



March 16, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NAMI San Diego wins national award for local service

SAN DIEGO—The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in San Diego has been selected to receive the “Outstanding Local Affiliate” award at the upcoming NAMI National convention for its vast array of support, education and advocacy services that it offers to San Diegans.

The Outstanding Local Affiliate award is given by NAMI National to recognize exemplary efforts to achieve NAMI’s goals on the local level. NAMI San Diego’s consistent support of NAMI’s mission of education, support and advocacy is evidenced by the number of support groups, education classes, community outreach activities, seminars, and monthly education and advocacy meetings they offer. Their “Friends in the Lobby” program, which offers NAMI information and support to those visiting loved ones in hospital psychiatric units, is just one example of the innovative ways they have found to reach out to people where and when they need it most. NAMI San Diego has also embraced the NAMIWalks program making it one of the largest in the country. This year's walk will be held in Balboa Park on April 16. All of these are reasons they were chosen to receive the Outstanding Local Affiliate Award.

“We're very excited about the award,” said Shannon Jaccard, Executive Director of NAMI San Diego. “As one of the largest affiliates in the nation, we work hard to serve those affected by mental illness and their loved ones through our support, education and advocacy services. Our goal is to give people a place to connect and show that recovery is possible. It's nice to be recognized for our efforts as we continue to move forward with our programs.”

The award will be presented to NAMI San Diego on July 9, 2011 at the Annual NAMI Convention in Chicago.

NAMI is a non-profit organization that provides education, support services and advocacy to improve the lives of everyone affected by mental illnesses. They offer a variety of educational classes and support groups for those who have mental illness and their family members and friends. NAMI San Diego also runs a Family and Peer Support Helpline that offers free, safe, confidential information, referrals and support for people with mental illness and their loved ones.

For more information on NAMI San Diego, call (800) 523-5933. Or visit www.namisandiego.org

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