

Our Mission

To provide support, advocacy and education in order to improve the quality of life for individuals with mental illness and their families.

Visit us online!
www.namidupage.org

Memo from the Library
We are asking for the return of books that have been checked out for more than one month. Thank you!



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NAMI LINE

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This year, the western suburbs' most purely enjoyable, deliciously memorable and charitably vital dinner event of the year is coming up on April 27th, and NAMI DuPage needs you and your friends and family to help make "An Evening in Venice" a resounding success!

We've taken you at your word, and we can absolutely assure you this will be the wonderful evening event that you and your friends will talk about for the rest of the year. We'll greet you with a glass of fine sparkling wine... welcome you to hors d'oeuvres and



cocktails as you greet old friends and make new ones... offer you silent auction and live auction items that you'll be eager to bid on, and delighted to take home... treat you to dinner, wine and dessert

In response to rave reviews and popular demand, we will hold our Spring Benefit once again this year at the elegant and close-to-home Esplanade Lakes ballroom in Downers Grove on Saturday evening, April 27th.

that the best restaurants would be proud to offer... and lure you out onto the dance floor with all the best of the new and old dance tunes.

Visit the NAMI DuPage website (www.namidupage.org/benefit) to purchase dinner tickets and raffle tickets and learn about auction items.

What could possibly make such an elegant and enjoyable event evening even better? Only two things. First, a great

Last year's attendees, you told us you had the time of your lives, and you would be back in 2013... with even more friends!



IMPORTANT DATES

Spring Gala: "An Evening in Venice" - April 27th, 2013

Family-to-Family: Thursday March 28th-June 13th, 2013
Located at: Knox Presbyt.

Family-to-Family: Thursday April 4th-June 13th, 2013
Located at: New Day Center

NAMI Basics: Tuesday, April 4th - May 14th, 2013
Located at: Linden Oaks OP

More information online:
www.namidupage.org

The following information is request for grant writing purposes only.

Relation to Consumer:
 Child of Consumer
 Friend
 Sibling
 Spouse
 Consumer
 Parent of Child
 Parent of Adult
 Health Professional
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 Asian
 White
 Black or African American
 Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino

Ethnicity:
 Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino

Race:
 American Indian or Alaska Native
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 Asian
 White
 Black or African American
 Hispanic or Latino
 Not Hispanic or Latino

Name(s): _____
 Spouse: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Email Address: _____
 I would like to receive email alerts.
 I would like to receive an email newsletter in place in of a hard copy.
 My check is enclosed. Amount enclosed: _____ (Make checks payable to NAMI DuPage)
 Charge my _____ Cardholder Name: _____
 Visa MasterCard
 Card #: _____ Exp. / _____ Signature: _____
 Please make my life simpler and enroll me in automatic renewal. I understand that my credit card will be charged for an annual membership at the level previously held unless notified.

\$35.00 - General / Family Membership... You will receive NAMI National, State, and local newsletters and email updates.
 \$100.00 - Advocate Membership... You will receive general membership, rewards, plus legislative alerts and one complimentary run/walk registration.
 Low income consumer.
 I do not wish to become a member but would like to donate to NAMI DuPage with a general donation.
 \$15.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$ _____

Membership

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pg. 1 - An Evening in Venice, Important Dates.

Pg. 2 - From the Desk of the Executive Director, NAMI of DuPage Officers, Board & Staff.

Pg. 3 - (Con'd) An Evening in Venice, Fifty Years of Failing American's Mentally Ill

Pg. 4 - Membership Information

From the Desk of the Executive Director

It is hard to believe that we are already a quarter of the way through 2013. While mental health has been at the forefront of discussion among the media and network television regarding gun control and having armed guards in our schools as usual, the real conversation regarding those living with crippling mental illness is being ignored. The need to provide community services, housing and assistance with employment has been overshadowed by the mainstream media's need to perpetuate the myth that those living with a mental illness are only moments away from going on a mass murdering rampage. Those of us who deal daily with mental illness know just how false and harmful this depiction is.

This state is promising ever more cuts to mental health services and Illinois still has one of the highest mentally ill prison populations in the nation. So what is NAMI DuPage doing? We continue to reach out to more and more of our community partners to keep the real issues that need to be discussed at the forefront.

This past month we held a seminar for 52 DuPage Police Chiefs and senior officers, along with representation from the District Attorney's office in order to create a better understanding among the mentally ill, their families and law enforcement. Next month we will be repeating the seminar over two days to 500 DuPage front-line police officers.

We continue to increase our outreach to students in both senior and middle schools to inform and educate awareness on the early signs and symptoms of mental illness. Support and education are key; this fiscal year we will have held eight 'Family to Family' classes with an average of twenty family members in each class. We have increased our



Angela Adkins

family support groups and added a new individual support group, the first in several years.

Our parent support group continues to be the only parent support group for parents with children under the age of 22 in the County and, new this past month, our education department has begun a 'Parent for Parent' support group linking parents of adolescents who have been hospitalized at Linden Oaks adolescents unit. During the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month a parent will share their child's story of recovery while promoting hope and encouragement for families in crises.

We could not continue to add new programs if it were not for all of your generous support through grants, individual donations and support of our fundraising efforts. With that in mind I want to remind you that our major annual fundraiser is just around the corner, "An Evening in Venice," Saturday April 27th. The committee and staff have been working incredibly hard to make this our best event ever. Please support all of our individuals and families by attending.

Hope to see you all on the 27th.

Thank you,

Angela Adkins - Executive Dir.

NAMI of DuPage

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Mark Sukis – x217
Volunteer Coordinator
Erica Sokol – x228
Program Director
Teresa Iuro – x218
Program Coordinator
Rose Bylak – x235
Grants Manager
Zakia Haque – x235
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Linda Walters – x211
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Becky Mazmanian – x213
Accounting Assistant
Amy Schmerold – x219
Database Associate
Andrea Scheirer - x229
Database Manager
Amanda Sarkan - x230
Database Clerk
Brenda Hilligoss
School Outreach Director
Aileen Caravelli,
School Outreach Coordinator
John Clucas
ETS 101 Coordinator
David Cumming,
Computer Specialist

Many of our staff work part-time, less than 15 hours per week.

cause. And second, you and your friends!

The great cause is clear. NAMI DuPage's annual Spring Benefit event is by far our largest fundraiser of the year. A successful event is truly vital to the many education and support programs that we deliver (free of charge!). When so many people have lost work and insurance and face ever-increasing personal pressures, the need for our services is broader and deeper than ever. We need YOU to help us make

E. Fuller Torrey: Fifty Years of Failing America's Mentally Ill

Dr. Torrey is founder of the Treatment Advocacy Center and author of "American Psychosis: How the Federal Government Destroyed the Mental Illness Treatment System," forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

On Feb. 5, 1963, 50 years ago President John F. Kennedy addressed Congress on "Mental Illness and Mental Retardation." He proposed a new program under which the federal government would fund community mental-health centers, or CMHCs, to take the place of state mental hospitals. As Kennedy envisioned it, "reliance on the cold mercy of custodial isolations will be supplanted by the open warmth of community concern and capability."

President Kennedy's proposal was historic because the public care of mentally ill individuals had been exclusively a state responsibility for more than a century. The federal initiative encouraged the closing of state hospitals and aborted the development of state-funded outpatient clinics in process at that time.

Over the following 17 years, the feds funded 789 CMHCs with a total of \$2.7 billion (\$20.3 billion in today's dollars). During

"An Evening in Venice" our best Spring Benefit ever

Now... about you and your friends! What really ensures success for an annual fundraising event of this type is, quite simply, attendance, and more attendance. If you attended as an individual or a couple last year, please call your best friends and ask them to join you. If there were four or six of you, think about filling a table of ten and making it your group's personal party night. If your birthday or anniversary is

those same years, the number of patients in state mental hospitals fell by three quarters—to 132,164 from 504,604—and those beds were closed down.

From the beginning, it was clear that CMHCs were not interested in taking care of the patients being discharged from the state hospitals. Instead, they focused on individuals with less severe problems sometimes called "the worried well." Federal studies reported individuals discharged from state hospitals initially made up between 4% and 7% of the CMHCs patient load, and the longer the CMHC was in existence the lower this percentage became.

It has now become politically correct to claim that this federal program failed because not enough centers were funded and not enough money was spent. In fact, it failed because it did not provide care for the sickest patients released from the state hospitals. When President Ronald Reagan finally

coming up, celebrate it in style for one of the best causes we know.

A lot of very brave individuals with mental illnesses and their courageous families are counting on us! For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our web site at www.namidupage.org/benefit, or just call Tim Traynor or Mark Sukis at 630-752-0066. We are grateful your support, and we look forward to seeing you on April 27th!

– Tim Traynor

block-granted federal CMHC funds to the states in 1981, he was not killing the program. He was disposing of the corpse.

Meantime, during the years CMHCs were funded, Medicaid and Medicare were created and modifications were made to the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance programs. None of these programs was originally intended to become a major federal support for the mentally ill, but all now fill that role. The federal takeover of the mental-illness treatment system was complete.

Fifty years later, we can see the results of "the open warmth of community concern and capability." Approximately half of the mentally ill individuals discharged from state mental hospitals, many of whom had family support, sought outpatient treatment and have done well. The other half, many of whom lack....

Continued online at:
namidupage.org/fiftyyears.pdf