



## Community Friendship, Inc. Receives Fulton County Human Services Grant Award for S.T.R.I.V.E.

*Individuals are ready for work in Fulton County!*

**Atlanta, Georgia - S.T.R.I.V.E.** (Support and Training Result In Valuable Employees) was created for people with mental illnesses who need intensive or ongoing job support, who have traditionally been excluded from competitive work settings, or whose work has been interrupted or intermittent because of their illnesses.

**The Fulton County Commission recently approved \$10,000 in funding for S.T.R.I.V.E. under its Human Services initiative to help improve the quality of life for Fulton County residents.** The 2015 grant award will help support operating expenses associated with program implementation to include program supplies and equipment, pre-employment workshops, transportation assistance and more.

Community Friendship, Inc's S.T.R.I.V.E. Program begins with work exploration training structured around a daily schedule and helps participants become accustomed to a typical work routine. Employment specialists teach the development of workplace competencies such as: problem-solving; interpersonal and teamwork skills as well as financial literacy. S.T.R.I.V.E. helps to lead participants to permanent employment and self-sufficiency.

***"S.T.R.I.V.E. provides people with mental illnesses with a job and the dignity that arises from gainful employment. Both the employer and the individual benefit since the employer gets a good worker and the individual earns a competitive wage. Family, coworkers, businesses and the general public are able to see the individual with mental illnesses in a fully competent and contributing role in the workplace and community" - stated Marvin Arrington Jr. Fulton County Commissioner - District 5.***

S.T.R.I.V.E. assists adults with employment research, composing resumes and cover letters. It provides networking skills as well as preparation for interviews and interviewing practice.

*S.T.R.I.V.E. is intended to help individuals achieve 3 goals: (1) job readiness (reality of work,*

integration of mental illness and employment, on-the-job behavior); (2) career decision making (self-assessment, occupational information, career choice); and (3) getting and keeping employment (job search skills, job search support, transitional employment, post employment support).

***"The S.T.R.I.V.E. workforce development program can be the difference between moving up the ladder and a downward spiral" stated Jean Toole, President CEO - Community Friendship, Inc.***

*S.T.R.I.V.E. participants demonstrate the following outcomes:*

- *Increase in maintaining employment*
- *Increase in employment earnings*

If you would like to make a donation in support of S.T.R.I. V.E. or have questions, please contact [tterry@communityfriendship.org](mailto:tterry@communityfriendship.org).

### ***About Community Friendship, Inc.***

**Community Friendship, Inc. (CFI)** is a comprehensive provider of recovery-based services serving adults in metropolitan Atlanta. **Our mission** is to provide a supportive community for people whose mental illnesses prevent them from participating in community life, employment and relationships.

####