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## **News for Immediate Release**

### **COLEMAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES EXTENDS THANKS TO REGION FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN MENTAL HEALTH**

KENT, Ohio (January 31, 2008) – Coleman Professional Services, originally named the “Kevin Coleman Center” in honor of Father Kevin Coleman, a noble young man and friend of the Portage County Community, began work in 1978 with 35 employees, an annual budget of less than one million dollars and an initial mission to provide counseling services for residents of Portage County. A silk screening business was Coleman’s first enterprise. Money generated through this business helped supplement the budget and laid the groundwork for an entrepreneurial model that would propel the organization’s growth over the coming decades.

In its past 30 years, Coleman has had two leaders: Bob Walker (1978-1985), and Nelson W. Burns (1985-present). The leadership of these individuals has taken Coleman from a small community mental health center to a regional leader of mental health services. Today, Coleman provides a number of mental and behavioral health services to a five county region, employs over 450 individuals through its operations and enterprises, and serves over 11,000 individuals each year. Over the years, Coleman has strategically acquired and developed new business ventures to provide funding for its programs.

In 1984, Coleman merged with Portage Area Senior Services (PASS), an affordable daytime program designed for adults whose lives are challenged because of limited or diminishing physical, social or cognitive abilities, to begin offering a variety of services tailored to adult customers’ needs. PASS, now known as Coleman Adult Day Services, grew steadily and was in need of a new facility to allow more space and accessibility. In 2004, a new facility was built and named The Burbick at Coleman in honor of Ron Burbick, long-time friend of Coleman and president of The Burbick Foundation.

Coleman added its Employment Services in 1986 to provide vocational and supported training for individuals struggling with behavioral health issues. These services were designed to facilitate maximum independence and reintegration into the community. Skill training and job coaching were set up to assist people in their employment search.

In order to offer immediate assistance to customers, a 24-hour crisis and pre-screening was set up in 1987 to provide around-the-clock adult and youth behavioral health crisis intervention services on a walk-in or telephone basis to persons in Portage County. These services, now offered through Coleman Access Services, have since expanded to Stark, Trumbull and Medina Counties.

Coleman continued its growth by adding one of its four enterprises in 1989. Coleman Data Solutions, formerly SAGE Computer Services, provides persons recovering from mental illness opportunities for job training and employment. It is currently the largest data management service in Ohio.

Another enterprise, Coleman Wellness Solutions, has been providing superior employee assistance and wellness services to companies since 1989. Initially established as a resource for behavioral health consultation and intervention, Coleman Wellness Solutions has since expanded into a single-source, cost effective partner for a myriad of productivity and performance solutions in the workplace.

Throughout the early nineties, Coleman constructed and offered new residential group homes and supportive living facilities to provide safe and affordable community housing across Portage and Medina Counties through Coleman Residential Services.

In 1996, Kevin Coleman Center officially changed its name to Coleman Professional Services to highlight the variety of professional services available to the community. Coleman Professional Services (CPS) strives to uphold the caring and compassionate nature that Fr. Coleman possessed for both customers and employees.

Coleman Consultation Services was established in 2003 as an enterprise, which began with a focus on housing and residential treatment development as well as grant writing, billing administration and strategic planning. The business now offers professional consultation on more than fifteen different areas of expertise that serve a wide variety of industries.

The Sue Hetrick Building, located in Ravenna, was built in 2004 to house behavioral health services such as case management and psychiatry, as well as an evaluation and crisis department for Coleman Access Services. The facility was named in honor of Dr. Sue Hetrick, former Executive Director of the Portage County Mental Health and Rehabilitation Board.

The fourth and final enterprise, Coleman Travel Services, formerly Portage Travel Service, was added in 2005 and offers convenient and affordable travel services to business and leisure travelers. In 2007, Coleman Travel merged under Traveline.

Since its inception, Coleman Professional Services has grown to more than 450 employees and now has an annual budget of more than twenty million dollars. Coleman Professional Services is a nationally recognized not-for-profit provider of behavioral health and rehabilitation programs that improve the lives of individuals, families and businesses in Northeast Ohio. The company relies on an enterprise business model to diversify its funding. Coleman's foundation and three enterprise companies produce more than 40 percent of the company's funding for its award-winning programs.

Coleman plans to celebrate its Anniversary with various awareness events and community "thank you" initiatives to honor the greatly supportive community and its many valuable employees.

For more information on Coleman Professional Services or the services it offers, visit [www.coleman-professional.com](http://www.coleman-professional.com) or contact Meghan Urbon at (330) 676-6926 or [meghan.urbon@coleman-professional.com](mailto:meghan.urbon@coleman-professional.com).

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