



NAMI Savannah News

www.nami-savannah.org

June 2009

NAMI-Savannah, Inc. is a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness
7805 Waters Ave., Suite 2B, Savannah, Georgia 31406
Mail to: NAMI-Savannah P. O. Box 13731 Savannah, Georgia 31406

2009 General Meetings

Our next General Meeting will be held on Sunday June 28th 2009 at 3:30pm at the Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU) Sports Education Complex. (The 3rd Sunday is Father's Day) We will have an "Ice-Cream Social" before the meeting and will also feature a presentation by Kelly Miller, attorney at law, concerning



educational advocacy, probate, guardian adlitem, wills and trusts, and matters involving children and families.

NEXT FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

The Family Support Group will not be meeting during the month of June. The next meeting will be held on July 21st.

NAMI CONNECTION

Talk to someone who understands...someone just like you. NAMI Connections is a recovery support group program for people living with mental illness. It provides a place that offers respect, understanding, encouragement, and hope. At Pinewoods 1149 Cornell Ave. Suite 3A Savannah GA. 912-353-7143. After hours contact Jodi Whitaker 323-0983 We now meet twice weekly. We meet at Pinewoods on Tuesdays from 4:30-6pm. We also meet on Saturdays from 1:30-3:30 at Candler Hospital (Heart and Lung Building) 5354-Reynolds Street 2nd Floor Meeting Room #3 Space is limited for both meetings, **RESERVATIONS** must be made.

NAMI Savannah Newsletter

The NAMI-Savannah Newsletter will not be published in July 2009. The next newsletter will be the August edition.

E-Mail Delivery

If you are receiving the newsletter by postal mail and can receive it via e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to namisavannah@bellsouth.net, this will really help out with the cost of postage

Peer Support "Warm Line" at 1-888-945-1414

The Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network operates a state-funded, consumer-directed "warm line" for anyone struggling with mental health issues, 24 hours a day.

CRISIS HOTLINE

The 24-hour Georgia Crisis and Access Line, operated by Behavioral Health Link and also sponsored by the state, is 1-800-715-4225.

A SUCCESS STORY

For a number of hard years we in NAMI Savannah worked with the Byrnes family to assist them with their teen age son Chris, who was dealing with early on-set mental illness and needed professional help to stabilize his condition. There were many instances of calls for help to both public and private providers which were inadequately responded to as a result of our broken system of mental health care. NAMI facilitated leaders, along with public and private providers and facilities from Atlanta to our local region, came together to address the issue of caring for this young man and his family. Try as everyone might, we found ourselves at the eleventh hour with no resolution at hand despite the combined wisdom of our 'Village' of caring professionals.



Recent Grad Chris Byrnes

At the last moment a residential facility was found to care for Chris and move him into recovery. Chris is now stable and has just graduated from high school. He now has every possibility for having a GREAT LIFE! There are times in our struggle when our successes are few and far between and we despair. Chris then, is our success story. We are grateful for the 'Village' of caring public and private individuals who stepped forward to assist NAMI and the Byrnes family, especially Chris, who now can look to a brighter future.

"IS ONE FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEING WORTH SAVING"?
NAMI has never doubted this!!



Recovery Place Team (below) supports the NAMI-Savannah Team (above) in our sister affiliate NAMI-Beaufort's "Walk For The Minds of America."



NAMI-Savannah, Inc
7805 Waters Ave., 2B
P. O. Box 13731
Savannah, GA 31406

Phone: 912-353-7143

**The Nation's Voice on
Mental Illness**

With more than 230,000 members, NAMI is the leading grassroots advocacy organization solely dedicated to improving the lives of persons with severe mental illness including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, and severe anxiety disorders.

Website: <http://nami-savannah.org>
Email: nami@nami-savannah.org

PHONE: 912-353-7143
FAX: 912-353-7195

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Reeder - President
Vacant – Vice President
Tracy Boyd-Treasurer
Polly Johansen-Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Baggett
Yalonda Best
Karen Collins
Jane Eason
Pat Byrnes
Robert Meyer
John Richards

ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

Jane Nangle
Cpt. Claire McCluskey
Judge Harris Lewis
Rose McAlum
Julius Hornstein, Ph.D. LCSW
Arnaldo Correa
Stephen Johnson, Ph.D.
Kirk Palis

**STATEWIDE CRISIS AND
ACCESS LINE**

1-800-715-4225



Miracles Do Happen

June DiPolito, a provider and NAMI Summit Stakeholder has summed up very well our latest news from Dr. Shelp and Dr. Li on the retention of 'Acute Care' beds in our Georgia Regional Hospital and a new vision of serving our citizens. We in NAMI are proud and grateful to play a role in this advocacy for our citizens. but we must remain vigilant for the future.

"MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!! We all know that miracles can happen for those who believe and who work hard for a good cause with a pure motive of care and concern for others... WELL!! The Save our Services Collaborative got our MIRACLE today!! HOORAY!! Our New Commissioner of our new Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Dr. Frank Shelp announced at the NAMI Summit this afternoon that the MH Game Plan was being modified. Savannah Regional will be maintaining 20 acute psychiatric hospital beds and also have 32 crisis stabilization beds. This miracle announcement brought cheers from the large group of stakeholders assembled to continue regional strategic planning.

So spread the word... WE DID IT!! Of course with support of our New Commissioner who considered the need, the geography and was willing to listen and most critically willing to adapt the MH Game Plan. I know you will join with me in giving the sincerest of Thank you's to Dr. Shelp....and I extend heartfelt thanks to each of you the fine people who made up what we called the SOS (Save our Services) collaborative. I can never give you enough kudos for going way above and beyond. It truly demonstrates what is possible when you have faith and believe and ban together to give it your best shot.. MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!

With Appreciation and Admiration,
Your Colleague and SOS Member June DiPolito"

P.S. In an address to the NAMI Georgia Annual Meeting in Atlanta on May 16th, Dr. Shelp has challenged NAMI membership across Georgia to increase our education, membership and advocacy efforts in order to work with our state legislators.



Dan Hagaman (left) was elected President of the NAMI Georgia Board of Directors at the May Annual Meeting. He is Vice-President of RBC Bank and member of Forsyth/Dawson/Lumpkin NAMI. He is the second largest fundraiser for the NAMI Georgia Walk last year. Last years President, Nora Haynes (right), will remain as Vice-President and she will continue her role in mental health advocacy efforts.

NAMI-Georgia Walk

Kick off luncheon will be held on Friday, July 17th from 11:30 to 1:00pm here in Savannah. This is a great way for walkers and captains to create the most successful outreach and fundraising teams. If you are interested in supporting this effort please call the NAMI-Savannah office at 912-353-7143 for further information on the location and for reservations.