We're thankful to share in the journey to recovery with the hundreds of people who trust Mirci to help them build healthy, independent lives.

Check out the articles in this newsletter to discover ways you can help support people in the midlands who need Mirci's services to navigate everyday life.

*Julie Ann Avin*  
President & CEO

# Celebrating Our Champions



## Teamwork makes the dreamwork.

At our recent staff retreat at Saluda Shoals Park, we spent a refreshing day playing games, connecting, and reflecting on our mission together. It was a great chance to celebrate our team's hard work and dedication in a relaxed, natural setting.

The highlight of the day was recognizing some of our amazing team members for their exceptional contributions:

**Bobby Monts Employee of the Year:**  
Caroline Kearns

**5 Years of Dedicated Service:**  
Shamekia Richardson  
Briana Harrison  
LaTonya Benjamin

**Outstanding Service Awards:**  
Operations: Micah Hansen  
Outpatient: Anita Jones  
Youth Services: Felecia Heggie  
Admin Support: Christina Boris  
ACT Team 1: Isabella Gormanson  
ACT Team 2: Janet Petrino

*Thank you to each of these incredible team members for your commitment to Mirci's mission!*

# A Season of Impact

***It seems impossible that we are only a few weeks away from the end of 2024.***

Mirci has had another busy year, with our most meaningful accomplishments reflected in the “wins” achieved by our clients. Many received benefits for the first time, found a place to call home, or accessed behavioral health services from our dedicated team, leading to profound improvements in their lives.

This season is an ideal time for you to come alongside us and show your support while benefiting from the potential advantages of donating to Mirci, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Beyond cash donations, there are many impactful ways to contribute, such as donating stocks and bonds, making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from a retirement account, or establishing a donor-advised fund (DAF).

As we enter the holiday season—a time of reflection and generosity—I personally invite you to partner with Mirci in serving our community. Your support will strengthen our work, offering a caring hand to those in need, and bring fulfillment through your compassion for others.

**Happy Holidays!**

Susan O'Neal  
Chief Financial Officer

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## Help Mirci finish the year strong!

Whether you donate to Mirci online on GivingTuesday (December 3) or at any point before the end of the calendar year, your donation will help Midlands residents who are navigating the emotional uncertainty of mental illness to find a way forward in 2025.

Mail your gift to Mirci at 2750 Laurel St. (Suite 301) Columbia, SC 29204 - Or, you can use the link below or scan the QR code to donate.

[mirci.org/give](https://mirci.org/give)





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UPHOLDING  
MENTAL HEALTH

## Upcoming Events

### Merry Mirci Holiday Hop

Join us on December 12th at the Columbia Museum of Art for a festive evening of holiday cheer, music, and delicious bites from local favorites like Il Giorgione, Market on Main, and more. Casual attire with a festive twist encouraged—bring your dancing shoes!

All proceeds benefit Mirci's mission to support mental health recovery in Columbia.

For sponsorships and more information, email [mail@mirci.org](mailto:mail@mirci.org).

Scan the code below for tickets!

