Last June Executive Director Michael Baskin and Board President Christine Young received an unexpected yet special letter from NAMI National Executive Director Mary Gilibreti. The letter announced that NAMI Greater Cleveland was being honored as the Outstanding NAMI Affiliate for 2014 from among 1,100 NAMI Affiliates. Initiated in 2000, the Outstanding NAMI Affiliate Award recognizes exceptional efforts on the affiliate level to further NAMI’s mission.

In her letter, Ms. Gilibreti wrote, “The award is given to recognize exceptional efforts to further NAMI’s mission. In addition to being committed to program fidelity and grooming program leaders into strong volunteers, the organization mirrors NAMI’s dedication to multicultural action by highlighting diversity and inclusion goals in their current and program offerings.”

In September, staff members Michael Baskin, Becky Fela and Ellen Riehm accepted the award at the NAMI National Convention in Washington, DC. The packed ballroom included volunteers, peers and members from our Greater Cleveland Affiliate.

**NAMIWalks 2014**

The 12th Annual NAMIWalks stepped off from Voinovich Park on September 27. NAMIWalks 2014 attracted nearly 1,500 participants: Walkers, Team Captains, volunteers, corporations and organizations. In addition to being an outstanding display of support for those with mental illness, NAMIWalks 2014 raised nearly $131,000 for programs and services provided by NAMI Greater Cleveland.
2014 Annual Meeting

Last year, NAMI GC supporters, peers and mental health professionals gathered at the Cleveland Aloft Hotel to mark the 2014 Annual Meeting. The program included a short business meeting, awards ceremony and remarks by Wayne Drash, a senior producer for CNN.com. Author of *My Son is Mentally Ill So Listen Up*, Mr. Drash shared his experience of researching and writing the story about Stephanie Escamilla whose son Daniel was diagnosed with bipolar disorder with psychosis when he was 10 years old.

Mr. Drash has won Peabodys, Webbys, Emmy’s and was named one of the best online writers in America by the National Headliner Awards. Also, he is author of *On These Courts*, the inspirational story of a former NBA All-Star helping at-risk youth. In his capacity at CNN.com, Mr. Drash is committed to shedding light on mental illness by writing about the people it effects, those who love them and those trying to help them.

2014 Annual Meeting Honorees

Jai Menon
The Scott Adamson Memorial Peer Award

Anne McCabe
Mental Health Family/Caregiver Award

Cynthia Cekanski
Regional Director of Operations
CommuniCare Health Services
Cultural Competence in Mental Health Award

Roberta Taliaferro, PCC-S
Director of Counseling and Community Services
May Dugan Center
Mental Health Provider Award

Cuyahoga County Adult Probation
Mental Health Unit

Eugene Brudno Memorial Organization Award

Clara T. Rankin
Lifetime Achievement Award

*To be honored at the 2015 Annual Meeting

Artwork

I have been diagnosed with many labels and feel in disguise when it comes to my true feelings. I have even disguised events such as hospitalization or the marks on my arms due to my self-injurious behavior. The stigma prevents me from revealing my true self to most people. — Tracy L. Kichinka
NAMI PROGRAMS THAT HELP SHAPE HOW WE VIEW MENTAL ILLNESS

Focus on Mental Health Education and Self-Help Peer Support

NAMI’s Mental Health Education services are designed to increase community knowledge of, and to change attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors associated with mental health problems, needs, or behaviors.

Self Help / Peer Support services are designed to provide emotional support and understanding. Those directly affected by mental illness share their wisdom in understanding and coping with the complexities of the illness, and help others to develop a network of people that provides ongoing support outside the formal mental health system.

Hospital Network: A Message Of Inspiration

This program takes NAMI peer volunteers to local hospital psychiatric units to visit with patients in small groups. Volunteers share their experience of hospitalization and recovery, telling their story about their understanding of the meaning of mental illness in their lives. The goal of the program is to instill the message of hope and help prepare those who are currently in the hospital in getting ready to re-enter the community.

In Our Own Voice: Reducing the Impact of Stigma

NAMI GC’s In Our Own Voice presentations change attitudes, assumptions and stereotypes by describing the reality of living with mental illness. People with mental health conditions share their powerful personal stories in this free 90-minute presentation. Peers present a firsthand account of what it is like to live each day with a mental illness. Presenters humanize this misunderstood topic by demonstrating that it’s possible—and common—to live well with mental illness.

Mental Health Workshops - Preventing Homelessness

Mental Health Workshops are support and education groups that help individuals cope with environmental, physical and emotional stressors that can lead to disruptive and violent behavior and may end in eviction from their homes. The work is done on site in neighborhood public mixed population housing units and is a unique service model developed within the Multicultural Outreach Program at NAMI GC. Facilitators utilize a formal curriculum designed specifically to address the specific needs of residents and to facilitate individual follow up as needed, linking participants to needed medical and mental health services. The model was has been recognized by the NAMI National, as NAMI Cleveland staff and providers were selected to present the model at the 2015 NAMI National convention in San Francisco, CA.
NAMI 2014 PROGRAM STATISTICS

Information and Referral

Information and Referral
2673 calls were received providing support, information and referrals to peers, family members and professionals

Self Help / Peer Support Services

Support Groups
23 Community Based Support Groups served 1301 individuals (individuals affected by mental illness and their family members / caregivers)

Hospital Networking Project
264 presentations were delivered serving 940 individuals

Mental Health Education Services

Family to Family
4 courses were delivered serving 60 family members / caregivers

Understanding Mental Illness
1 course served 6 family members / caregivers

NAMI Basics
1 course was delivered serving 9 parents

Peer to Peer
6 courses were delivered serving 39 peers in recovery

In Our Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness
13 presentations were delivered serving 373 individuals

Staff Presentations / Outreach
52 presentations were delivered serving 1,996 individuals

Speaker’s Bureau (Family Panel / Peer Panels)
32 presentations were delivered serving 586 individuals

Other Mental Health Services

Psycho-education Sessions (part of the Multicultural Outreach Program)
16 presentations were delivered serving 283 individuals

Mental Health Wellness Workshops
18 presentations were delivered serving 192 individuals

Community Education
19 presentations were delivered serving 639 individuals
The NAMI Mission

NAMI Greater Cleveland is dedicated to empowering persons affected by mental illness and their family members to achieve a better quality of life by providing them with mutual support, practical information, referral, advocacy, and educational resources. The mission is accomplished through support groups, a Helpline, education courses, and advocacy activities.

Our Staff

Michael Baskin, LISW, CEAP  
Executive Director
Jane Arnow-Logsdon, MSSA, LSW  
Volunteer Coordinator
Lisa Dellafiora  
Development and Special Events Coordinator
Becky Fela  
Peer Support Specialist
Kari Kepic  
Information and Referral Specialist
Liz Krull  
Office Assistant
Marsha Mitchell-Blanks, LSW  
Multicultural Outreach Coordinator
Terri Miller  
Peer and Family Program Coordinator
Ellen Riehm  
Community Education Coordinator
Autra Dozier  
Multicultural Outreach Specialist

Our Officers

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Mark Weintraub, Esq.  
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Christine Stadler  
Secretary, Chair-Marketing Committee
Dianna Bell  
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Mary Spada  
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Esther Pla, RN Co-Chair, Program Committee
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James Vernon, MPA, PCC-S LICDC

Our Vision

All residents of Greater Cleveland receive needed mental health services; stigma and discrimination regarding mental illness is challenged at every turn; and the best evidence-based and emerging science-based treatments and supports are accessible to all residents who live with mental illness. Mental illness is no longer an obstacle to a full and satisfying life; its impact greatly diminished.

Our Medical Advisory Board

Farah Munir, D.O, Chair
Kathleen A. Clegg, M.D.
Lori D’Angelo, Ph.D.
Philipp Dines MD, PhD.
J. Jin El-Mallawany, M.D.
Norah C. Feeny, Ph.D.
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Thomas P. Swales, Ph.D.
George Tesar, M.D.
Megan Testa, M.D.
Cynthia S. Vrabel, M.D.

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April 2015

Dear Friends of NAMI Greater Cleveland:

We are pleased to share with you NAMI Greater Cleveland’s Annual Report for 2014, a year which set the stage for our continued growth and development. This report highlights the outstanding accomplishments of volunteers and staff who provided our programs. To top off the year, in September, NAMI National’s Executive Director, Mary Gilberti and the NAMI National Board of Directors honored NAMI GC with “The 2014 Outstanding NAMI Affiliate Award.” The award reflects the dedication to excellence from the staff and volunteers who make us who we are.

Over the past year, NAMI Greater Cleveland carried forward its tradition of offering innovative, time tested, peer support, self-help programs for individuals and families affected by mental illness. In the first full year of our ambitious four-year Strategic Plan, we made significant progress in refining and upgrading programs and services, developing a marketing plan to increase NAMI’s visibility, and re-shaping our fund development structure and strategies to ensure we protect financial viability well into the future.

As we reflect on the achievements listed in this report, we know that the work is only possible because of the efforts of so many, including partnering provider organizations, our wonderfully generous donor base, and our membership. Making this all happen requires significant ongoing support from the community, and this report’s donor section attests to the extraordinary continued commitment of the organization’s supporters at various levels.

Sincerely,

Christine Young
Board President

Michael Baskin
Executive Director
NAMI’s Committed Donor Support Makes a Dynamic Difference To Those Affected by Mental Illness.

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Mr. Erum Ahmed
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United HealthCare Services Inc.
University Hospitals
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Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio

In-Kind
Giant Eagle
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WOIO 19 Action News

NAMI GC would like to thank Anita C. Nonneman for her gracious support in the production and printing of our 2014 annual report.

Cover Artwork
Eight members of the Art Journaling Support Group collaborated to create this image. First, each named his or her favorite color and, with some favorites in common, four colors were chosen. Members were then given three square cards and this directive: “Make three images of your choice, using any combination of the colors black, red, green, and ocean blue. In each image, indicate the center of each side of the square in any way you wish.” When the individual squares were completed, members arranged them into a group piece. The exercise required individual creativity as well as group collaboration. The final image is interconnected by line and unified by color. It is a metaphor for unique individuals gathering for group support.

Artists: Katie Suchan, Tom Schaefer, David Perk, Kristel Wilson, Victor Guinto, Becky Rinaldi, Regina Williams and Frances Lynn, Support Group Facilitator, also contributed to the artwork.

Graphic design by DesignWyse, Inc.
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