

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 17, 2011

**NEW YEAR'S EVE "SAND AND SEA BALL" AT THE SHERATON SAN DIEGO MARINA HOTEL TO BENEFIT
SAN DIEGO'S LEADING MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS**

SAN DIEGO—Do you want to have an exciting New Year's Eve on San Diego Bay and support an important cause? You can do both by attending the First Annual *Sand and Sea Ball* at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina benefitting two of San Diego's most respected not for profit organizations, Mental Health America (MHA) San Diego and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) San Diego.

The New Year's Eve Sand and Sea Ball (black tie optional) is presented in collaboration with Xceptional Music Company, a unique musical production company with incredible talent, dazzling performances and a terrific sound.

The evening starts at 7 pm and promises a grand celebration including midnight champagne, a five-course dinner with wine, continuous live music and dancing throughout the evening. Music will be provided by a 10-person band and talented performers with high-energy music ranging from Sinatra to Gaga.

Tickets may be purchased directly at sandandsea.tix.com for \$175 per person or a special rate of \$1500 for table of 10. The Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina is located at 1380 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, 92101.

Dan McAllister, Chair of MHA Board of Directors and San Diego County Treasurer, and NAMI Board President, Dr. Lisa Ponfick, Child Psychiatrist, said "We are pleased to announce this first joint celebration by NAMI and MHA. This is a tremendous opportunity to raise mental health awareness in our community and celebrate the coming together of two organizations that provide a voice for those in need. The evening promises to be an exciting new event in San Diego's holiday social calendar."

MHA San Diego brings together client, families, professionals, providers, community leaders and the public to promote mental health, prevent mental illness and substance abuse conditions and achieve victory over mental illnesses and addictions through advocacy, education, research and service. 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. Both organizations rely on fundraisers such as this New Year's Eve party in order to continue to provide their important services to the community.

For further information contact, Karenlee Robinson, Interim Executive Director of Mental Health America at (619) 543-0412 or Shannon Jaccard, Executive Director of NAMI San Diego at (619) 584-5574. Information is also available on the organizations' websites at www.mhasd.org or www.namisandiego.org.

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