



Buy Your Tickets Now for Merry Mirci Holiday!

Join us for *Merry Mirci Holiday!* Our relaxed and casual wine tasting/food pairing event will be held from **6-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1st**, at [The Hall at Senate's End](#). The warm and friendly gathering features live jazz from some of the best musicians in the Midlands, delicious wine and food, expert advice on holiday wine pairings, a silent auction and more. A limited number of tickets are on sale now - and last year's event sold out fast! Tickets are \$100 per individual ticket or \$175/per couple. (If you are sponsoring the event, tickets are included in your sponsorship package.)

We can't wait to see you there!

[Click here to purchase your tickets to Merry Mirci Holiday!](#)

Would You Like to Sponsor Merry Mirci?

Help Mirci uphold mental health in the Midlands by sponsoring *Merry Mirci Holiday*. Sponsorships begin at \$500. Thank you!

[Please send me information on sponsoring Merry Mirci Holiday!](#)

Popular Chili Cookoff in Five Points to Donate 2022 Proceeds to Mirci

Delicious news! The organizers of this year's Chili Cookoff in Five Points will donate all proceeds to Mirci. To be held from **Noon-7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12th**, the event features live music, tasty local and seasonal brews, a children's carnival, and 25 varieties of the best chili you've ever tasted! Admission is free and about 1,500 people typically attend the festival each year. Attendees pay \$1 for each chili sample. Local cooking teams pay an entry fee to compete for bragging rights in numerous categories - Best Overall Chili, Best Vegetarian Chili, Best Texas Style Chili, etc. This is the festival's 33rd year, and it's sponsored and organized by Taneyhill's Group Therapy.



We'll be there, telling everyone about Mirci. We hope to see you there too!

Rebuilding a Life - One Day at a Time

A quiet man, John generally arrives at the Mirci Outreach Center early in the morning, just before breakfast. He's been a Mirci client for the past six months and says the Center has been a kind of oasis for him, a calm eye in a chaotic storm, a place to relax and recalibrate. It is a place where he can watch a little TV as he washes his clothes; a welcoming place where he can get access to a restroom and take a shower. These are humble services, but they affirm dignity. They let a man rebuild.

John knows about rebuilding. Day by day, he is steadily reconstructing his life, a life fractured by the pandemic. A native of Brooklyn, New York, he relocated to South Carolina back in 2006 to search for new opportunities. He settled down in a small S.C. town, where he lived and worked as a culinary technician for more than a decade. But the Covid shutdown led to the loss of John's restaurant job, and that, in turn, ultimately led to the loss of his home. At an impasse, John moved to Columbia hoping to find work.



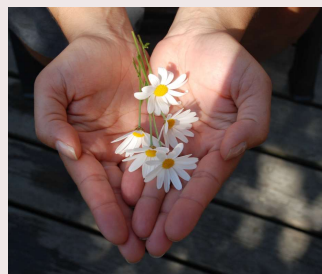
He ultimately secured a job on the food prep line at one of the city's most prestigious eateries. It's clear that John loves his work. He grows animated and talkative discussing the foods he loves to cook and eat - collards, BBQ, sweet potato pie and mac and cheese. He's looking forward to the day he can relax in his own place again and enjoy a simple home cooked meal while listening to Al Green, his favorite musician.

"I am rebuilding myself," John said. "I want security."

John firmly believes people can survive difficult storms in their lives by staying focused, staying positive and keeping faith. But he admits, it makes things a little easier when people set aside stigma and prejudice toward those experiencing mental illness and homelessness.

"We're not supposed to be judgmental," he said in his characteristically placid tone. "Everybody is supposed to be equal."

Thank You, The Cheerful Giver!



Thanks so much to *The Cheerful Giver*, an anonymous donor who recently made a very generous gift of \$10,000 to Mirci. We can't thank them by name, but just want to let them know we appreciate their continued generous support so much. Interestingly, the donor's pseudonym was taken from 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 in the Christian bible, which talks about the relationship between sowing and reaping and says, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Check Out Our New Look - Coming Soon!

Did you notice that this month's e-newsletter sports fresh, softer colors? It's all part of new branding, a new look for Mirci. We'll soon have a redesigned website, a new logo, calming colors, a new brochure, even new phrasing designed to reduce stigma.

Our goal is also to increase awareness of the important services we provide to about 1,250 people a year in the Midlands and help people understand that no one is exempt from factors that may lead to mental illness.

MIRCI

UPHOLDING MENTAL HEALTH

Our re-brand grew out of last winter's CreateAthon, a 24-hour marketing marathon that Riggs Partners, a highly respected, award-winning Midlands ad agency, holds each year for the few lucky non-profits chosen to participate. We're so grateful to the creative professionals at Riggs for their ideas and guidance!

Why Mirci?

Mirci Board Member Mary Winter Teaster, a senior brokerage associate with Colliers International Commercial Real Estate, shares why she has given her time, talents and resources to Mirci for more than 25 years:



"In the 25 years I've been involved with Mirci and the 60 years the organization has been in existence, Mirci has continued to be the champion for those folks navigating through the uncertainty of mental illness. My involvement with Mirci came about as a result of having a very close family member with bipolar disorder. We were blessed enough to have faith, family and the finances to be able to assist him in getting through that entire process. But I saw firsthand the frustrations, the challenges, and all the other things that go along with mental illness. And that made it very important to me to be out in the community and

involved with Mirci. Mirci helps so many individuals - and it's a growing population - people who *don't* have the faith component, the family component, the finance component. And when you're missing even one leg of a three-legged stool, you're going to fail.

Mirci is a remarkable organization that understands the compounding effect of all the different factors that go along with mental illness. You've got to have counseling, you've got to have psychiatric services. We've got to get our arms around these folks with peer support, and more importantly, *homes*. To be homeless is one of the most devastating things that can happen to someone, and certainly to someone struggling with mental illness.

Mirci has been so successful with outcomes and measurements. Throughout the Midlands community we're well known by city entities, county entities, other non-profits, the United Way. I'm so proud of the staff, the leadership here, and all the things I've been privileged to be a part of. We have multiple programs. For instance, we have a home for young men, 17-24, that ensures they're either getting their GED, going to college, or finding a job. That takes a village...and Mirci is that village.

To be a part of something that impacts lives and in many cases saves lives has just been so important to me. I believe God calls us all to do our part to give back. As Christ said, love your neighbor as thyself. And through Mirci, I have certainly found that calling."

We Need Winter Coats - Especially for Men



If you can donate a new or gently used winter coat or jacket, especially needed for our male clients, please drop your donation by our Outreach Center at 1516 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC, 29201.

Below is the link to our Amazon Smile Charity Wishlist should you want to order new jackets and coats.

Thank you for whatever you are able to do!

[Click here to visit our Amazon Smile Charity Wishlist Page](#)

Please Help Mirci Provide A Way Forward

You can help provide a way forward for someone in the Midlands who is navigating the emotional uncertainty of mental illness by signing up for MIRC's monthly giving program:

- \$10 a month provides 5 days of transportation for someone trying to make appointments, go grocery shopping or meet basic needs.
- \$25 a month provides medication for an individual with schizophrenia
- \$50 a month provides sheets, pillows and a comforter for a person exiting homelessness after months or years without shelter
- \$125 a month provides a housing starter kit that contains 20 essential kitchen, bath and laundry items.

Simply click the button below and select "recurring gift". Thank you for whatever you can do!

[Provide a way forward today!](#)



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



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