



NAMI Savannah News

www.nami-savannah.org

December 2009

NAMI-Savannah, Inc. is a member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness
7805 Waters Ave., Suite 2B, Savannah, Georgia 31406
Mail to: NAMI-Savannah P. O. Box 13731 Savannah, Georgia 31406

December 2009 General Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held on Sunday December 20, 2009 at 3:30pm at the Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU) Sports Education Complex. We will be holding our annual Christmas Party. Please bring a finger food if possible.

Membership will vote on the Nominating Committees recommendations of new NAMI-Savannah Board members.

NAMI CONNECTION

Talk to someone who understands...someone just like you. NAMI Connections is a recovery support group program for people living with mental illness. It provides a place that offers respect, understanding, encouragement, and hope. Call Jodi Whitaker 912-231-0390 for Connections Meetings in December 2009.

Peer Support "Warm Line" at 1-888-945-1414

The Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network operates a state-funded, consumer-directed "warm line" for anyone struggling with mental health issues, 24 hours a day.

CRISIS HOTLINE

The 24-hour Georgia Crisis and Access Line, operated by Behavioral Health Link and also sponsored by the state, is 1-800-715-4225.

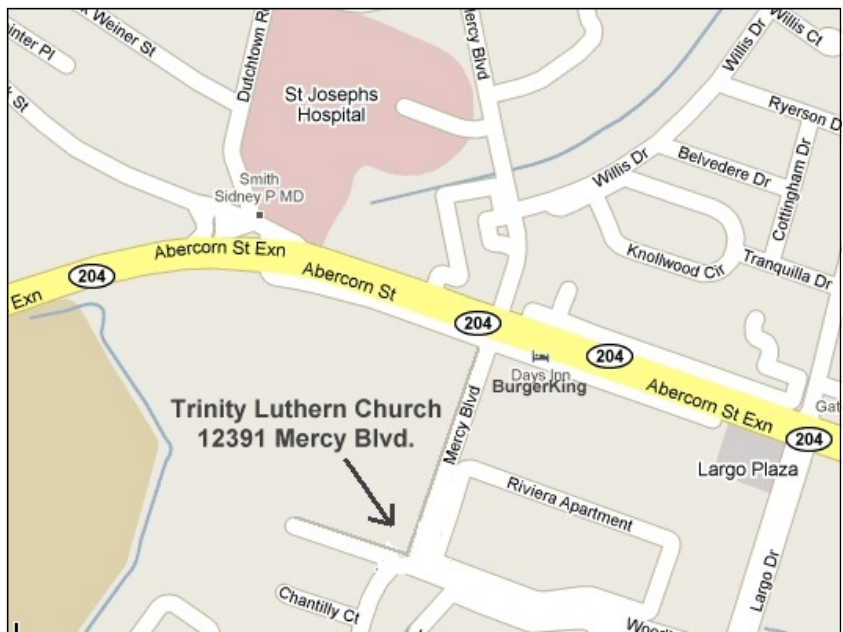
If you can receive e-mail and are currently receiving this newsletter via postal mail please contact the NAMI-Office so that we can add you to our e-mail list. This will save us a large amount of money for postage each month.

912-353-7143



NAMI-Savannah Meeting Change

Beginning in January 2010 NAMI-Savannah will no longer hold quarterly General Meetings on the third Sunday of each quarter. Instead we will be holding monthly General Meetings on the first Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm. The meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 12391 Mercy Blvd. across Abercorn Street from St. Josephs Hospital. Our January General Meeting will be on the evening of Monday, January 4th, 2010 from 6:30-8:00pm. Mental Health Court members will share "How and Why Treatment Works (If You Can Get It)". A panel will be available for discussion.



Share and Care Group

A Share and Care Group will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church 12391 Mercy Blvd. from 6:30-8:00pm. This group will replace the former Family Support Group until a new facilitator is found and trained. The January meeting will be on January 19, 2010.

NAMI Connections

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The January NAMI Connections schedule is as follows:

Every Tuesday at Trinity Lutheran Church from 6:30-8:00pm

Every Thursday at Pinewoods Savannah - 1149 Cornell Ave. Suite 3A from 6:30-8:00pm

Every Saturday at Candler Hospital Heart and Lung Building (2nd floor 3rd meeting room) 1:30-3:30pm.

The Connections Support Group for family members is held on the third Tuesday of each month (January 19th 2010) 6:30-8:00pm.

Ted and Diane Banta

On Tuesday September 17, the Family Support Group hosted a farewell dinner to honor Diane and Ted Banta as they stepped down as facilitators after three years of service. Despite their own grief and pain, Diane and Ted very capably led the members of the group to share

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ENCLOSED
NAMI-Savannah Board of Directors
2010 Nominee Information

Phone: 912-353-7143

**The Nation's Voice on
Mental Illness**

With more than 230,000 members, NAMI is the leading grassroots advocacy organization solely dedicated to improving the lives of persons with severe mental illness including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, and severe anxiety disorders.

Website: <http://nami-savannah.org>
Email: nami@nami-savannah.org

PHONE: 912-353-7143
FAX: 912-353-7195

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**STATEWIDE CRISIS AND
ACCESS LINE**

1-800-715-4225



group wisdom in solving problems and in supporting one another.

No other NAMI activity provides help to fulfill our mission statement, increases awareness and gives hope like our support programs. We are grateful to Diane and Ted for helping move NAMI Savannah forward in reaching our goals.

Please go to NAMIGA.org and click on trainings for opportunities to become a part to the wonderful community of NAMI members who have found a way to give back and help individuals and families who are affected by mental illness.

Mental Health Court

Erica Usher, Chatham County Superior Court Mental Health Court Coordinator, announced that the Chatham County Mental Health Court celebrated it's first graduation class which consisted of five individuals, each of whom has completed a rigorous 24 month program. Graduation was held on November 5, 2009 to a packed house of citizens and support staff of the many organizations that provided support and services to the Court over the 24 months to achieve this end.

In the years prior to entry into the Mental Health Court, this intrepid group of graduates had amassed 170 criminal charges in Chatham County, 93 arrests, and had spent 3,818 days in the local Chatham County Jail. They had been admitted to Georgia Regional Hospital 57 times, spending a total of 783 days. During the 24 months they spent in this Court, this same group had 0 new arrests or charges, 15 jail sanctions and spent only 29 days at Georgia Regional. At the beginning of the Court four graduates were homeless, one was afraid to leave the jail, and one first began using drugs at the age of 6. Now, all have permanent housing, they are sober, they are stable, and they are living their lives productively.

NAMI-Savannah believes the dramatic data gathered to validate the Mental Health Court is exceedingly powerful and can leave no doubt that from an economic savings standpoint, but more importantly, from a human standpoint, our society must continue and expand this program across the state and nation. We thank Judge Penny Haas Freeseemann and Erica Usher for their work.

For further information contact Erica Usher
133 Montgomery St., Room 616
Savannah, GA 31401
(p): 912-652-7167 (f): 912-652-7130

Recent Finding Concerning Drug Abuse

Recent statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) illustrate the breadth of the parental substance use problem. According to SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), between 2002 and 2007 more than 1 in 10 children were living in homes with substance-dependent or substance-abusing parents.



NAMI - SAVANNAH, INC.

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

P.O. Box 13731, Savannah, Georgia 31406

Phone: (912) 353-7143



Recommendations From Nominating Committee

Dear NAMI-Savannah Membership:

On Sunday December 20 ,2009, you will be asked to consider and vote for the following recommendations by the nominating committee for NAMI- Savannah board membership. They will take office in January.

Herbert Smith -Community Service Specialist for Savannah-Chatham Authority for Homeless. Coordinates PATH Program, Supervises Peer Support Specialist Team, Advocates and acts as liaison for Mental Health Consumers

Jodi Whitaker- NAMI member since 2001; trained in 3 NAMI programs: Provider Education Program, Peer to Peer: and Connection Support Group. Also Trained in Georgia Peer Support Training Academy.

Judy Schuknecht- Recovery Coordinator for Pinewoods Savannah Mental Health Services

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.