NAMI Greater Cleveland’s Hospital Network program helps to connect patients in the hospital to a supportive community prior to their release from the hospital. The goal of the program is to increase patients’ awareness of the option they have for additional support when settling back into life at home. In addition, volunteers help to raise staffs’ awareness of NAMI and the program so they can recommend NAMI Greater Cleveland’s services to patients in need.

With knowledge of our mission and our services, volunteers have the opportunity to give examples of recovery and hope.

**Minimum Requirements for Hospital Network Volunteers**

- Must be an individual who is living with a mental health condition or a family member/caregiver of a person with a mental health condition
- Experience of having been or a loved one who has been in an inpatient hospital setting
- Individuals must be comfortable talking in front of various audiences and willing to share aspects of their personal experience of living with mental illness or having a family member with a mental health condition
- Comfortable presenting strategies used to maintain recovery
- Knowledge of NAMI Greater Cleveland’s programs and services
- Act courteously and respectfully toward one another and hospital participants at all times
- Actively pursue wellness
- Respect your own emotional and physical resources and limitations
- Respect cultural differences of participants
- Respect the privacy of participants and hold sensitive, private and personal information confidential
- Dress the part… Keep your attire “middle of the road”, no extremes please

**Volunteer Commitment**

- Willingness to be available for hospital speaking engagements twice a month for 2-3 hours at a time.

**Personal Qualities:**
- Demonstrated reliability, professionalism and punctuality
- Respect and compassion for people affected by mental health conditions with desire to help others facing mental health challenges
- Passion to learn about mental health conditions, resources, and behavioral health system
- Willingness to take initiative to seek help when needed, and ability to accept and implement constructive feedback
- Never use vulgar or inappropriate language
- Never consume or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while serving as a Hospital Network speaker.
- Ability to maintain an objective point of view