



## COVER LETTER

Department of State  
Division of Corporations  
P. O. Box 6327  
Tallahassee, FL 32314

SUBJECT: Empowering Paths, Inc.

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME - MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one(1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for :

☐ \$70.00  
Filing Fee

☐ \$78.75  
Filing Fee &  
Certificate of  
Status

☐ \$78.75  
Filing Fee  
& Certified Copy

☒ \$87.50  
Filing Fee,  
Certified Copy  
& Certificate

**ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED**

FROM: Debbie R. Driskell

Name (Printed or typed)

237 Fernwood Blvd.

Address

Fern Park FL 32730

City, State & Zip

407-831-2411

Daytime Telephone number

**NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.**

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**  
**OF**  
**EMPOWERING PATHS, INC.**  
(A Not for Profit Corporation)

FILED  
06 MAR 23 PM 3:23  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

In compliance with the requirements of Florida Statutes Chapter 617, the undersigned, with other persons, being desirous of forming a benevolent corporation authorized to exercise powers permitted non-profit corporations, does agree to the following:

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this corporation is “Empowering Paths, Inc.”

**ARTICLE II - PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

The principal place of business is located at 237 Fernwood Boulevard, Suite E, Fern Park, Florida 32730.

**ARTICLE III – PURPOSE**

- A. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively as a benevolent entity to further the charitable purposes of Seminole Community Mental Health Center, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation and an IRS 501[c]3 exempt organization. It is the intent and mandate of Empowering Paths, Inc., to allocate and distribute any and all profits, after the application of federal taxes, gleaned from operating businesses and investments, to Seminole Community Mental Health Center, Inc., in order

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to benefit the mission and exempt purpose of said corporation. Empowering Paths, Inc. is organized for benevolent purposes, and not for pecuniary profit.

- B. Empowering Paths, Inc., will apply and solicit loans, investments and capitalization in order to start and maintain businesses and investments for its benevolent purpose.
- C. No part of the net earnings, profits, or dividends of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered, including to its members while performing in the capacity of non-board members, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes. This corporation is not organized to promote, encourage, or permit for the private gain of any person, but does recognize that at times its members could be employed or contracted, at a reasonable rate of compensation, to carry out the purposes of the corporation as summarized in paragraphs B and C of this Article.
- D. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

- E. This corporation is a faith-based organization, which acknowledges the existence of God as recognized and described in Judeo-Christian documentation, beliefs, and practices.
- F. This corporation shall have a perpetual existence, unless dissolved by law or as provided by Chapter 617, Florida Statutes.

#### ARTICLE IV – MANNER OF ELECTION

The powers of this corporation shall be exercised, its property controlled and its affairs conducted by a Board of Directors. The number of directors of the corporation shall not be less than three (3) initially nor more than nine (9). All members shall be over the age of 21 years. No member of incorporator of this corporation shall have any vested rights, interest or privilege of, in or to the assets, functions, affairs or franchises of the corporation and shall serve without pay while acting in the capacity of a member of the Board of Directors. The officers of the corporation, as provided by the By-Laws of the corporation, shall be elected by the directors of the corporation, in the manner therein set out, and shall serve until their successors are elected and have qualified. The directors shall elect the regular officers of the corporation at the annual meeting, for terms of two years. The president and secretary may be one and the same person. The vice-president and treasurer may be one and the same person. The annual meeting will be held on the day and time chosen by directors of each year. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Directors shall meet at regular intervals. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by a petition in writing signed by a majority of the board members. In case of a vacancy in any office or among the Board

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of Directors, the Board shall appoint a qualified person to fill the unexpired term. The Board of Directors may for good cause and after a hearing, declare any office or directorship vacant or terminate any membership by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board present at any duly called meeting. The members of the Board may cast their vote in person at any meeting, and may utilize telephonic and electronic communication for voting purposes. All members shall be given reasonable notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors.

The first Board of Directors shall serve until the last week of the year 2006. The Board of Directors or the President shall select a day in the last week of the year 2006 as election day at which time a new Board of Directors shall be elected. Beginning 1 January 2007, the term of office of each member shall be four (4) years, except that that the members previously appointed, one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for terms of two (2) years and one-third (1/3) shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years. No person shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms but service prior to the year 2006 shall not be considered a term. Notice of the designation of a meeting as a general election meeting shall be mailed or emailed to each member at least (30) days prior to said election. Officers and Directors shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast in each race. Officers and Directors shall take office immediately after the election meeting.

#### ARTICLE V: INITIAL DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The names of the officers and directors who are to serve until the first election or appointment under the Articles of Incorporation are as follows:

DIRECTOR - PRESIDENT

Debbie R. Driskell

DIRECTOR - VICE-PRESIDENT/SECRETARY

Scott C. Griffiths

DIRECTOR - TREASURER

Parissa M. Sadri

The above named shall constitute the first Board of Directors, provided further, that the first Board may appoint additional directors as they deem necessary at the initial Board of Directors meeting.

#### ARTICLE VI - INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT AND STREET ADDRESS

The county in the State of Florida where the principal office for the transaction of the business of this corporation is to be located in the County of Seminole, at 237 Fernwood Boulevard, Suite E, Fern Park, Florida 32730, and the initial Registered Agent of this corporation is Barbara Foy, 237 Fernwood Blvd., Suite E, Fern Park, Florida 32730.

#### ARTICLE VII - INCORPORATOR

The name and address of the incorporator of this corporation is:

Debbie R. Driskell  
237 Fernwood Boulevard, Suite E  
Fern Park, Florida 32730

#### ARTICLE VIII - INDEMNIFICATION

The Corporation shall indemnify any person who is or was a Director of the Corporation or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a Director, Officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

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Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity.

Barbara Foy  
Signature/Registered Agent

3/17/06  
Date

Deborah R. Beirsto  
Signature/Incorporator

3/17/06  
Date

STATE OF FLORIDA     )  
COUNTY OF SEMINOLE )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by DEBORAH J. BEAIRSTO, this 17th day of March A.D., 2006, personally known to me or who provided \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.

(Affix Notarial Seal)

Deborah J. Beirsto  
Notary Public, State of Florida

