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ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: May 27, 2014 *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Blackburn Announces Pilot Scholarship Program to Help Athens County Residents Get Treatment

Athens County Prosecutor Keller Blackburn today announced a \$2,500 grant to the John W. Clem Recovery House to initiate a pilot program to provide scholarships for those who are unable to access such services.

“I hope this gives opportunity to those struggling with addiction in our community,” said Blackburn. “It’s a wise investment if we can help get residents who are seeking sobriety into the Clem House while they’re looking for a job.”

The Clem House is the only residential recovery facility in Athens County for adult males. It provides a safe haven for those addicted to drugs and alcohol and promotes the 12-step program for recovery. The weekly fee is \$125 to stay at the Clem House. While there, residents are offered referrals to community agencies to gain skills, find jobs, maintain employment and deal with various life issues. However, the process of finding a job often takes several weeks. Prosecutor Blackburn’s scholarship program helps those who don’t have employment or income enter the recovery setting at Clem House while they look for a job.

“I admire the community approach that Prosecutor Blackburn is taking to deal with the cycle of addiction,” said Clem House Executive Director Ron Luce. “The Athens residents who come to Clem House are friends and neighbors of people in our community, and we all have a stake in helping them find recovery.”

The Clem House Scholarship is part of Prosecutor Blackburn’s Community Justice Initiative which seeks to expand treatment and recovery options in the region.