

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Compeer Inc. Added to National Mental Health Registry**

### **Program makes friends and changes lives in Rochester and around the world**

ROCHESTER, N.Y., June 12, 2013 – Compeer Inc., an international nonprofit mental health agency headquartered in Rochester, has met the requirements of a national review of its Compeer Model, and is now included in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

NREPP is a searchable online database of mental health and substance abuse programs that have been rated for the quality of research supporting intervention outcomes and the availability of training and implementation materials. The purpose of NREPP is to help the public learn more about mental health and substance abuse programs and determine which of these may best meet their needs.

Compeer matches community volunteers with youth, adults, veterans and the elderly in mental health recovery programs. The volunteers provide one-to-one supportive friendship and mentoring relationships to offset the loneliness and social isolation that can accompany mental illness. Compeer is guided by a simple premise validated by research – that the support of friends is healing. The Compeer Model, based on recovery principles of autonomy, relatedness and competency, is adaptable to meet the needs of local communities and different demographics, and is used by 53 affiliates in the United States, Australia and Canada.

“Compeer has brought healing friendships to thousands of people around the world,” said Bernice Skirboll, who founded Compeer in 1973 and serves on Compeer Inc.’s Board of Directors. “The inclusion of our model in the NREPP supports our efforts to improve the lives of individuals and families living with mental illness.”

Each year nearly 4,000 volunteers serve through Compeer community-based programs contributing more than 130,000 volunteer hours. [AFFILIATES, ADD SOMETHING HERE ABOUT WHO AND NUMBER OF PERSONS SERVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY ANNUALLY.](#) You might also want to add a blurb about your program and contact info after [About NREPP](#) and [About Compeer Inc.](#) sections.

### **About NREPP**

The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices ([www.nrepp.samhsa.gov](http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov)) is a searchable online database of mental health and substance abuse programs. All interventions in the registry have met NREPP’s minimum requirements for review and have been independently assessed and rated for quality of research and readiness for dissemination. The NREPP is a program of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. SAMHSA’s mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America’s communities.

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### **About Compeer Inc.**

Compeer Inc. ([www.compeer.org](http://www.compeer.org)) provides supportive leadership to its affiliate programs through training, consultation, recruitment and administrative services. Compeer was founded in 1973 in Rochester, N.Y., and now has 55 chapters in the United States, Canada and Australia. Compeer programs match community volunteers with youth, adults, veterans and the elderly living with mental illness. Volunteers provide supportive friendships and mentoring relationships to improve the quality of life of individuals and families in mental health recovery programs. The American Psychological Association recognizes Compeer as a best-practices model.

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