



## Who Is NAMI?

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the nation's largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country.

## What Is the NAMI Mission?

NAMI is dedicated to the eradication of mental illness and to improving the quality of life for persons of all ages who are affected by mental illnesses.

## What Does NAMI Do?

NAMI members and friends work to fulfill our mission by providing support, education, and advocacy. Our many activities include:

### Public Information

- ✓ **NAMI's website ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org))** receives over 5.4 million visitors a year who turn to NAMI for information, referral and education.
- ✓ **NAMI's Helpline (1-800-950-6264)** is staffed by a dedicated team and serves over 4,000 callers per month.

### Peer Education and Support

- ✓ **NAMI Educational Programs (Family to Family, Peer to Peer, NAMI Connection, Hearts and Minds, and more)** provide critical education to help consumers and family members gain knowledge and skills for living successfully with mental illness.
- ✓ **Support Groups** are provided through many of NAMI's state and local affiliates and offer invaluable connections with peers who understand the challenges and joys of living with mental illness.

**"The American Institute of Philanthropy congratulates NAMI on its A-Grading."  
Daniel Borochoff, President, AIP, [www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org)**

### Raising Awareness and Fighting Stigma

- ✓ **NAMIWalks** is a signature NAMI event that draws thousands of concerned citizens every year who walk together in over sixty communities across the nation to raise money and awareness about mental illness.
- ✓ **StigmaBusters** responds to inaccurate and hurtful language and portrayals of mental illness in the media and promotes understanding and respect for those who live with mental illness.
- ✓ **In Our Own Voice** presents deeply personal and moving journeys of recovery by consumers living with mental illness.

### State and Federal Advocacy

- ✓ **NAMI Advocacy** provides a key voice for state and federal public and private-sector policies that facilitate research, end discrimination, reduce barriers to successful life in the community and promote timely, comprehensive and effective mental health services and supports.
- ✓ **NAMI Action Centers** include the Child & Adolescent Action Center, the Law and Criminal Justice Action Center, the Multicultural Action Center, and the STAR (Consumer Support and Technical Assistance Resource) Center. NAMI's Action Centers advocate for unique populations and develop and disseminate information to meet specific needs.