

SEPTEMBER — DECEMBER 2008



2753 West Central Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43606 ~ 419/243-1119

[www.namitoledo.org](http://www.namitoledo.org)

From the desk of:  
Marci Dvorak, Executive Director

Those of you who keep up with our website, [www.namitoledo.org](http://www.namitoledo.org), read the letter to members from the Board President, Dr. Colleen Snitch. In it she describes the need for NAMI to restructure because of financial issues. I have had some people call to ask exactly what that means. We are still in the process but I want to tell you how far we have come.

NAMI of Greater Toledo is very fortunate to have funding by both the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and United Way of Greater Toledo. The funds from those entities are for NAMI to fulfill specific contracts with the funders. Unfortunately, we have had no increase in operations funding from either entity for over 10 years. We have attempted to fill the gap with grant monies, contributions, contracts for training and fundraisers. But we have never been able to truly keep up with the increased costs of insurance, office necessities, audits and transportation.

The NAMI Board of Trustees has known for some time that we were not keeping up the funding with our expenses. The Board and I, as their staff, had hoped that we could gradually make changes and that we would never need to reduce our current staff. But that did not happen. We were hit in the past several years with expenses not budgeted-for including payments into the United Way Pension because of changes in Federal Laws. We needed to make changes if NAMI of Greater Toledo would survive in any form comparable to what we all have currently.

It was decided that we needed to reduce expenses to stay in line with our funding, and that meant reducing staff. This was a difficult decision. We either reduced staff at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 2008, or we would simply have to eliminate positions later in the year and that might mean the organization would be in jeopardy.

The three Program Coordinator positions were eliminated at the end of June, 2008 and the Program Directors' position was not filled. We had known the Program Director would only be with us for one year.

We had to have frank conversations with all of our funders and review our finances in detail with them. We then had to renegotiate contracts in order to meet needs with our reduced staff. After talking with many other communities we decided to adopt the model that the majority of NAMI affiliates across the country use. That model is volunteer based with staff providing direction, assistance, guidance and evaluation.

NAMI hired Samantha Nance, BSW, a student in the Masters in Counseling program at Bowling Green State University and former staff at Connecting Point, as our Education Director. Samantha's job is to organize the volunteers to provide the education trainings and to work with me to provide other education in the community. She hit the ground running in July and has not stopped since. We are lucky to have her.

We have renewed our relationship with Adelante for Latino Outreach and entered into a new relationship with Neighborhood Health Association regarding African American outreach. We have called upon members who are talented, educated and passionate to assist with all types of endeavors and they have responded. We have two (2) Family To Family Classes going this Fall, a Hand To Hand Class is also in progress and we have groups for family members, family members and consumers, groups for young families with children as well as MindWorks for teens with illness.

Positive Connections, for children whose parents are ill, has also been reworked. Please read the article by Stephanie Souza regarding that program. We are still involved with FAST, the state program for families in danger of losing their ill children to placement, and we have 7 wonderful parent mentors who work with just those families.

We are involved with Washington Local Schools in helping teachers and families learn and use the Collaborative Problem Solving method developed by Dr. Ross Greene for working with children with mental health issues. We remain part of Lucas County Family Council, The Mayors Commission on Disabilities and the Mayors Commission on Minority Health, the Education Coalition and more. We are looking at working with Lutheran Social Services on their volunteer guardianship program and remain a vital part of training the police on the Crisis Intervention Team Model.

**Currently, NAMI staff includes:**

Marci Dvorak, Executive Director

Samantha Nance, Education Director

Rachael Cobb, Family Care Manager and FAST Coordinator

Mary Finch, Secretary

Stephanie Souza, Program Coordinator of Positive Connections  
and an MSW Intern from the University of Toledo

There are now eleven (11) active volunteers in programs using their talents and skills to make the groups and classes truly “peer” led. This of course does not include our Board of Trustees, the members of the Walk committee or the individuals who assist in securing donations for the office.

This change has been difficult. But there is a positive. The members of NAMI of Greater Toledo have stepped up and become involved. We need more involvement. WE NEED YOU! Call, email or come in and talk to Samantha. And “Thank You” for keeping the NAMI dream alive.



**The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program** is now taught in 46 states and two provinces in Canada. The curriculum has been translated into Spanish. Visit our NAMI website at [www.namitoledo.org](http://www.namitoledo.org) or call our office at 419-243-1119 for more information.





I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Program Coordinator of Positive Connections. My name is Stephanie Souza and I have a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology, Master of Business Administration and I am currently attending the Master of Social Work program at the University of Toledo. I look forward to working within the community to increase collaboration and awareness of our program to better serve our community.

Positive Connections is undergoing some positive changes to increase our ability to better serve the children in our community. We have expanded our program to include children who are struggling with their own emotional/mental/behavioral difficulties, as well as children who are dealing with the emotional/mental/behavioral difficulties of a loved one, so they can learn about mental illness, receive support and increase coping skills. Our age of participation is now 4-17. We will continue to collaborate with Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide a mentor for all children who complete the 10-week group programming. If you would like more information please contact Stephanie Souza at 419-243-1119 or [ssouza@namitoledo.org](mailto:ssouza@namitoledo.org). You can also check out our website at [www.positiveconnections4u.org](http://www.positiveconnections4u.org).



### **MHR SB of Lucas County—Important Levy Information (On Ballot November 4, 2008)**

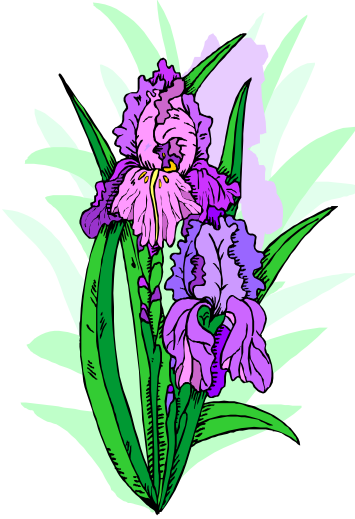
The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County has requested a 1.0 mill replacement levy be placed on the November 4, 2008, elections ballot to replace a 10-year expiring levy. The Board needs these funds to continue to serve as the community safety net for persons who are uninsured or under-insured and who need mental health and/or substance use recovery services.

The MHRS Board funds a comprehensive service provider System of Care which brings value to Lucas County through: round-the-clock access to emergency psychiatric care for all Lucas County residents, regardless of income; safe, decent, affordable housing for more than 500 mentally ill individuals; intervention and diversion programs geared toward prevention of criminal behavior; Crisis Intervention Team training for law enforcement officers to respond to situations involving persons with mental illness; access to timely diagnostic assessment for those with a mental health or substance use disorder, and treatment that leads to recovery for members of the community who are most in need.

If the issue passes, it will mean an increase of about \$11.21 annually for most families, or less than \$1 per month as show here in yearly amounts.

- ?? \$100,000 home valuation (currently \$19.41), increase by \$11.21, for a total cost of \$30.63
- ?? \$150,000 home valuation (currently \$29.12), increase by \$16.82, for a total cost of \$45.94
- ?? \$200,000 home valuation (currently \$38.83), increase by \$22.42, for a total cost of \$61.25

## **VOTE 'YES' ON ISSUE 40**



## Information Sharing with Samantha Nance, Education Director

NAMI has recruited nine (9) volunteers from July, 2008—September, 2008.

### Support Groups:

- ?? Family/Consumer Support Group has Judy Beckman & Barbara Langerdorfer as Co-Facilitators.
- ?? Minority Outreach Support Group has a new location at 430 Nebraska Avenue at the Cordelia Martin Health Center, every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm. with Freada Radford-Tucker as Facilitator. Childcare/Activities are offered from Christian Community Baptist Church with Cheesltelia Benson as Coordinator of Childcare Activities.

### We continue to be in partnership with Adelante:

- ?? Hispanic Outreach Latina Women Support Group is held the 2nd Thursday of the month from 12:30-2:00pm at the Mayores Center.
- ?? Hispanic Outreach Support Group is held every 3rd Wednesday of the month with two (2) sessions available:

Session 1	10:30am-12:00 noon	@ Adelante
Session 2	6:00pm-7:30pm	@ Adelante

Jennifer Markewitz will co-facilitate.

### Educational Classes:

- ?? Family-to-Family Educational Classes are currently in the 5th week, held every Tuesday and we are pleased to have Joan van der Bijl and her Master level students facilitating the class. They have committed to Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 classes.
- ?? Minority Outreach Family-to-Family Educational Classes also welcomes new facilitators. Diana Evans and Kim Simmons. This class is also in its 5th week, held every Thursday.
- ?? Hand-to-Hand Educational Classes are currently in the 4th week, held every Monday and we are delighted with our collaboration with the Kobacher Center. Rachael Cobb and Barb Rowe are the facilitators for this course.



## What is NAMI?

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Greater Toledo is part of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and NAMI-Ohio.

We are a grass roots, family oriented **support**, **advocacy**, and **education** organization. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for children, adolescents and adults who suffer from mental illness/psychological problems and to support their families.

**NAMI of Greater Toledo's FAST\$ Program**  
**A progress report from:**  
**Rachael Cobb, LSW**  
**Family Care Manager**

NAMI of Greater Toledo is entering its fifth year as fiscal agent and program administrator of the FAST\$ program, which provides supportive services and parent advocacy to families of children at risk of out-of-home placement because of the child's behavioral health issues. During the fiscal year of 2007-08 (aka FAST\$ 08) NAMI arranged for and set up services for 100 children from 81 families with 94% of those families taking advantage of parent advocacy services. Both the brokering of services and parent advocacy for a portion of these families was done by the three former Program Coordinators.

In order to make it possible to provide services to families and children for the FAST\$ 09 program year, which started in July, we had to restructure the program. The brokering of services for a portion of the FAST\$ families is now done by our Secretary, Mary Finch, who has adapted to her new duties with great grace. The parent advocacy piece is now handled by volunteers. NAMI of Greater Toledo is working with NAMI Ohio's PAC (Parent Advocacy Connection) in order to provide small stipends and mileage reimbursements to these volunteers, all of whom have personal experience with children with emotional and behavioral issues. Our **current volunteers** include **Sheronda Boyd, Wanda Dorsey, Jovita Lucas, Geraldine McCant** and **Terrell Nance**. More volunteer parent advocate applications are being processed right now, and we would like to thank everyone who has been willing to share their personal experiences with children's behavioral health issues and their passion for advocacy with other parents.



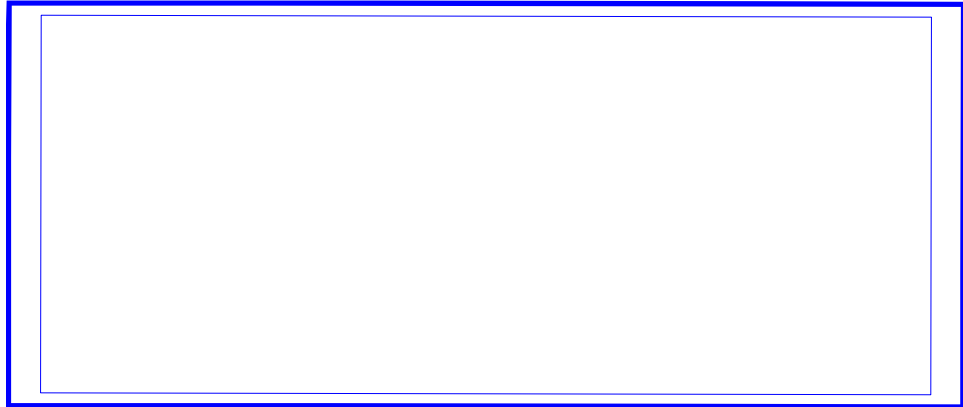
## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

NAMI of Greater Toledo is a community based,  
family and consumer focused organization,  
dedicated to improving the lives of people with  
severe mental illness through support,  
education and advocacy.



NON PROFIT ORG.  
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2753 West Central Avenue  
Toledo, Ohio 43606  
419-243-1119  
www.namitoledo.org  
Marci Colton-Dvorak  
Executive Director



**NAMI of GREATER TOLEDO**  
**Board of Directors 2008-2009**

- Dr. Colleen Snitch, President
- Larry Wanucha, Vice President
- Debra Starbird, Esquire, Treasurer
- Lori Beverage, Secretary
- Jerry Beale
- Pamela Smith-Noble
- Wesley A. Bullock, Ph.D.
- Laura Draheim
- Lisa Canales
- Nancy Garibay
- Felicia Hill
- Victoria Kelly, Ph.D.
- Carol Smith
- Joan VanderBijl
- Alieah White
- Karen Slater-Smurr

**Membership Information**

NAMI of Greater Toledo members are provided with appropriate educational material and information about mental illness, the mental health care system and community resources, Family to Family Classes and Hand to Hand Educational Classes. NAMI of Greater Toledo advocates for better medical care, education, housing, employment, and the elimination of the stigma of mental illness. Your membership includes subscription to the NAMI Toledo newsletter, The Alliance and the state and national newsletters.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Consumer Membership	\$ 3.00
NAMI Family Member	\$ 30.00
Sponsor Member	\$ 50.00
Honorary Member	\$100.00

**Memorial and Tribute Gifts**

**Circle One:**

- In Memory/Honor
- Birthday
- Sympathy
- Holiday
- Recognition
- Graduation
- Anniversary
- Parenthood

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check in the amount of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Commemorating (Occasion):

\_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement to:

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_