



NAMI Savannah News

www.nami-savannah.org

September 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

2009 General Meetings

Our next General Meeting will be held on Sunday September 20th, 2009 at 3:30pm at the Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU) Sports Education Complex. We will learn all about the recent Summit Report with a PowerPoint presentation.

NEXT FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Will be held on Tuesday, September 15th, 6:30p.m., at Serendipity Bldg., Georgia Regional Hospital.

NAMI CONNECTION

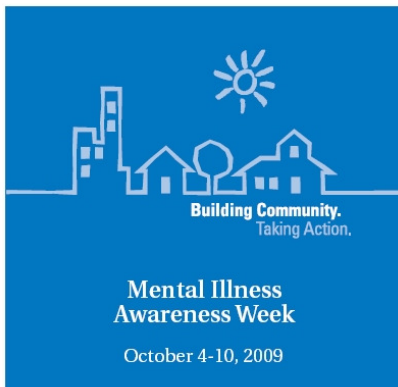
Talk to someone who understands...someone just like you. NAMI Connections is a recovery support group program for people living with mental illness. It provides a place that offers respect, understanding, encouragement, and hope. Contact the NAMI-Savannah Office to make a reservation 912-3537143. We meet on Saturdays from 1:30-3:30 at Candler Hospital (Heart and Lung Building) 5354-Reynolds Street 2nd Floor Meeting Room #3 Space is limited, **RESERVATIONS** must be made.

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.



Report on "War to End Recidivism"



Panel of Region 5 Summit Committee members answer questions: Dr. Frank Bonati, Dr. Charles Li-Facility Administrator of GRHS, Mark Baggett- Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless, Police Chief Stan York—Statesboro, Stanley Williams LPC, Col MacArthur Holmes-Chatham County Sheriff's Detention Center, Julie Spores

On September 4, the Summit of Community Stakeholders presented their report on the "War To End Recidivism". More importantly they reported what is needed for people who have a mental illness to move into recovery and how our communities have failed them.

Since February, the Summit meetings were held on six occasions with numerous committee meetings and teleconferences in between. With support and resources from the governor's office, information and data was gathered to identify gaps that we, as mental health consumers and family members, experience daily.

The report was presented by Nora Haynes, Public Policy chair for NAMI Georgia. Leadership from NAMI affiliates in Region 5 who attended were Dr. Bryan Warren, NAMI Coastal Georgia, Carolyn Tinkham, NAMI Golden Isles, and Leola Bunckley, NAMI Brantley County. Bonnie and Jim Moore from NAMI Rome and Alan McDaniel. NAMI Gwinnett looks forward to providing summits in their region in the near future. It is NAMI's goal to take this initiative across the state.

Included in the summit were community stakeholders (and we all are) that include law enforcement, education, courts, jails, business, labor, hospital providers and the faith community. Chief Stan York, Statesboro Police Chief, Colonel Mac Arthur Holmes, Chatham County jail administrator and Erica Usher Mental Health Court administrator spoke of the gaps that make the criminal justice system responsible for individuals needing medical treatment.

Attendees of the summit report included Mary Eleanor Wickersham from the governor's office who praised NAMI for their advocacy efforts and said that it is making a difference. Jewel Norman, the newly appointed Mental Health Ombudsman, who had spent the previous day at Georgia Regional Hospital, introduced herself to the group and praised the NAMI committees for their work for Region 5.

Senator Jack Hill from Reidsville, long time member and supporter of NAMI and



GA State Senator Jack Hill

NAMI-Savannah, Inc
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Savannah, GA 31406

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.

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**STATEWIDE CRISIS AND
ACCESS LINE**

1-800-715-4225



recipient of the NAMI legislative "A" team award closed with praises for the report which he feels he can use in support of requests for increased funding for mental health.

NAMI is very grateful to Memorial Health for providing the beautiful Hoskins Center Meeting Facility and for providing meals for the summit meetings.



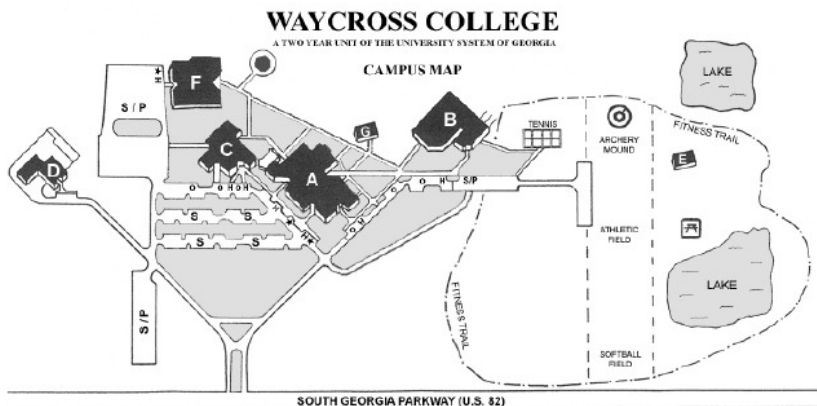
**Bridging the Gap Walk
&
NAMI Fun Day Oct. 3rd**

To celebrate Mental Awareness Week, Nami-Savannah supports Bridging the Gap NAMI Fun Day Saturday October 3rd

**Bridging the Gap
NAMI Fun Day
Waycross College Fitness Trail
2001 S Georgia Pkwy W
Waycross, GA 31503**

Meet at the Physical Education Building Parking Lot

Check In: 9:00am
Walk Begins: 10:00am



If you would like a ride to Waycross to attend the walk the "Krispy Kreme Express" will leave the NAMI-Savannah office at 7:00am On October 3rd. You must reserve a spot by contacting Diane Reeder at 912-353-7143.

National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness

**Prayer Breakfast
Tuesday October 6, 2009
8AM-9:30AM
Trinity Lutheran Church
12391 Mercy Blvd. Savannah GA.31419
Free - BUT RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE**