

MISSION: To empower 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.



nami Walks

National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMIWalks 2015 stepped off under blue skies and bright sunshine on Saturday, August 29. We estimate 1,000 people visited Edgewater Park for Cleveland's largest mental health event. It was a breathtaking sight as the throng of walkers made their way along the Walk route. This year's Walk raised more than \$122,000 and included 32 corporate sponsors and 80 Walk Teams. Proceeds from NAMIWalks allow NAMI GC to host support groups, education classes, and community education programs and to operate its Helpline. In this way, individuals with a mental health diagnosis – and their family members and friends – may access the support and information they need at no cost.

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Top left: NAMI GC Intern Michelle Smith, Teri Smith, Alyssa Smith and Melissa Ryant are ready for the Walk to step off.

Top right: Chi Delta Roaz is ready to roll. **Middle left:** Walkers enjoy a stroll along Edgewater Park's paths.

Middle right: Lutheran Hospital successfully raised money and awareness of NAMIWalks by selling "Stomp Out Stigma" sneakers.

Bottom left: Members of the Old Stone Church Team are all smiles. **Bottom right:** Team Carolyn is out in full force.

NEWS & NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHAEL BASKIN

NAMI WINS NATIONAL AWARD

NAMI GC has been selected as the recipient of a **Connect 4 Mental Health** (C4MH) Community Innovation Award! The award (one of four selected from across the country) recognizes our efforts to implement innovative, collaborative approaches to help address serious mental illness in our community by using strategies that underscore the importance of continuity of care - a pillar of the C4MH program. While the staff and I are honored and humbled by this recognition, we recognize that it is a salute to all who make NAMI GC's mission possible: Board members, Medical Advisory Board Members, volunteers, donors, funders and community partners. The program will help fund our Mental Health Workshop program at multi-use public housing in Cuyahoga County.

IN THE RUNNING – NAMI National Conference in Cleveland in '17 or '18?

We are continuing to pursue our goal of having the national conference in Cleveland in 2017 or 2018. Gloria Walker, Executive Director of NAMI Urban Greater Cincinnati and who serves on the Site Selections Committee for the conference, assured me she would recommend NAMI GC be the host site in 2017 or 2018. Senator Bob Spada, former Board President at NAMI Ohio, and a board director at national, also pledged that he would advocate for NAMI GC as well. In 2016, The NAMI National Convention is headed to the Mile High City in Denver, CO July 6-9, at the Sheraton Downtown Denver.

Congratulations to Board Director Ben Miladin

Congratulations to Ben Miladin who is now serving as Director of Health for United Way of Greater Cleveland. In his new role as Director of Health, Ben will oversee how United Way dollars are spent around health initiatives. Previously, Mr. Miladin served as Deputy Director of Cuyahoga County Senior and Adult Services.

Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis

On Friday September 6th, NAMI and the ADAMHS Board hosted a Town Hall

Meeting featuring U.S. Representative Tim Murphy, Ph.D., who presented on his legislation, Federal H.R. 2646: Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. Congressman Murphy told the audience the legislation aims to transform the nation's mental health system by focusing programs and resources on psychiatric care for patients and families most in need of services. Representative Murphy said that this legislation empowers parents and caregivers, will decrease the shortage of inpatient beds and integrates primary and behavioral care, in addition to a number of other critical areas of need. Bob Spada, NAMI National Board Director, and Bill Denihan, CEO of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga Co., also spoke. Currently the H.R. 2646 bill is pending in the House Energy and Finance Committee.

NAMI to Participate on the Mental Health Response Committee

The Mental Health Response Advisory Committee was officially announced at a press conference with City of Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson on Wed., September 23. The committee formed as a result of the Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and the Department of Justice in response to a federal investigation that found Cleveland police too often use cruel and unnecessary force against people living with mental illness and/or addictions. The goal of the project is to ensure that the Cleveland Division of Police has enough specially trained officers that are deployed effectively and responding appropriately in mental health training including Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training. The committee will also make recommendations regarding policies and procedures related to training. I will serve on the Executive Committee and Marsha Mitchell-Blanks and Ellen Riehm will serve on the Community Involvement/Engagement Committee, which will work to improve relationships with citizens and police.

C.I.T. Training in the Westshore Suburbs to Begin in 2016

NAMI is now part of an initiative to offer CIT Training to Police Officers in the West Shore area of Cleveland, including

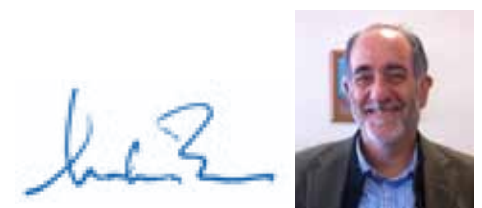
Lakewood, Rocky River, Westlake and Bay Village. In addition, the Cleveland Metroparks police in the West Shore area will also be included. Ellen Riehm, Community Education Coordinator will sit on a steering committee to assist in the development of the program. Plans call for the startup of the course in early 2016.

MAJOR SUPPORT FOR NAMI GC COMES FROM THE FOLLOWING

- o ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga Co.
- o CareSource
- o Community Shares of GC
- o Community West Foundation
- o Connect 4 Mental Health
- o Frank Hadley and Cornelia Root Ginn Charitable Trust
- o Genentech
- o Janssen
- o Jewish Federation of Cleveland (Selected Donors)
- o Lilly
- o Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation
- o Mt. Sinai Healthcare Foundation
- o Northrup Fund (PNC)
- o NAMI (National) - Sharing Hope Project
- o Pfizer
- o Stolier Family Foundation
- o Ridgecliff Foundation
- o Woodruff Foundation

Funding Provided by These Generous Organizations Makes it Possible for NAMI GC to Offer its Programs at No Cost to Participants!!!!!!!

I hope you enjoy the beauty of this wondrous autumn season.



Michael, November 2015
mbaskin@namicleveland.org

NAMI Greater Cleveland Call for Nominations

NAMI Greater Cleveland (NAMI GC) is accepting nominations for outstanding achievement in promoting and providing mental health services for individuals, families and organizations in the year 2015. The awards will be presented at the 2016 NAMI GC's Annual Meeting in April. Nominations are being sought for:

The Scott Adamson Memorial Peer Award

Recognizes a person affected by mental illness who has provided exemplary service on behalf of peers..

Mental Health Family/Caregiver Award

Recognizes a family member who had excelled in helping loved ones with a mental illness to improve their quality of life.

Cultural Competence in Mental Health Award

Recognizes a peer, family member, professional or organization that has demonstrated excellence in working with minority populations in the mental health field.

Mental Health Provider Award

Recognizes a professional who demonstrates outstanding commitment in service to the community on behalf of those with a mental illness.

Eugene Brudno Memorial Organization Award

Recognizes an organization that provides outstanding service for those with a mental illness and their family members.

Nominations are due **Tuesday, January 24, 2016**. Please send to Executive Director Michael Baskin in care of the NAMI GC offices (2012 West 25th Street, #600, Cleveland, OH 44113) or email (mbaskin@namicleveland.org).

In your recommendation, please include contact information for you and the person/group you are nominating, and explain:

- What contribution did this person or organization make in service to mental health in 2015 that merits recognition?
- What is unique about their contribution and why at this time?
- Tell us a little bit more about this individual/organization

Please call 216-875-0266 with questions.

Please Give Generously

With the end of the year approaching, many charities will be asking you to support their worthy causes. We hope you will include NAMI Greater Cleveland among your philanthropic priorities. Contributions may be mailed to our offices (2012 West 25th Street, #600, Cleveland, OH 44113) or made via our website (www.namicleveland.org). To learn how your gift can make a difference in the life of someone with a mental illness diagnosis, please contact Lisa Dellafiora at 216-875-0266 or ldellafiora@namiclevlend.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Gratitude Corner

We are grateful for everyone who made NAMIWalks an amazing success: Donors, Corporate Sponsors, Team Captains, Walkers and Volunteers. And let's not forget Mother Nature who graced us with blue skies and bright sunshine.

NAMIWalks 2015 Teams & Captains

Acorns Walking/Paul Biasella
ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County
Katie Boland
*Alkermes All-Stars/Laura Vesco
Alpha Kappa Alpha – LPO/Angee Nelson
AntiStigma Busters/Esther Panella-Pla
Beautiful Minds – Southwest Group
Kelly Levicky
*Beach Brook/Nancy Martin
Benjamin Rose/Jeanne Hoban
Blue's Clues/Joan Reidy
Brittany's Buddies/Brittany Moore
Bumps Before Bridges- Cleveland/
Cassandra Jane
CASP/Valorie Wolcott Mendelson
Cbus Cares/Kori Boehm
CFF Child Psychiatry/Veena Ahuja
*Chi Delta Rooz/Korie Varkala
*Christine's Characters/Christine Stadler
*Cleveland Clinic/Clare Drotar
Community Behavioral Health Center/
Wendy Kacmarcik
ComPeer Far West Center/Denise Ayres
*Connections: Health*Wellness*Advocacy/
Mark Johnson
Cuyahoga County Public Defender Office/
Connie Ippolito
*Dawgs of the Underworld/Michael Baskin
Embrace Your Life/Carol Tylersmith
*EY/Chad Gross
FrontLine Service/Katie Ward
Given to Fly/Gretchen Stout
Go Walkers/Megan Schlick
Good Guys/Jacquelyn Daugherty
Healthy Cleveland 2.0 Beehive/David Gretick
Hopewell/Candace Carlton
JFSA & PLAN/Jacquie Houser
Kari's Hopeful Friends/Kari Kepic
*Lutheran Hospital Team/Brian Tilow
Magnolia Clubhouse/Joyce Roper
MetroHealth Adult Psychiatry Department/
Benjamin Rubin
*Murtis Taylor Human Services/
Cheyenne Toole
NAMI Connections – Ohio City/
Sheena Jade Searight
*NAMI Geauga/Rachel Way
NAMI on Campus CWRU/Maia Delegal
NEOSCAP/Noah Miller
Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare/
Stephanie Sims
Oakview Behavioral Health/Debbie Byron
Ohio City Support Group/Christine Crmovsek
*Old Stone Rockers/Lee Rutti
*Oldies But Goodies/Liz Krull
One Goal/Charles Terry
*Premier Behavioral Health Services/
Diana Mekota

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NAMI Greater Cleveland in San Francisco

NAMI Greater Cleveland presented the program model for the Emotional Wellness Program developed to engage minority and low-income residents of public housing units and reduce evictions at the National Convention in San Francisco on July 8. Members of the wellness team, including NAMI GC Program Director Marsha Mitchell-Blanks, session developer Dr. Natalie Whitlow and mental health clinician Renita Allen presented the blueprint for the two-year, small-group mental health workshop program that helps residents to identify and come to terms with their own mental health conditions as well as to cope with environmental, physical and emotional stressors that can lead to behavioral outburst and eviction from public, mixed-population housing units. Attendees were excited about the collaborative community organizing model that encourages a sense of community within the sites and builds resource networks necessary for recovery, as well as the flexibility of the model to address pressing issues that threaten residency and mental health recovery.



(l-r) Natalie Whitlow, Renita Allen and Marsha Mitchell-Blanks pause for a picture as their presentation began at the NAMI National Convention.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteer office help in the following areas:

- **GENERAL OFFICE:** Receptionist including holiday season only assignments (Dec.1, 2015 through Jan 15, 2016) Data Entry, mailings, copying.
- **HELPLINE:** Information and Referral (assistance with screening calls and making referrals to services and/or I & R coordinator) - requires training and aptitude for accessing caller needs.
- **FAMILY & PEER SUPPORT DEPARTMENT:** assistance with putting together folders and manuals for courses, data entry, copying and follow-up phone calls.
- **COMMUNITY EDUCATION:** assistance with putting together community education materials, including copying; assistance with website maintenance; assistance as event volunteers (sitting at tables and giving out information at community events: mainly weekends, some weekdays).
- **EVENTS & MARKETING:** assistance with social media platforms, special events (including the WALK), and annual meeting (task-and time-limited).
- **MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM:** assistance with putting together community education materials, assistance with follow-up calls, data entry, and assistance as event volunteers (weekends).
- **SPANISH-SPEAKING VOLUNTEERS** are also needed for all of the above, including peer/family support group facilitators and course instructors.

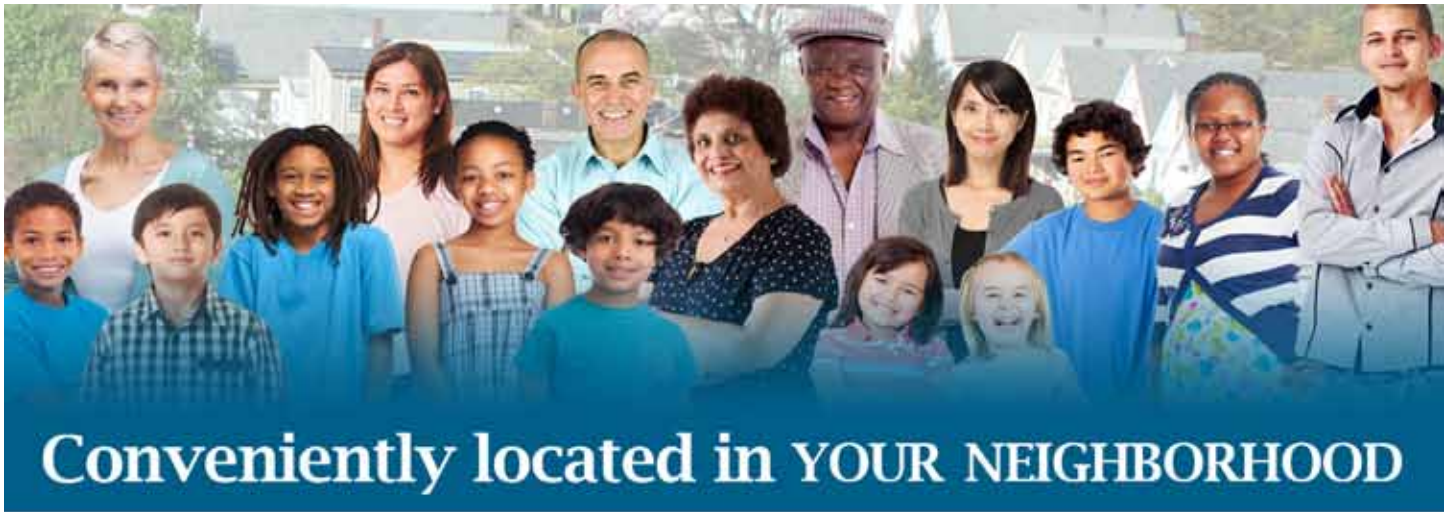
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NAMI Walks 2015 Teams & Captains

PsychBC/Thomas Swales
 Recovery Resources Allstars/Khallidah Brown
 Riehm Team/Ellen Riehm
 Sarah and the Stigma Busters/Sarah Beebe
 Senategirl/Meredith Turner
 *St. Vincent Charity Medical Center/
 Nanette Reichek
 Steps to Stop Stigma/Michele Smith
 Sue/Sue Evans
 Team AKA – Alpha Omega/Judy Jackson
 Winston
 Team Bell/Dianna Bell
 *Team Bianco-Young/Anne Schleicher and
 Christine Young
 *Team CareSource/Roxana Yactayo
 *Team Carolyn/Katie Jerome
 Team CommuniCare/Angie Jinna
 *Team Dan Miller/Maggie Kubovchik
 *Team DSAS/Ben Miladin
 Team Jimmy/Deborah Morabito
 *Team JWW/James Watson
 Team Living Miracles/Marc Manneheimer
 Team Spada/Mary Spada
 Team Steven/Stacy Foytik
 Tenacious Turtles for Healthy Minds/Sally
 Todt
 The Mandalas/Frances Lynn
 The Motley Mental Crew/Jaime Lynn
 Smith
 The Super Centers Crusaders/Kelley
 Kauffman
 *Tread Wrightly/Nicole Vassil
 *UH Department of Psychiatry and
 Friends/Christine LaGrotta
 UH Geauga Wonder Walkers/Phyllis
 Shannon
 *Optum|UnitedHealthcare/Ryan
 Marblestone
 Us and We/Corrine Jalkanen
 Velocity Advisors/Joel Grams
 What a Trip!/Anne McCabe
 *Indicates Teams raising more than \$1,000

Individual Walkers raising \$1,000 or more

Renick Blosser
 Al Cisan
 Katie Jerome
 Maggie Kubovchik
 Ben Miladin
 Jack Sherman
 Christine Stadler
 Nicole Vassil
 Laura Vesco
 Jillian Watson
 Christine Young
 Lulu Zhao



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Cleveland, OH 44115

Northeast Suburban Office

16005 Terrace Road
East Cleveland, OH 44112

Kathryn R. Tyler Campus

900 East 105th Street
Cleveland, OH 44108

West Side Office

9500 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102

West Side Office

3167 Fulton Road
Cleveland, OH 44109

Lakewood Community Services Center

14230 Madison Avenue
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LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT H. B. 162:

PROHIBITING THE EXECUTION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS

Overview: S.B. 162 exempts defendants from the death penalty who, at the time of the offense, had a serious mental illness that significantly impaired the person's ability to control his/her behavior. "Serious mental illness" is defined as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, or delusional disorder. In addition to being diagnosed with at least one of these conditions, it must be demonstrated that the condition significantly impaired the person's capacity to (a) exercise rational judgment in relation to conduct, (b) conform their conduct to the requirements of the law, or (c) appreciate the nature, consequences or wrongfulness of their conduct.

The Ohio Supreme Court's Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty voted 15 - 2 to recommend the enactment of legislation to consider and exclude from eligibility for the death penalty defendants who suffer from "serious mental illness," as defined by the legislature, at the time of the crime.

- S.B. 162 does not absolve defendants of legal responsibility for their crimes. They can still be tried, convicted, and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, including life in prison.
- S.B. 162 is in line with similar exemptions for individuals with intellectual disabilities and juveniles.
- S.B. 162 does not exempt capital defendants from the death penalty whose mental disorders are attributable solely to voluntary use of alcohol or drugs.
- The Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity defense often does not apply in these cases because Ohio's statute limits the defense to those who do not understand the wrongfulness of their act. Individuals under the definition in S.B. 162 may know what they have done is wrong, but their delusional thinking may cause them to believe they are impervious to punishment or that some greater force compels them to act.
- According to a December 1, 2014 poll by Public Policy Polling, Americans oppose the death penalty for persons with mental illness by a margin of 2 to 1.

NAMI Greater Cleveland encourages our members and other mental health advocates to support this bill. Please contact your state Senator now and let them know you support S.B. 162

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NAMI GC staff members Terri Miller, Becky Fela and Michael Baskin gratefully accept a check from CareSource's Timothy Hamilton. CareSource awarded NAMI GC a \$7,500 grant to help fund multi-cultural outreach initiatives. These efforts include hosting small group education/support/socialization sessions at Kingsbury Towers and Terrace Towers. Sessions at these Cleveland high-rise apartment buildings target no/low income, vulnerable and minority populations with mental illnesses. Our efforts focus on preventing evictions that can lead to homelessness. Thank you CareSource for your outstanding support!



NAMI GC's Multi-Cultural Outreach Coordinator Autra Calvin addresses graduates of the City of Cleveland's Mental Health Court graduation. Graduates completed one-year probation and all requirements of the mental health stipulations, such as finding employment, following through on necessary mental health services, and taking classes on improving life skills.

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NARSAD

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Recycle Your Copy of The Advocate

Are you looking for a good home your quarterly issue of **The Advocate**? We often have the need for additional copies, in order to share them with people who call our NAMI hotline. Consider bringing your copy to your next support group meeting or dropping it off at the NAMI GC offices located at 2012 West 25th Street, #600, Cleveland, OH 44113. Our parking lot is located behind the building via West 26th Street.



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Michael Baskin, Executive Director,
mbaskin@namicleveland.org
Marsha Mitchell Blanks, Program Director,
mblanks@namicleveland.org
Lisa Dellaflora,
Development/Special Events Coordinator,
ldellaflora@namicleveland.org
Autra Dozier, Multicultural Outreach Coordinator
adozier@namicleveland.org
Becky Fela, Peer Support Specialist,
bfela@namicleveland.org
Kari Kopic, Information and Referral Specialist,
kkopic@namicleveland.org
Liz Krull, Office Administrator,
lkrull@namicleveland.org
Terri Miller, Consumer and Family Program
Coordinator, tmiller@namicleveland.org
Ellen Riehm, Community Education Coordinator,
erihm@namicleveland.org
Sally Follet, LPC, Special Consultant,
Support Group Trainer, salfollett@aol.com