



Proclamation

*On a motion from Councilor Butch Kirven
Members of Greenville County Council wish to recognize*

Gateway House

Whereas, Gateway is a non-residential program that helps adults, ages 18 and older who are living with mental illness, learn to build confidence through social interaction and a structured day; and

Whereas, 1 in 5 adults in the United States have experienced a mental illness; and 1 in 20 have experienced a serious mental illness, which is the number one cause of disability worldwide - more so than cancer, diabetes or heart disease; and

Whereas, Gateway provides a place of acceptance, belonging, and inclusivity, which is the best antidote to the isolation often associated with mental illness; and

Whereas, Gateway helps people to increase social and vocational skills, allowing its members to build relationships, obtain education, employment and housing through the Clubhouse Model. Since opening in 1984, Gateway has provided a place of hope and community for more than 1,500 adults in the Upstate; and

Whereas, Over 11% of Gateway members are pursuing educational goals - from earning their GED to completing a full degree at local educational institutions; 45% of Gateway members are employed – more than double the rate for people in the public mental health system; and

Whereas, One year of holistic recovery services are delivered to Gateway members for the same cost as a two-week psychiatric hospital stay. Contributing to that success is knowing it is okay to talk about mental wellness, and understanding that talking about it can, and does, help.

Now, Therefore, Greenville County Council recognizes the dedicated efforts of Gateway in providing a light for adults living with mental illness; offering a place of belonging, dignity and hope, and does hereby proclaim May 16 as

Mental Health Awareness Day in Greenville County

Signed this 16th day of May, 2023

Dan Tripp, Chairman
Greenville County Council

