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PEER Services and TASC to Partner with NorthShore University HealthSystem on Second Chances Program

More than $1 million from NorthShore’s Community Investment Fund will expand substance use treatment and ongoing recovery support services for Northern Cook County residents involved with the criminal justice system.

Evanston – January 31, 2023 – PEER Services (Prevention, Education, Evaluation, Recovery) announces their receipt with partner organization TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) of more than $1 million from NorthShore’s 2023 Community Investment Fund (CIF) to create the Second Chances Program, a new, supportive pathway to substance use disorder treatment for residents of Chicago’s northern neighborhoods and northern suburbs who are involved with the criminal justice system.

PEER Services (Prevention, Education, Evaluation, and Recovery) offers community-based substance use prevention and treatment services to residents of Evanston, Maine, New Trier, Northfield and Niles Townships, and the north side of Chicago. A nonprofit “safety net” agency, PEER provides treatment to residents in need of services regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Over 80 percent of their clients access services using Medicaid or sliding-scale fees.

TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) offers specialized case management, treatment, and navigation services for people with substance use and mental health issues in Cook County and across Illinois.

“We are deeply grateful to North Shore University HealthSystem for this generous award that will allow us to help some of our most vulnerable residents access the substance use treatment they need to restore their health and successfully re-enter the community,” said Noy Frial-Lopez, Executive Director of PEER Services. “Many people involved with the criminal justice system suffer from severe, untreated substance use disorders. Today, too many fall through the cracks and never receive treatment, placing them at high risk for recidivism and overdose. The current alarming rates of drug overdose deaths underscore the urgency of this work. We are proud to partner with TASC to build a support system to close the gaps, save lives, and make recovery possible.”

TASC President and CEO Joel K. Johnson echoed the sentiments of Frial-Lopez. “TASC is honored to partner with PEER Services and work alongside the other recipients of the 2023 Community Investment Fund. NorthShore University HealthSystem’s leadership and commitment to investing in essential community resources is a model for what can be achieved through the power of community collaboration.”
NorthShore, including Swedish and Northwest Community Healthcare, selected the PEER Services and TASC partnership as one of fifteen local recipients across Lake and Cook Counties to collaborate on programs that enhance overall health and wellbeing and support local economic growth.

“These powerful partnerships are all about creating meaningful, lasting impact through data, relationships and resources,” said Gabrielle Cummings, President, NorthShore Acute Care Operations and Highland Park Hospital, NorthShore – Edward-Elmhurst Health. “In just our first year, we already made impressive strides and have increased our understanding of how we can work together to make our communities healthier.”

NorthShore’s Community Investment Fund began last year as part of the merger between NorthShore University HealthSystem and Edward-Elmhurst Health, demonstrating the organizations’ commitment to vibrant, community-connected care. To learn more about NorthShore’s Community Investment Fund, click here.

About PEER Services
PEER Services’ mission is to reduce the harms of substance use, addiction and stigma by engaging youth and adults with innovative prevention programming and by supporting people on their path to recovery through holistic, evidence-based treatment. We provide affirming services to all in need, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. Since 1975, PEER Services has provided community-based substance use prevention and treatment services to the residents of Evanston, Maine, New Trier, Northfield and Niles Townships, and the north side of Chicago.

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PEER and TASC teams kick off the Second Chances Program. Top left: (back row) Noy Frial-Lopez (PEER Executive Director), Dabian Stewart (TASC), Aida Huskic (TASC), Clifton Bell (TASC), Joel Johnson (TASC President and CEO), (front row) Jahmillia Frye (PEER), Christine McCall (PEER).