

The Official Newsletter of NAMI Westchester, Inc.

MARCH 2020

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHARON MCCARTHY

Over the years, NAMI Westchester has had the opportunity to form many partnerships with like-minded organizations and hospitals in our area. These partnerships have resulted in an increase in the events we are able to offer as well as sponsorships for our walk, which provides financial support for these worthwhile programs. In addition, it opens the doors for shared discussions on the needs and concerns of our members.

In 2018, Human Development Services of Westchester (HDSW) approached us in forming a partnership to work together in providing programs. Since then, we have been given the opportunity to speak at family group meetings and the peer specialist classes they hold. They have provided us with free space for one of our NAMI Connection Support Groups. HDSW has also financially supported our film event and is a prominent sponsor of our annual community walk.

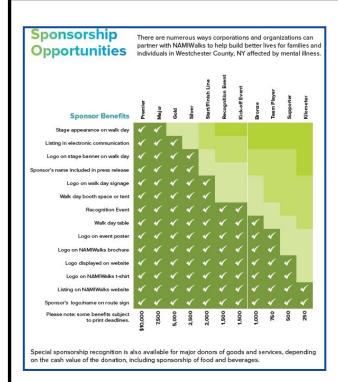


Recently, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Westchester Behavioral Center, expressed interest in financially supporting several of our events. For 2020, they are sponsoring our upcoming Film Screening, Educational Event, Volunteer Recognition Gathering, and Arts Expression. They also provide us with free space for two of our family support groups.

Both HDSW and NewYork-Presbyterial Hospital Westchester Behavioral Center are represented on our 2020 Education Event Committee, as well as Westchester Jewish Community Services, Mental Health Association of Westchester, Search for Change, St. Vincent's Hospital, and the Commissioner for Westchester County Department of Mental Health. The wisdom of these partners is invaluable to the success of this yearly event.

We also have many who provide us with free space for our support groups, educational programs and events, including St. Vincent's Hospital, Bridge Church in Mt. Vernon, Bedford Community Church, White Plains Library and Grinton I. Will Library in Yonkers.

Through these partnerships, we have formed lasting friendships that help support us in achieving our mission. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners. Please meet them at our NAMIWalks Westchester Kick-off Event on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, https://namikickoff2020.eventbrite.com/.





There are many important parts of our annual walk, one of which is SPONSORSHIP.

Our goal for 2020 is \$60,000.

To date, our commitments total \$30,000. This is 50% of our goal. As you can see from the chart, levels start at \$250 and all come with benefits.

- ☐ Will you consider a personal sponsorship?
- ☐ Do you own a business that can sponsor?
- □ Will your employer consider a sponsorship?

Please contact Marie Considine, Director of Development, for a 2020 walk sponsorship brochure: (914) 592-5458.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill



Come one, come all to a great night!



RSVP: namikickoff2020.eventbrite.com







Presents a documentary screening of

CRAZY

An inspiring story of acceptance and family support



On February 26, NAMI Westchester hosted a film event for the screening of the documentary, *Crazy*. This is a powerful story of Eric, diagnosed with Schizophrenia, who struggled to have a voice in his treatment. His father was a great example of the importance of family understanding and support.

A panel discussion followed the screening, which featured Lise Zumwalt, Film Producer, Joseph Glazer, Deputy Commissioner for Westchester County Dept. of Community Mental Health, Louise Ellis, President, NAMI Westchester and Director, Assertive Community Treatment at St. Vincent's Hospital. Robert Laitman, NAMI Westchester Board Member and Internist specializing in the treatment of psychiatric patients also spoke. Martin Gromulat, NAMI Westchester Board member and Peer Specialist at St. Vincent's Hospital spoke on his personal lived experience and advocacy work especially in promoting the passage of the HALT bill.

More than 110 people attended. We wish to thank Human Development Services of Westchester (HDSW) and NewYork- Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Center for their sponsorship of this annual event.

"We must be willing to let go of the life we PLANNED so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

Joseph Campbell

SHARE YOUR STORY, MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AT LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY



Tuesday, March 3, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Empire State Concourse, Albany, NY

Join advocates from throughout New York State as we come together to make our voices heard during one of the most important legislative sessions in shaping the future delivery of mental health services. For more details and to register, <u>click here</u>.





NAMI WESTCHESTER SEEKING PRESENTERS FOR ENDING THE SILENCE

A national mental health education program for middle and high school students based on real-life experiences

The *Ending the Silence* presentation features individuals and family members whose lives have been affected by a mental health condition. It provides real-life perspectives based on personal experiences during a no-cost in-class presentation that is designed to complement Health or Psychology classes.

Each trained presentation team includes a **Lead Presenter**. This person should be a family member of a person living with a mental health condition or individual living with a mental illness. The person will use PowerPoint/videos that cover the signs and symptoms of mental illnesses, statistics on how mental illness affects youth, ways to reduce stigma, how to find help, as well as suicide prevention.

The other presenter is a Young Adult who is living in recovery between the ages of 18 and 35, who will present his/ her personal perspective on the experience of living with a mental health condition and their experience in school.

Presenters must participate in training, have transportation and weekday daytime availability during school hours.

The requests for presentations are increasing and in order to meet the demand, we need more presenters. If you meet the criteria, please consider joining us in educating our youth and providing them with the necessary life skills to deal with mental health issues.

If interested in being a presenter, call Sharon McCarthy at (914) 592-5458.

NAMI WESTCHESTER IN THE COMMUNITY





- Scarsdale Congregational Church
- New York Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Center
- Phelps Memorial
- Four Winds The Lodge
- Westchester Medical Behavioral Center

- Katonah-Lewisboro School District
- White Plains High School