



# NAMI Indiana

Imagine walking down the street with your loved one and passers-by cross the street to make sure they avoid you. Imagine being laughed at because you look or act a little differently. Imagine a world of shame inspired by an uneducated society that allows its fears to label people suffering from a mental illness with the most cruel and demeaning names.

#### *Mission*

*NAMI Indiana is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for persons who are affected by mental illness, by providing education, support, advocacy and research. The state organization supports and develops local affiliates and represents the needs of the membership.*

In 1979, two hundred fifty-four desperate family members, hungry for compassion, support and understanding met in Madison, Wisconsin to form a unique organization, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. In one emotional and unforgettable weekend, these pioneers formed a true grass roots family movement.

In 1980, NAMI had achieved incorporation, non-profit tax-exempt status, and elected a Board of Directors. Early efforts were made to connect families with support groups across the nation.

In 1984, Indiana formed its state organization and now supports 20 local affiliates with a membership of over 2500 family members and consumers (people receiving mental health services). In addition to family programs, NAMI Indiana supports consumer and provider programs as well.

#### *Vision*

*NAMI Indiana is the foremost advocate at the state level for persons affected by severe and persistent mental illness, and the leading proponent on consumer and family involvement in care, treatment, and recovery. We do this by strengthening and empowering local affiliates through advocacy, education, and support to their communities. NAMI Indiana links national resources with local affiliate passion and action. We coordinate family and consumer involvement in public policy at the state level.*

The stigma associated with mental illness must disappear. Through education, support, and advocacy, NAMI Indiana is determined to change public policy and attitudes while giving family members and consumers courage and hope.

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