



National Alliance on Mental Illness

# nami San Diego

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Father Joe Carroll and other mental health community winners to be featured at NAMI San Diego awards dinner**

SAN DIEGO—The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI San Diego) will feature Father Joe Carroll as the keynote speaker and other local individuals and organizations that champion mental health at their annual Inspirational Awards dinner on October 7, 2011.

Father Joe Carroll—the NAMI San Diego 2011 Inspirational Person of the Year—is well-known in San Diego for his tireless work on behalf of people who are homeless. He founded Father Joe's Villages which, collectively, is the largest provider of homeless services in Southern California, serving over 20,000 individuals and families each year.

In addition to Father Joe's award, there will be a number of other awards given to people and organizations who have greatly contributed to the mental health community. These include:

- Employer Champion: Shawn Crew of VONS
- Lifetime Achievement: Dilip V. Jeste, M.D.
- Research Award: Marc A. Shuckit, M.D.
- Young Advocate: Maggie Reese
- Media Award: "It's Up to Us" Campaign

Councilman Todd Gloria will return to emcee the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Inspirational Awards dinner. Todd is a District 3 Councilman and a third-generation resident of the area where NAMI San Diego is headquartered. Among his former positions he has worked for the County's Health and Human Services agency and his commitment to the community is strong.

"We are extremely excited about this year's Inspiration Awards dinner," said NAMI San Diego Executive Director Shannon Jaccard. "Every award-winner sets the standard for compassion, education and advocacy in the world of mental health. It is truly an honor to

be able to recognize their unique and valuable contributions to the community.”

NAMI San Diego is a non-profit organization that provides education, support services and advocacy to improve the lives of everyone affected by mental illnesses, which, really, is all of us in one way or another. Most recently, the San Diego branch was named Affiliate of the Year by NAMI National. They received this due to their consistent support of NAMI’s mission evidenced by the number of support groups, education classes, community outreach activities, seminars, and monthly meetings they offer. 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. The number is (619) 543-1434 or (800) 523-5933.

The annual Inspiration Awards dinner is one of NAMI San Diego's largest fundraisers and proceeds from it enable them to continue doing their important work.

The dinner will be held at the Catamaran Resort in Mission Beach on Friday, Oct. 7. Tickets are on-sale now and can be purchased by calling the NAMI San Diego office at (800) 523-5933 or online at [www.namisandiego.org](http://www.namisandiego.org).

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