



Metro United Way

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Personal Counseling Services, Inc. receives a preliminary grant commitment of up to \$1.5 million to build new facility and expand mental health services in Clark County

Clarksville, Indiana – Personal Counseling Services (PCS), Inc. and Metro United Way are excited to announce that Personal Counseling Services has received a preliminary matching grant commitment of up to \$1.5 million from Indiana United Ways. With this commitment in place, PCS can accelerate fundraising and construct a new building on its campus located at 1211 Applegate Lane in Clarksville, Indiana. Once complete, the new 10,667 sq. ft. facility will provide mental health services to an estimated additional 250 individuals and families per week. PCS invites all members of the community to contribute to its New Expansion campaign and be part of making this facility a reality.

Funding for this project was made possible due to Metro United Way's membership in Indiana United Ways on behalf of the southern Indiana counties it serves. Indiana United Ways is the state membership association for 41 of the 43 United Ways serving Indiana counties.

"We recommended this project to the Indiana United Ways Statewide Capital Projects Committee because of the critical need for mental health services across our region. It is part of a wider, collaborative effort to reduce the number of children and adults experiencing mental health challenges in our community and to increase access to and continuity of care. The number of additional children and adults that will be served each week by this expansion is huge," said Metro United Way's Director of Strategic Initiatives, Pam Ottersbach. "Personal Counseling Services has been a long-time community partner of Metro United Way in southern Indiana. We're excited to see how this expansion will strengthen the well-being of our communities."

"This grant from Indiana United Ways, once approved and finalized, enables Personal Counseling Services to close a critical gap in funding so that the project can move ahead in a timely manner," added Ottersbach. "Connecting every child and adult in the region to quality healthcare is a core part of our

mission at Metro United Way and we're delighted to be part of the team that is investing in mental health. The new PCS facility sits at the heart of our community and offers a safe, welcoming space where all individuals and families can build healthy relationships, find hope and healing, and thrive."

"PCS is grateful for this generous grant commitment," said Doug Drake, President & Chief Executive Officer of Personal Counseling Services. "US News & World Report's Healthiest Communities dashboard indicates that 17% of adults in Clark County report frequent mental distress. The *Priorities for Progress: Assets and Aspirations in Southern Indiana 2021* report from the Community Foundation for Southern Indiana highlights five priority issues of social concern among residents of Clark and Floyd Counties, all of which have some connection to mental health, including substance abuse for adults (75%) and youth (54%), plus mental illness overall (55%). Concerns within mental health include both access to care and availability of providers. Other concerns are strongly tied to adverse child and adult experiences, including physical and sexual abuse, homelessness, poverty, hunger, domestic violence, and suicide. Expanding access, decreasing wait times for care, and engaging additional mental health care providers in our area is critical to ensuring members of our community have timely and personalized support."

Drake added, "PCS currently receives 331 referrals a month from 17 counties in southern Indiana, but at the moment, we can only accommodate about 33 of those individuals and families. This expansion will provide private spaces for a variety of new healthcare providers – including ten clinicians, a psychiatric nurse, and five interns connected to local universities – to meet with children, adults, and families in need of mental health supports. The building will also have a room for intensive outpatient group therapy. When fully staffed, the new building will increase the capacity of PCS to serve 250 additional families per week. The new building will enable a safe, trusting community where healthy relationships can bloom and every child and adult knows they have somewhere to turn for support."

Because this is a preliminary matching grant commitment, Personal Counseling Services has launched a local campaign to raise an additional \$1.5 million by the end of 2025. "We are grateful to our lead donor, the Hazel & Walter T. Bales Foundation, for getting our matching campaign jumpstarted with a gift of \$350,000. Their gift will be used to complete all preliminary site work," said Drake.

Lori Lewis, executive director of the Hazel & Walter T. Bales Foundation shared, "Our family and foundation has always supported Personal Counseling Services' important work, and we're thrilled our financial support will be used to provide hope, healing, comfort, and support to our community's struggling families. I invite others to join me in investing in this project."

"We are eager to engage other members of the community in the essential work of building strong, resilient youth and families," said Drake. "Your support will provide a different kind of return on investment; you will be saving lives as well as giving hope and healing to all persons."

Community members can make a gift toward the New Expansion campaign by going online to pcs-counseling.org and clicking Support PCS > Donate or by sending a check to Personal Counseling Services, located at 1205 Applegate Lane, Clarksville, IN 47129 with a memo indicating "New Expansion." Please contact Doug Drake at (502) 649-6911 or ddrake@pcs-counseling.org for other giving options.

About Personal Counseling Services, Inc.

Founded in 1959 as an outpatient, faith-based mental health, 501 (c) 3 non-profit.

Serving seventeen Indiana counties and four Kentucky Counties; providing psychotherapy, addictions counseling, Intensive Outpatient programs, music therapy, medication management and Employee Assistance Programs. For more information about Personal Counseling Services, visit www.pcs-counseling.org or call 812.206.4273.

About Metro United Way

For more than 100 years, Metro United Way has been improving lives and our community, which includes Jefferson, Bullitt, Oldham, and Shelby counties in Kentucky and Clark, Floyd, and Harrison counties in Indiana. We are uniquely positioned to harness the power of donors, volunteers, thought leaders, experts, other nonprofits, and government at all levels to ensure positive, sustainable change for every person in our seven-county region. Now more than ever, we are focused on three priorities: **thriving kids**, **strong households**, and an **equitable community**. For more information about Metro United Way, visit www.metrounitedway.org or call 502.583.2821.

About Indiana United Ways

Indiana United Ways (IUW) is the state membership association for 41 of the 43 United Ways serving Indiana counties. It provides a wide range of advocacy, training, technical assistance, networking, and grant opportunities to ensure that local United Ways meet their community's most pressing needs. Between 2024 and 2028, the Statewide Capital Projects Initiative at IUW will award \$80 million in matching grants to select nonprofit organizations. Only nonprofits that directly provide essential health and human services may be eligible to apply. All applications must be submitted in collaboration with the local IUW member United Way serving the county in which a project is located. To learn more about the Statewide Capital Projects Initiative, go to iuw.org/capitalprojects.