



Anita Fisher

California (NAMI San Diego)

NAMI role(s): Education Director, Family to Family teacher

"I found NAMI eight years ago on the Internet. After I took [Family to Family](#), I became a Family to Family Teacher, a member on affiliate and state criminal justice committees, an affiliate board member, and in 2007 was hired as the Education Director.

"Mental illness impacts the entire family which is why we all learn recovery tools when participating in NAMI programs—Family to Family, [Peer to Peer](#) classes, etc."



Clarence Jordan

Director, Recovery and Resiliency, ValueOptions
Tennessee (NAMI Memphis)

NAMI roles: member of National Board of Directors, member of African American Networking Group, Trainer, Speaker, Volunteer

"I didn't find NAMI, NAMI found me. I will remain forever grateful to the director of NAMI Tennessee who walked into my life and gave me a way to turn disempowerment into a force for good.

"Recovery is about 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' Treatment should be but a brief episode in a person's life. Recovery happens in the community where we live and with it comes an increased capacity for love, curiosity, learning, wisdom and financial security."



Keris Jän Myrick

Executive Director, [Project Return Peer Support Network](#)
California (NAMI San Gabriel Valley)

NAMI role: First Vice President, National Board of Directors

Keris found NAMI while in a hospital for treatment. NAMI made her feel at home especially with the encouragement of the [NAMI STAR Center](#) and the [NAMI Education department's programs](#) and she soon became very involved with the organization at every level.

She spreads the message that recovery is real and possible for everyone and stresses that recovery requires a focus on the whole person.



Joe Powell

Executive Director, [Association of Persons Affected by Addiction](#)
Texas (NAMI Southern Sector Dallas)

NAMI roles: member NAMI Texas Board of Directors

"It is hard for people to talk about mental health problems. It is hard for people to talk about addiction. People like myself that are in long time recovery, anyone that has already overcome a mental illness or a family member must get out and talk and promote recovery. Recovery is connecting to love and knowing that we are loved. We talk about that."



James Williams

Executive Assistant & Multicultural Director, NAMI Fort Wayne
Indiana

NAMI roles: Family to Family teacher, support group facilitator, volunteer

"The discovery of schizophrenia in my family brought me to a new reality concerning serious mental illness in the African American communities and general communities of color. NAMI provided me insight and a driving desire to fight for those affected by serious mental illness.

"Mental illness is a disease that affects all communities. The future provides us hope as we band together under a common thread of love and compassion."