



**NAMI Of DuPage County, Illinois**  
*“The County’s Voice on Mental Illness”*

Fall 2005

Dear Pastor,

Do you wonder whether or not the person you are counseling might be suffering from a mental illness? Do you need resources for families when they turn to you with questions regarding mental illness? We know clergy are some of the first people families turn to when dealing with mental illness. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) wants to help.

NAMI’s mission is to improve the lives of people with mental illness through support, education, and advocacy.

One of the greatest obstacles we face is the social stigma of mental illness. The myth today is that people are weak. They just need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and they can’t handle life. The truth is these are chemical imbalances of the brain, with an accurate diagnosis and right medication, people can and do live successful lives. The church is all about the love and truth of Jesus Christ.

Because the church is all about the love of Jesus, won’t you join us in the mission in bringing the light of HOPE through education? NAMI has trained speakers to help present educational presentations.

Please consider scheduling a presentation at your church. It is only through education that we will be able to change hearts and attitudes. Below are some of the presentations we can schedule. If you would like to design a seminar from 30 minutes to several hours please contact our office.

***NAMI Overview- Of Services.....30 minutes***

Learn the myths surrounding mental illness. One out of every four families suffer with mental illness and don’t know where to turn. Provide that critical link between church and home while helping families connect to resources available to them.

***“In Our Own Voice” .....60 minutes***

Living with mental illness is a recovery education presentation covering issues such as dark days, acceptance, treatment, coping strategies, and successes, hopes, and dreams.

***“Family Perspective” .....60 minutes***

Learn about the emotional stages of recovery from the family perspective. Hear from a spouse, parent, and sibling view of what it is like to live with mental illness in the family and the resources of NAMI.

**All presentations are free of charge.** We gladly would accept any donation to NAMI DuPage County so we may continue to offer services to families in our county. If we can answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Pat Doyle  
Education Coordinator  
630-752-0066 ext 15

(P.S. Please be sure to request “What the churches can do....to help people with mental illness.)