



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**March 3, 2023**

### **Minority Recovery Collective Inc. receives \$200,000 grant from the Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Initiative**

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INDIANAPOLIS, Mar. 3, 2023 –

**On Thursday, March 2, 2023,** [Minority Recovery Collective, Inc.](#) also known as MRCI (“mercy”), was recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from the [Indianapolis African American Quality of Life Initiative](#), through a partnership between the [National Urban League](#) (NUL), the [Indianapolis Urban League](#) (IUL) and the [African American Coalition of Indianapolis](#) (AACI). With this funding, MRCI will expand The Antidotes program throughout the state of Indiana over the next two years.

This announcement comes on the heels of MRCI:

- Celebrating four (4) years of incorporation and three (3) years in business,
- Kicking off their annual [30 for 30 March Madness fundraiser](#), and
- Renewing participation in the statewide Regional Recovery Hub project through the Indiana Recovery Network (IRN) for the third year.

As a young organization, this remarkable achievement is yet another quality collaboration and positive step to further the mission and vision of MRCI. The Antidotes program Co-Founder, Taria Holifield, a junior at Cathedral High School expressed her excitement stating, “I am extremely grateful that The Antidotes have been provided the

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funding to make one of my dreams come true. This is for us and by us. Thank you for believing in my dream.”

“We’ve been creating The Antidotes program for the last three years,” Founder and President of MRCI, Natasha Cheatham, said in reaction to the news. “The work has been well worth it. The Antidotes program is a game changer for young people in recovery, peer mentorship among Millennials and Gen Z, and connecting families to resources that will help them thrive as individuals and as a unit.”

The Executive Director of MRCI is inviting community members and stakeholders to celebrate the grant award for a new youth-led mental health and wellness program, The Antidotes. The hope of all board members and staff of MRCI is that The Antidotes program will receive ample support from the community throughout Greater Indianapolis, and beyond, as they host the following events to celebrate this funding, share more about the organization, and officially launch The Antidotes program.

Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 1pm | [General Assembly Meeting](#)

Learn more about MRCI’s current initiatives and how to become involved as a member, sponsor, or volunteer.

Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 1pm | [Meet & Greet + Celebration](#)

Celebrate grant award from the IAAQLI and learn about The Antidotes program.

For more information about The Antidotes program visit [www.wearemrci.org/antidotes](http://www.wearemrci.org/antidotes).

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## **About The Antidotes**

*The Antidotes are a collective of youth and young adults (ages 12-29) working to prevent substance use, promote mental health, and encourage positive coping skills through Peer Mentoring. Developed as a community-based coalition, The Antidotes empowers participants to make healthy choices and positively contribute to their community. Taking an eclectic approach to youth development & engagement, The Antidotes gives space for young people to create & advocate for a community that prioritizes their current wellbeing & future goals while promoting health & wellness through edutainment. Throughout this experience, both adult and youth mentors along with participants (mentees + families), will connect to new and existing resources that cover harm reduction, intervention, community safety, prevention, recovery, and wellness through interactive community events and service-learning.*

## **About Minority Recovery Collective Inc. (MRCI)**

*An unprecedented organization, Minority Recovery Collective Inc. (MRCI, “mercy”) is Indiana's leader in providing culturally curated peer-based recovery support services. Headquartered in Indianapolis, MRCI is a healing community of individuals and businesses working together to provide sponsored recovery support programs and services to Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color. As a 501c3 non-profit, MRCI is deeply committed to assisting those in recovery from addiction, mental health challenges, trauma, and other circumstances that negatively affect one's quality of life. For more information, please visit [www.wearemrci.org](http://www.wearemrci.org) or call 317.643.0368.*

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